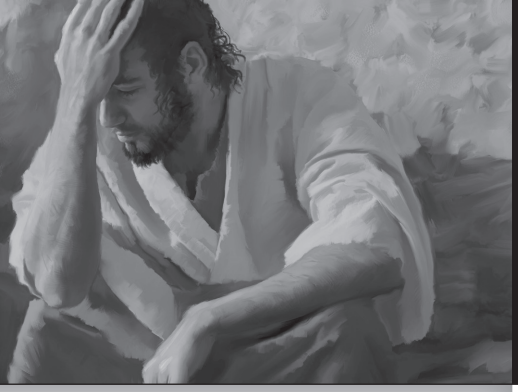


YEAR B | QUARTER 4

10

Risking Everything

Grace
God gave Himself to us.

POWER TEXT

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 1
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 4, pp. 43-49
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 23-26
- Student lesson on page 112 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 4, The Son

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus took a great personal risk to save the world.
- **Feel** deeply loved by Jesus.
- **Respond** by thanking God for the depth of His love and grace to us.

POWERPOINT

Jesus revealed God's grace by risking everything to save the world.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Joseph is to be married to Mary, but when she tells him she is pregnant, he plans to quietly break the relationship off. But then he is given divine instructions not to be afraid to take the risk of marrying her, since her child has been conceived from the Holy Spirit.

This is a lesson about grace.

Just as Joseph takes the risk of being ridiculed by marrying Mary, God took a huge risk for us. God's love for humans is so great, and His desire to save us is so strong, that He is willing to put Himself at great risk to share His love and grace with. Jesus sacrificed His own life to accomplish His mission to save us.

Teacher Enrichment

Three Steps in the Jewish Marriage:

1. Engagement—a contract arranged by family members who determined whether the couple would be well suited for each other and for a future marriage.

2. Betrothal—the public ratification of the engagement, with a period of one year for the couple to be committed to each other, "but not having the rights of living together as husband and wife. The only way a betrothal could be terminated was by a divorce. In Jewish law, a young woman whose fiancé dies during the period of betrothal is referred to 'a virgin who is a window.'" Mary and Joseph were at this stage in their commitment.

3. Marriage ceremony—takes place at the end of the year of betrothal.

It was during the year of their betrothal that Joseph learned about Mary's pregnancy. He is referred to as a just man with special love and consideration for his betrothed. Matthew 1 features five characteristics of the man who was to become the father of Jesus: justice (verse 19), discretion (verse 19), piety (verse 20), obedience (verse 24), and self-discipline (verse 25) (adapted from Myron S. Augsburger, *Matthew*, The Communicator's Commentary [Waco, Tex.: Word Books, 1982], pp. 27, 28).

What kinds of risks do I take for Jesus? When have I done something for God in which I felt embarrassed?

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 Readiness	10-15	*A. Fruit Basket*	chairs
		B. Toothpick Castle	juice bottle, toothpicks
		C. Family Tree	Bibles, paper, pencils, Family Tree Chart (p. 146; optional)
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 107. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, gift-wrapped box
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, creative reading scripts
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Bungee Jumping*	Bibles
* 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:
- ☐ chairs

Fruit Basket

Seat students in chairs in a circle. Have them count off in turn "lemon," "orange," "apple," "banana." One person stands in the middle and is the "fruit buyer." This person should suddenly call out: "Apples and oranges, change places." All the players in those categories dash for other seats while the fruit buyer tries to find one also. The one left without a chair is buyer in the next round. If the fruit buyer is unsuccessful in finding a seat, they can call out "fruit basket," and all the players must scramble for a new seat.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you enjoy about playing this game? How much of a risk did you feel that you were taking trying to find another seat? What do you like about taking risks? How much of a risk did Jesus take in coming to this world to save us?**

Say: **Not only did Jesus suffer for us, He also ran the risk of being overcome by sin, not being able to be our perfect sacrifice, and not being able to return to His Father. Let's say together our power text, Isaiah 53:5:**

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).

