CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS
JUNE 2026

forever faithful

Scripture Story: Revelation.
Commentary: *The Acts of the Apostles* (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapter 57.
Key Text: Revelation 1:3.

PREPARING TO TEACH

I. SYNOPSIS

With the scope of this lesson being the book of Revelation, it's absurd to try to thoroughly cover every verse and nuance of the text. You will need to choose what passage merits your attention for teaching. Suggested topics include the gift of prophecy, the church, and the remnant and its mission. Regardless of what direction you go, your presentation should be centered on Christ. After all, it was the revelation of Jesus that John wrote about on the island of Patmos.

The lesson helps will be weighted toward the theme of the remnant and its mission. Should you pursue this topic, it is important to emphasize that God has always had a remnant people. For example, Noah and his family survived the Flood and saved the human race from extinction. The exiles who returned to Jerusalem following their Babylonian captivity were the remnant who restored the Jewish race.

Like the remnant of today, the remnant in Old Testament times were devoted followers of God. They were people who refused to compromise with the majority. For example, while most of the Israelites partied with the world, there always remained a faithful remnant that followed God. They became heirs to the rights and privileges promised to Abraham.

When the Israelites rejected Jesus as the Messiah, God rejected them as His remnant nation and transferred the promises and privileges of His remnant followers to the Christian church.

This lesson offers you the opportunity to challenge the young people in your class to align themselves with God's remnant followers in the last days of this earth's history. In the book of Revelation these sold-out disciples of Jesus at the end of time will have two identifying characteristics: (1) they will keep the commandments of God; (2) they will have the testimony of Jesus (see Revelation 12:17; Revelation 19:10; Revelation 14; 18:1-4; etc.).

II. TARGET

The students will:

- Study the concept of the remnant, which is a theme throughout Scripture. *(Know)*
- Sense the heart of Christ for His bride, the church in the last days. *(Feel)*
- Have an opportunity to get involved in the mission of God's remnant people. *(Respond)*

III. EXPLORE

The Remnant and Its Mission, Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Beliefs, No. 13

"The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. . . . Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness" (Dan. 7:9-14; Isa. 1:9; 11:11; Jer. 23:3; Mic. 2:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Peter 1:16-19; 4:17; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Jude 3, 14; Rev. 12:17; 14:6-12; 18:1-4).

TEACHING

I. GETTING STARTED

Activity

Refer the students to the What Do You Think? *section of their lesson. After they have completed it, discuss their responses.*

As an alternate activity, break the class into small groups and assign a different question for each group to discuss. After the discussion, have each group share their question and their conclusion.

- Can we face the end-times with peaceful certainty, knowing we are part of God's remnant?
- Why has God chosen to reveal His character through the remnant?
- What are the identifying marks of the remnant in the last days?
- Why is a biblical understanding of the remnant important in the last days?
- What is the connection between Jesus and the book of Revelation? What is the relationship between Jesus and the remnant?
- Will the final remnant be comprised of followers from every faith and denomination?
- Does belonging to the remnant carry with it additional responsibilities? If so, in what way?

II. TEACHING THE STORY

Illustration

Share the illustration in your own words.

"Seized in the quietness of his country village, Patrick was beaten and dragged to a waiting ship. He gained consciousness in time to recognize that he was being transported to Ireland as a slave. After serving there a short time, he discovered a way to escape. He fled to Gaul, where he heard the preaching of Christ's gospel. He accepted it and was baptized. Sensing a responsibility to preach the gospel in the land of his enslavement, he set sail for Ireland. Here he preached moving biblical sermons that led multitudes to the foot of the cross. Even the royal 'high kings' of Ireland were impressed by his deeply spiritual preaching.

"Eventually the king's son, Conall, along with thousands of others, was baptized by Patrick. Conall's great-grandson, Columba, was in line for the throne through the royal heritage of his mother, Eithne. Columba accepted the Bible message preached by Patrick. In fact, it is likely that he went so far as to give up his throne for the cause of Christ. Along with Patrick, he upheld the Bible as the only foundation of faith. He placed strong emphasis on the necessity of loving obedience to the Ten Commandments, which he called 'Christ's Law.' . . .

"According to Dr. Leslie Hardinge in his outstanding work, *The Celtic Church in Britain,* one of the distinguishing characteristics of the Celts was a sacred regard for the biblical Sabbath.

"God's champions, Patrick and Columba—one a runaway slave, and the other the heir to a throne—kept the light of God's truth burning in Ireland and Scotland during the Dark Ages.

"God has men and women in every age who stand faithful to His truth, regardless of the consequences. There are those in our day who give up what the "world offers" for the cause of Christ. Their hearts burn with one desire: to serve the Master. . . . They are God's heroes—His true champions. He invites each one of us to join this royal line" (Mark Finley, *Solid Ground,* pp. 147, 148).

Bridge to the Story

Share the following in your own words.

Have you ever noticed how often people try to shirk responsibility? This happens not only in the workplace, but in the church as well. The fact is we all have a responsibility in God's family. When every person in the church responds to God's call for action, Ellen White's prophecy of the last days will be fulfilled. She wrote: "I have been deeply impressed by scenes that have recently passed before me in the night season. There seemed to be a great movement—a work of revival—going forward in many places. Our people were moving into line, responding to God's call. My brethren, the Lord is speaking to us. Shall we not heed His voice?" (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White* [1915], p. 425).

