

9

Jesus Defends Us

Grace

We are heirs of God's kingdom by grace.

POWER TEXT

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2).

KEY REFERENCES

- Daniel 7:9, 10
- Matthew 22:1-14
- Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:23-26; 8:1, 2; 9:22-28
- Revelation 5:9; 12:10; 21:27
- *The Great Controversy*, chaps. 23; 24, pp. 409-432
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 157-160, 180-182
- Student lesson on page 102 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 24, Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 8, The Great Controversy

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Satan accuses us of sin but Jesus defends our cause in the heavenly sanctuary.
- **Feel** gratitude for God's grace because Jesus defends us.
- **Respond** by thanking Jesus for dying in our place.



By His grace Jesus defends us in the heavenly sanctuary.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Moses was instructed by God to build a sanctuary in the wilderness that was the antitype of the sanctuary in heaven. In the desert the priests offered sacrifices with the blood of animals. Jesus' blood that was shed on Calvary was the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

This is a lesson about grace.

The investigative judgment is going on right now and has to do with the process of cleansing the heavenly sanctuary. The lives of all professed followers of Jesus/believers in God who have ever lived on this earth are being reviewed and decided, either for God and eternal life or for Satan and eternal death. Jesus is mediating for us. Satan says we deserve to die, but Jesus says His sacrifice covers our sins and makes us worthy of eternal life.

Teacher Enrichment

"Every sanctuary sacrifice symbolized Jesus' death for the forgiveness of sin, revealing the truth that 'without shedding of blood there is no remission' (Hebrews 9:22, KJV)" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, second edition, p. 349).

"On the cross the penalty for human sin was fully paid. Divine justice was satisfied. From a legal perspective the world was restored to favor with God (Romans 5:18, KJV). The atonement, or reconciliation, was completed on the cross as foreshadowed by the sacrifices, and the penitent believer can trust in this finished work of our Lord" (*ibid.*, p. 350).

"As the typical cleansing of the earthly was accomplished by the removal of the sins by which it had been polluted, so the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. But before this can be accomplished, there must be an examination of the books of record to determine who, through repentance of sin and faith in Christ, are entitled to the benefits of His atonement. The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation—a work of judgment. This work must be performed prior to the coming of Christ to redeem His people; for when He comes, His reward is with Him to give to every man according to his works" (*The Great Controversy*, p. 421).

Have you ever had someone defend you? How did it feel to know someone was taking your side? How often do we thank Jesus for defending and saving us?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1		*A. Defenses*	white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
		B. Investigation	investigation-scene items
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 97. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	Judge or lawyer (optional)
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Jesus' Robe of Righteousness*	invitations, white cloth
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Book of Life*	paper cut into small rectangles, pens or markers
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Defenses

Brainstorm with the students some animals' defense mechanisms (such as a turtle's shell, a chameleon's camouflaged body, a porcupine's quills, a scorpion's stinger, a cat's claws, etc.) and list these on the board.

Debriefing

Say: **God gave animals ways to defend themselves against enemies. And He also gave our bodies ways to defend us against germs or dust. Can you think of some?** (skin, eyelashes, hair, white blood cells, etc.) **God also gave us the most important defender for us: Jesus. Right now Satan is attacking and accusing us of being sinners and of not being fit to go to heaven, but Jesus is defending us. That's what our lesson is about today. Let's say together our power text, 1 John 2:1, 2:**

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2).

The power point reminds us that

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B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ investigation-scene items

Investigation

Beforehand, set up an investigation scene by having some clues laid out. Suggestions would be: for Jesus' death and resurrection have a large nail, hammer, and white strips of cloth; for David and Goliath have a slingshot with five small stones, and a piece of armor or sword; for Joseph have a colorful piece of cloth with "bloodstains" made by red dye, and 20 silver coins. As the students come in, ask them to quietly look at the scene(s) but don't yet tell the Bible story they think they are from. Ask them to do some investigating to figure out the clues.

Debriefing

Ask: **What Bible story is represented here? You did some good investigating. Today we're going to be learning about something that is going on in heaven right now called the investigative judgment. It's an investigation into deciding who is worthy of going to heaven. The Bible tells us through prophecy that the investigative judgment began in 1844, and it will continue until every person who has their name written in the book of life is looked at. Then Jesus will come back to earth. Right now Satan is attacking and accusing us of being sinners and of not being fit to go to heaven, but Jesus is there defending us against him. Let's say together our power text, 1 John 2:1, 2:**

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2).