Our power point reminds us that

Jesus revealed God's grace by risking everything to save the world.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ juice bottle
- ☐ toothpicks

Toothpick Castle

A juice bottle is set in the middle of the room. Each student is given 10 toothpicks and takes a turn placing a toothpick flat on top of the bottle. If any of the toothpicks tumble, they are given to the player that caused them to fall. The winner is the first to get rid of all their toothpicks. Be specific about the amount of time you want to allot for the activity (i.e., specify whether students will take one turn or two turns each).

Debriefing

Ask: **How much of a risk were you taking trying to place your toothpicks carefully? What do you like about taking risks? How much of a risk did Jesus take in coming to this world to save us?**

Say: **Not only did Jesus suffer for us, He also ran the risk of being overcome by sin, not being able to be our perfect sacrifice, and not being able to return to His Father. Let's say together our power text, Isaiah 53:5:**

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).

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Prayer & Praise

C

Family Tree

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ Family Tree Chart (p. 146; optional)

Ask each student to draw their family tree starting with themselves and going as far back as they know. Optional: You could also use the Family Tree Chart from lesson 2. See page 146.

Debriefing

Ask: **Who would like to share their family tree with us? What do you think is unique about your family? You didn't choose your family, but Jesus did choose His earthly family. Let's find Matthew 1:1-17 and look at Jesus' family tree. Even though Jesus chose His earthly family, He was taking some risks. What do you know about some of His ancestors?** (Talk briefly about Tamar, Rahab, and Ruth.) **When Jesus came here as a human, it required Him to take some risks. Do you like taking risks? Why or why not?**

Say: **Not only did Jesus suffer for us, He also ran the risk of being overcome by sin, not being able to be our perfect sacrifice, and not being able to return to His Father. Let's say together our power text, Isaiah 53:5:**

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).

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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. Close with a prayer that God will show everyone in your Sabbath School, adults and students alike, a way that He would have them "stand still" in their lives and allow Him to win victories for them.

Suggested Songs

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

"Think About His Love" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 40)
"For God So Loved the World" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 43)
"Emmanuel" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 52)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ gift-wrapped box

Use Adventist *Mission* 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 identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

Say: **God took a risk in sending His Son to die in our place even though most human beings are completely unthankful for it. When we bring an offering to God, it is a way of showing our appreciation for His love. There is no risk whatsoever that God will not accept and appreciate.** Collect the offering in the gift-wrapped box.

Prayer

Adapt the familiar verse John 3:16 into a prayer of thanks for God's risk in trying to save us: "Thank You, God, for loving the world so much that You were willing to risk the life of Your own Son so that whoever believes in Him will be able to live forever!" 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:
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Introducing the Bible Story

Write the word "risk" on a board and ask class members to describe behaviors that this word suggests. Discuss when it is appropriate and when inappropriate to take a risk. Then have class members explain what kind of risk it was for God to offer His Son for our salvation. Say: **Let's say together our power text, Isaiah 53:5:**

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).

Our power point reminds us that

Jesus revealed God's grace by risking everything to save the world.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ creative reading scripts

Experiencing the Story

If possible, arrange ahead for volunteers to take part in the following creative reading.

Reader 1: Read aloud Matthew 1:18-23.

Reader 2: **The promise of Jesus' birth, spoken through the angel Gabriel, reminds us that we aren't trapped by sin—we have a Savior, Jesus. One of the names for Jesus is "Emmanuel," which means "God with us." God is with us and loves us. He will help us turn away from the negative, and guide us in the best directions for our lives. Just as He took risks to save us, we can take risks for Him. Let's use this opportunity to be quiet and listen for God's direction.** Bow your head.

Reader 3: **We praise God for the gift of His Son, Emmanuel. We are so blessed to have Jesus' presence with us. Let us keep in mind the awesome love God showed us through His Son.**

Ask: **How do you think God felt about letting His Son take the risk of coming to earth? How does that willingness demonstrate His love for us?** (See Romans 5:8.) **How can we demonstrate our appreciation of His gift of love?**

Say: **Let's repeat our power point together:**

Jesus revealed God's grace by risking everything to save the world.

(Adapted from *The Youth Worker's Encyclopedia: New Testament* [Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1994], p. 11. Used by permission.)

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

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

Exploring the Bible

Divide the class into several groups, with three or four in each group. Assign the groups to search their Bibles and their memory of Bible stories for at least three examples of risks that people took to honor or obey God.

When the groups have their lists ready, list them where all can see. Ask: **How were the risks that these people took the same and how are they different from the risk that God took to save us? What risks did Jesus take to save us? What was He sacrificing for us?**

OR

Divide the students into groups and assign the following Old Testament texts referring to the birth of the Messiah. Ask each group to read and be prepared to share with the others what they discovered.

1. Genesis 3:15, promise of deliverance
2. Genesis 22:18, promise to Abraham
3. Deuteronomy 18:18, prediction of Moses
4. Numbers 24:17, prophecy of Balaam
5. Isaiah 7:14, manner of Christ's birth
6. Isaiah 9:6, 7, prophecy featuring the roles played by the Messiah

Let's repeat once again the power text, Isaiah 53:5: ***"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).***

Our power point reminds us that

Jesus revealed God's grace by risking everything to save the world.

Scenario

Read the following scenario to the students:

Jackson asks you why it was such a big risk that Jesus came to this earth. If God knows the beginning from the end, then Jesus knew He was going to live a sinless life and overcome Satan. He knew He was going back to heaven someday. What is the risk He took?

Debriefing

Ask: **What can you tell Jackson? What were the risks Jesus took?** (Remind your students that Jesus, while on this earth, lived as a human being, and He knew only what the Holy Spirit was able to communicate with Him through Scripture and through nature. Even though He "knew" He would make the sacrifice for our sins, He didn't "feel" as if He could ever be reunited with God while He was bearing the weight of our sins. (See *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 753, 754.)

As the power point reminds us:

Jesus revealed God's grace by risking everything to save the world.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- Bibles

Bungee Jumping

Have students share if during the past week they took the risk of sharing Jesus with a stranger or with someone who is not a believer in Him. Ask: **What did you share about Jesus? Did you meet someone who was interested in listening to you share Jesus? How did the experience of sharing about Jesus help you become a witness for Him?**

Say: **Have you ever seen or heard about people "bungee jumping"?* They climb a tall tower, have a bungee cord put around their ankles, and then jump. Pretty scary, huh? What a risk they are taking.**

Say: **Let's read together Philippians 2:5-9.**

Ask: **Since Jesus took such a risk and sacrifice for you, what are you willing to risk for Him? Take a few minutes to think about it.**

Debriefing

Ask: **When have you taken any risks for Jesus? What risks are you willing to take for Him? Picture the risk taking involved in bungee jumping and think about how infinitely greater was the risk that Jesus took in order to save you. How are you willing to take a risk and share that love with someone that needs it?** Ask students to decide with whom they will share, and encourage them to commit to doing so.

****Optional***

Feel free to replace the bungee jumping illustration with an example of a sport familiar to your students that requires a high level of risk taking.

Let's repeat once again the power point:

Jesus revealed God's grace by risking everything to save the world.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear Jesus, thank You for taking the risks You did to save us. Without You, we have no hope. Help us to be like You, and take risks to share Your love with others. Amen.**

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: **Only a stable receives the Baby Jesus! Jesus helps us to understand the love of God.**

Notes

Student lesson

Risking Everything

A piano recital, public speaking, jumping off the high dive at a pool. Do these things make you think of sweaty palms and butterfly stomachs? We all have to take risks sometimes. But Jesus took the greatest risk of all.

What am I going to do now? Joseph wondered as he tossed and turned in his bed. All he could think about was Mary, the beautiful young woman who was to become his wife. Worried thoughts kept Joseph awake as he thought of Mary who was expecting a child. He loved Mary so much and did not want her to be hurt by the ridicule that was sure to come her way. But an idea flashed into Joseph's mind and he considered breaking off the engagement privately. Finally Joseph drifted off to sleep, his thoughts still focused on the one he loved. Then suddenly an angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20, 21, NIV).