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Prayer & Praise

Notes

Fellowship
Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs
"Oh, Magnify the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 12)
"Think About His Love" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 40)
"Lamb of God" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 62)

Mission
YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* magazine for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students mark with pushpins the location of the mission story.

Offering
YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **In our lesson we learn that every person's life will be judged. Millions of people in the world still need to learn about Jesus so they can choose to follow Him and have eternal life. Our mission offering today will help toward that goal.**

Prayer
Ask for volunteers who would like to pray. Have them pray for a specific country in the world where people need to know about Jesus. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Judge/lawyer (optional)

Introducing the Bible Story

If you have a lawyer or judge in your congregation, ask them to come in to tell something about what they do and to read the short introduction here. If not, say: **You are on death row. You have committed the crimes as charged, and you are doomed to die. How do you feel? Your only chance for life is a pardon from the president. Your final day arrives, and you get news that the president has pardoned you. You are so relieved! But then you are shocked speechless to learn that the president took your place and was executed for your crimes! How do you feel now? Something like this actually happened for us. You see, when we sinned and disobeyed God's law of love, our heavenly Father did not leave us without hope. He offered Jesus as atoning sacrifice on our behalf so that we might have eternal life. We need to know that at this time Jesus is interceding on our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary. Our power text today, 1 John 2:1, 2, says:**

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2).

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YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Say: **The setting of our Bible story today is heaven.** Ask a volunteer to read Daniel 7:9, 10. **"As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened" (NIV).**

The whole universe is watching this courtroom scene with intense interest. Someone is on trial. Satan is the prosecuting attorney, and he is accusing someone of sinning and wants them to die. Jesus is that person's defense attorney. He is making the argument for the person to be able to go to heaven and have eternal life. God the Father is the judge. The evidence is being taken from books in heaven. What will decide whether you are saved? Jesus told a parable about a wedding feast that will help us with the answer to this question. Let's read it together. I will read to you this parable from Matthew 22:1-13, and you may illustrate it on paper as I read: "'And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding."' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"'"But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw

a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"'"

Debriefing

Ask: **Can you imagine what will happen when your name is on trial? Every person's life who says they love Jesus is being reviewed. What does the wedding garment from the parable represent?** (Christ's righteousness) **We can never be good enough when we come dressed in our own righteousness or our own good deeds.**

We need the royal garment of Christ's righteousness. It takes Jesus' sacrifice for us. When we accept His gift of life we want to do good things to honor Jesus. I'm so glad we have Jesus as our friend to defend us against Satan's accusations. Don't hesitate to make the changes that will allow Jesus to rule in your life. He wants to clothe you in His righteousness. Accept the righteousness of Jesus. As we repeat the power point we are reminded that

By His grace Jesus defends us in the heavenly sanctuary.

YOU NEED:

□ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **The Bible talks about Jesus being our high priest. Remember in the Old Testament God had the children of Israel build a sanctuary in the wilderness? The Jewish people had priests who did the work in the sanctuary. When a person came to ask forgiveness, they brought an animal to be sacrificed. The priests made the sacrifice. Our high priest now is Jesus. Let's divide into three groups, and each group will look up one of the following verses, talk about it a few minutes, and then be ready to share with the whole class:**

1. Hebrews 8:1
2. Hebrews 4:14-16
3. Hebrews 7:23-26

Debriefing

Ask: **Who is our high priest?** (Jesus) **Where is He working right now?** (in the heavenly sanctuary) **Does Jesus understand our weaknesses and temptations?** (yes) **What makes Him worthy to be our high priest?** (He is eternal and His priesthood is permanent; He is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens, and is perfect; He sacrificed His life for our sins.) **Jesus is acting as our high priest, defending us before God. But don't think of God as a harsh judge wanting us to die unless Jesus steps in to save us. This investigative judgment, as it's called, is necessary because the whole universe is watching what is going on to see if what Satan says about God's being unfair is true. God doesn't want us to die. That's why He sent His only Son, Jesus, to save us. Let's say together our power text, 1 John 2:1, 2:**

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2).

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3 APPLYING THE LESSON

Jesus' Robe of Righteousness

YOU NEED:
- ☐ invitations, white cloth (sheet, blanket, shirt, or jacket)

As students enter the room, hand them an invitation to receive Jesus as their Savior and prepare for eternity. Say: **I need a volunteer who would accept to be dressed in this white cloth/blanket/sheet/piece of clothing.**

Ask: **Have you ever been to a wedding? Did the bride and groom wear special clothes? Were the guests dressed in fancy clothes also? Jesus told a parable about a king who prepared a banquet for his son's wedding, and he invited all his people. We have read it earlier from Matthew 22:1-13. Would anyone like to share their drawing? What can we learn from this parable?** (Accept students' answers.)

Debriefing

Ask: **Who is the king?** (God the Father) **Who is the king's son?** (Jesus) **Who are represented by the people invited to the wedding?** (all the people in the world) **What does the wedding garment represent?** (Jesus' robe of righteousness; His sacrifice that covers our sin and makes us suitable for heaven) **Jesus invites everyone to come to His wedding feast, but not all accept His invitation, and some try to get to heaven by themselves by trying to wear the garment of their own righteousness. We can't be saved by relying on our good deeds. We're not perfect, but Jesus is, and only by His robe of righteousness will we be saved. In Revelation 3:5 Jesus says: "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and His angels." Aren't you glad that Jesus is covering us? Let's repeat our power point together:**

By His grace Jesus defends us in the heavenly sanctuary.

4 SHARING THE LESSON

Book of Life

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper cut into small rectangles
- ☐ pens or markers

Ask students to tell if they had the opportunity during the past week to share with someone Jesus' desire to write our names in the book of life and take us to heaven. Ask: **What does it mean to have your name written in the book of life? Did you explain to that person that only through God's grace is it possible for us to enter heaven?**

Say: **You are going to make a representation of the book of life now. Take your piece of paper and fold it in half to make the shape of a book. On the front, write "Book of Life." Now write your name inside.**

Debriefing

Say: **In our Bible story today we talked about the book of life. Let's look up Revelation 21:27. Your name needs to be written in the Lamb's book of life in order to be admitted into heaven. Who is the lamb?** (Jesus) **Who writes our names in this book?** (Jesus) **You can take your books home with you and have your family members sign their names in it too. Start a conversation with someone who doesn't know about Jesus and the book of life. Our names are written in the book of life in heaven. Let's say our power point once again:**

By His grace Jesus defends us in the heavenly sanctuary.

Closing

Prayer and Closing Comments:

Say: **Think about Jesus' dying for us so we can have our names written in the heavenly book of life. I'm so thankful Jesus is defending us in heaven so we will be able to live with Him forever.**

Reminder to Parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www .juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel =1.**

Coming Up Next Week:

Say: **Jesus will return to take us to His heavenly home.**

Notes

Student lesson

Jesus Defends Us

Imagine that you are in a courtroom and you are on trial. The judge and the jury have to weigh the evidence and decide whether or not you are guilty. How would you feel if you were convicted of a violation of the law? How would you respond if your lawyer paid a very high cost for the fine (which you could have never paid) so that you could be free?

The Bible describes a court scene that is taking place in heaven. The prophet Daniel saw that court scene in vision in which the Ancient of Days, God the Father, was seated to judge the human race based on the records contained in the books. As "the court was seated, and the books were opened" Daniel saw "One like the Son of Man," who was "coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him" (Daniel 7:9, 10, 13, 14). The parallel passage in Daniel 8:14 describes this as the sanctuary being "cleansed."

Let's take a closer look at what this means. We can learn about the heavenly sanctuary by examining the earthly sanctuary. Moses made an earthly tabernacle after the pattern of the heavenly sanctuary (see Exodus 25:9, 40). When someone had sinned, that person came to the sanctuary and brought a pure, spotless animal, symbolizing Jesus, the pure, spotless Lamb of God (see Revelation 13:8). The person would lay the hands on the head of the lamb, confessing his or her sin, thus transferring it onto the lamb. That lamb would then be sacrificed in place of the sinner, pointing to Jesus' sacrifice that cleanses from sin (see Leviticus 1).

Once a year on the Day of Atonement the congregation of the children of Israel assembled at the sanctuary after they had confessed and repented of their sins. It was on the Day of Atonement that the sanctuary was "cleansed" from the people's sins. On that day two goats were brought to the tabernacle, and lots were cast to determine which goat was for the Lord and which was the scapegoat. The first goat, over which no sins were confessed, was sacrificed. Its blood was brought into the sanctuary to cleanse it from the blood of the animal sacrifices for sins made through the year. This goat was symbolic of Jesus' sinless sacrifice for us. At the cross Jesus took our place and paid the penalty for our sins and set us free from the condemnation of sin.