When Joseph woke up, he remembered the words of the angel. Still amazed by it all, he realized that God had given him a great responsibility. Now it was all beginning to make sense. He remembered the prophecy of Isaiah, who wrote about the young virgin that would give birth to a child. How awed Joseph must have felt to know that the Scriptures that he had studied for so long would be fulfilled right before his very eyes! For long ago the prophet Isaiah had said: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14, NIV).

Joseph didn't waste any time carrying out the angel's instructions. He took Mary as his wife. When Mary gave birth to the baby, they named Him Jesus, just as Joseph had been told by the angel.

Just imagine the thoughts that crossed the minds of Joseph and Mary as they considered the awesome responsibility they faced. They felt unworthy of the great honor of raising the Son of God, who came into our world as a human baby. Feelings of awe and humility filled their hearts to overflowing as they realized the awesome privilege of being entrusted by the King of the universe with the assignment of being the human parents of His Son!

Yet their faith was strong. They knew that God had chosen them for this special task. They believed that He would help them to accomplish this important parenting assignment as they dedicated themselves to raising Jesus. After all, God was risking everything, sending His Son to this earth to live as a baby.

Jesus Himself risked everything to save us. He agreed to come into our world in order to live and die for us, that we might be saved from punishment and live as children of God. Jesus faced the pain and suffering that Isaiah had predicted (see Isaiah 53:5). Moreover, He risked everything knowing that if any trace of sin was found in His character He would fail to be our perfect sacrifice and would be separated from His Father forever. Isn't it amazing that Jesus took this awful risk for us anyway?

That's how much God the Father and God the Son love each of us!

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 1
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 4, pp. 43-49
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 23-26
- Our Beliefs, nos. 9, 10, 4

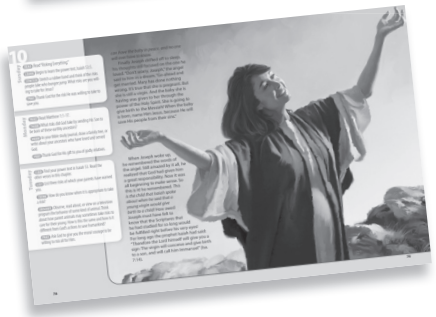
POWER TEXT

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).

POWER POINT

Jesus revealed God's grace by risking everything to save the world.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 75.

Sunday

READ Read Matthew 1:1-11 and this week's story, "Risking Everything."

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Isaiah 53:5.

THINK What are the risks taken by people who bungee jump? What risks are you willing to take for Jesus?

PRAY Thank God for the risk He was willing to take to save you.

Monday

READ Read Matthew 1:12-17.

THINK What risks did God take by sending His Son to be born of these earthly ancestors?

DRAW In your Bible study journal, draw a family tree, or write about your ancestors who loved and served God.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for giving you godly relatives.

Tuesday

READ Read Isaiah 53:2-9.

THINK What are some risks of which your parents have warned you? How do you know when it is appropriate to take a risk?

OBSERVE Observe, read about, or view on a television program the behavior of some kind of animal. Think about how parent animals may sometimes take risks to care for their young. How does this illustrate God's love for us? What does Jesus' sacrifice to save humankind mean to you? What can you do in response to His love?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you the moral courage to be willing to risk all for Him.

Wednesday

READ Read Romans 5:8.

THINK What are some risks a person takes when trying to help someone in need? Think about how much greater is the risk that God took (see Romans 5:8) than the greatest risk you could ever take.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that God will give you the faith to accept His great gift to you, and let Him save you.

Thursday

READ Read John 3:16, 17.

LOOK Browse through your Bible and underline or highlight texts that describe how much God loves you.

SING Sing your favorite sacred Christmas song. If possible, plan to share Christmas music with an elderly person who may be lonely this season.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for giving you reason to sing, by risking everything to save you.

Friday

WATCH With your family, watch the sun go down at the beginning of Sabbath.

READ Together, read Isaiah 53, and if you can, listen to a recording of Handel's *Messiah*.

LIST Make a list of the ways in which you have observed God's love for you over the past week.

SAY Repeat the power text, Isaiah 53:5, by memory.

PRAY Praise God for the risks Jesus has taken to save each member of your family.