After the cleansing blood of this goat was applied to the sanctuary, the sins of the people were confessed on the head the scapegoat, which represented Satan, the author of sin. It was then banished to the wilderness to die, symbolizing Satan's final punishment for the world's sin (see Leviticus 16).

Significantly, the Day of Atonement in the earthly sanctuary was the only service in which all Israelites were required to participate (see Leviticus 23:29, 30). Also it was the only day of the year when the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place. He did this to do a special work of atonement for the people. The priestly ministry throughout the year pointed forward to Christ's ministry as our high priest. But the Day of Atonement pointed forward to Jesus' entry into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary at the end of the 2300 prophetic days in 1844 (see Daniel 8:14). That is when Jesus began His work of investigative judgment as our great high priest in the heavenly sanctuary, which includes a special work of cleansing for His people (see Leviticus 16:30).

At some point the name of every person who has ever lived will come before God in judgment. Although "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), we can receive the undeserved gift of salvation by confessing our sins, accepting Jesus' sacrifice, and living a life of obedience. The good news is that in the judgment Jesus will be the advocate of all who accept Him as their personal Redeemer and keep all of His commandments, including the Sabbath (see Revelation 14:12). John wrote about this, saying: "If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). Our penalty has already been paid with the precious blood of Jesus. Thanks to Christ, we can be free! We need only accept His atoning sacrifice.

Now that the books of record are opened in the heavenly judgment, everyone's thoughts, words, and actions, including their sins, stand revealed. The names of those who by faith were obedient to God's law "are written in the Lamb's Book of Life" (Revelation 21:27) and will not be blotted out (Revelation 3:5). The cases of those whose names are not recorded in the book of life or whose names were blotted out during this judgment will pass in review for judgment at a later time, during the millennium.

How important it is then to obey God: "Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judg-

KEY REFERENCES

- Daniel 7:9, 10; Matthew 22:1-14; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:23-26; 8:1, 2; 9:22-28; Revelation 5:9; 12:10; 21:27
- *The Great Controversy*, chaps. 23; 24, pp. 409-432
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 157-160, 180-182
- Our Beliefs, nos. 24, 10, 8

POWER TEXT

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world" (1 John 2:1, 2).

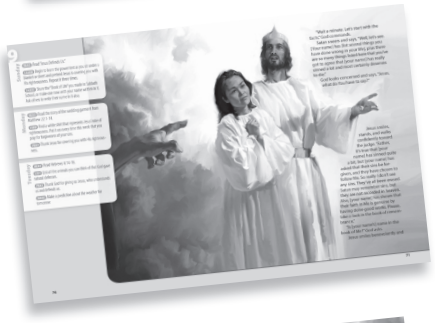
POWER POINT

By His grace Jesus defends us in the heavenly sanctuary.

ment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14).

Our names may come up anytime in the judgment. How should we spend our time and utilize our resources? How should we use the gifts and talents God has given us? How can we open our hearts to Jesus and allow Him to change our lives? If we accept Jesus as our personal Savior, He will cover us with His robe of righteousness. To all who believe in Him Jesus promises "everlasting life" (see John 3:16).







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 74.

Sunday

READ Read Matthew 22:1-9 and this week's story, "Jesus Defends Us."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, 1 John 2:1, 2.

SHARE Tell someone the good news that our names are written in the book of life.

PRAY Thank God that your name is in the book of life.

Monday

READ Read Matthew 22:10-14.

THINK What do the wedding clothes in this story represent? How do you respond when Jesus invites you to His feast? Have you accepted His robe of righteousness?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank Jesus for covering you with the robe of His righteousness.

Tuesday

READ Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about a time when someone accused you but a friend stood up for you and defended you. Now write about how you feel knowing that Jesus is your friend who defends you.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank Jesus that He understands and defends us.

Wednesday

READ Read Psalm 35:22-24.

REVIEW Review the power text.

THINK What are some Bible prophecies that came true?

PRAY Thank Jesus for keeping all His promises and for the Bible prophecies that came true.

Thursday

READ Read 1 John 4:16-18.

LEARN About what person in the Bible would you like to learn more? Read that person's story and write down three interesting facts about that person.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you better to please Him.

Friday

READ Read 1 John 2:1, 2 again then say it by memory.

RECITE Act out the parable of the wedding garment.

LEARN Ask each person what expectations they would have if they invited people to a banquet.

PRAY Thank God that you are invited to His feast.