Out of the Story for Teachers

After you read the Into the Story *section with your students, use the following questions to explore the following topics with them.*

The Remnant and Its Mission

- What does being a part of God's remnant in the last days mean to you?
- Have you ever felt like an outsider? Explain.
- If grace is what defines the parameters of the remnant, then what do you suggest is the source of the insider/outsider mentality that some people have when it comes to this idea of God's

remnant people?

- The criterion that defines the remnant in the end of time is marked in Revelation. They "keep the commandments of God, and [have] the faith of Jesus." From your perspective can this be used as a characteristic of a denomination? Why or why not?

The Three Angels' Messages

- How do you reconcile God's grace with His judgment?
- Babylon's sin is self-sufficiency. In what ways are people tempted to be self-sufficient today?
- Rank the three angels' messages in Revelation 14 from the one you feel our church is most effectively sharing with the world to the one that we are least effectively sharing. Explain.

The Centrality of Jesus in Revelation

Note that this study is about "The revelation from Jesus Christ" so that we can know "what must soon take place" (Revelation 1:1, NIV).

- Do you ever feel afraid when thinking about the last days? Why or why not?
- In the first nine verses of Revelation John mentions "the testimony of Jesus" twice. Why is this significant? What does he imply about the nature of God's revelation?

Sharing Context and Background

Use the following information to shed more light on the story for your students. Share it in your own words.

The remnant theme moves through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. In the Old Testament six different Hebrew roots form many different words that are used hundreds of times in all sorts of contexts.

The remnant is first used in Scripture in the context of Noah's story. Genesis 7:23 records: "Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark" (NIV). The phrase "was left" comes from the Hebrew root *sha'ar* meaning "to remain," or "to be left over." This is the most commonly used root for the remnant. After the Flood, Noah and his family were the only ones remaining, i.e., the remnant.

Note that being associated with the remnant is a choice. Being part of the remnant did not happen through inheritance or by marriage. Noah and his family all had to choose to get on the boat. Following the Flood, most of Noah's descendents chose to ditch the remnant. They rejected God's covenant and began construction on the tower of Babel. They did not believe God's promise (symbolized by a rainbow) to refrain from flooding the earth again.

With Abraham a new remnant was formed. He maintained a saving relationship with the Lord in a world that didn't. He reestablished a family remnant that would preserve the worship of Yahweh and remain faithful to the covenant conditions. The remnant language then weaves through the stories of Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and the children of Israel. Throughout the Old Testament God promises to preserve His remnant. One of many examples comes

Teaching From . . .

Refer your students to the other sections of their lesson.

- **Key Text**
  Invite students to share the Key Text *with the class if they have committed it to memory.*
- **Flashlight**
  Read the Flashlight *statement, pointing out that most of the time it is from the commentary on this week's story found in the book* The Acts of the Apostles. *Ask what relationship they see between the statement and what they have just discussed from* Out of the Story.
- **Punch Lines**
  Point out to your students the verses listed in their lesson that relate to this week's story. Have them share the verse that spoke most directly to them and allow them to explain why they chose it.
- **Further Insight**
  Ask them how the quote in Further Insight *conveys the point of the story in this lesson.*

Tips for Top-Notch Teaching

Personal Examination

Before teaching, it is imperative for effective instructors to examine their own motives and convictions on the topic they are teaching. Prayerfully consider the following questions:

Am I sharing the uniqueness of the divine calling of the remnant without being pretentious?

Do I emphasize God's faithfulness and His grace as manifested to His remnant throughout history?

Do students see in me the tenacious loyalty to God that marks the remnant?

Am I tuned in to the fears and concerns some students may feel with regard to this topic?

from Isaiah 11:11 which says: "In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people" (NIV).

The Lord was faithful to His promises. He brought back a remnant of believers to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple and rebuild the nation. But this nation became so obsessed with the law that the law became their religion. While Israel had the commandments, it rejected the Commandment-Giver; it was so caught up in preserving truth that it crucified the One who said "I am the . . . truth" (John 14:6, NIV). Consequently, the church became the new Israel, that is, the new remnant.

As you would expect, then, the remnant theme continues through the New Testament church. The apostle Paul describes the early Christian church as the remnant: "So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace" (Romans 11:5, 6, NIV).

Grace defines the boundaries of the remnant in the early Christian church. Because of the cross, all people—including the Gentiles—comprised the remnant. All people are called into a covenant relationship with Christ. But it's only by grace that anyone can associate with the remnant of God.

III. CLOSING

Activity

Close with a pop quiz and then challenge the students to make a commitment to be a part of God's remnant people. True or False?

God has always had a remnant of faithful followers. *(True)*

The remnant will be comprised only of people who have lived perfect lives. *(False)*

In the last days, God's remnant people are described as commandment keepers and believers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. *(True)*

God is calling us to be a part of His remnant today. *(True)*

God's remnant people are saved only by grace. *(True)*

Summary

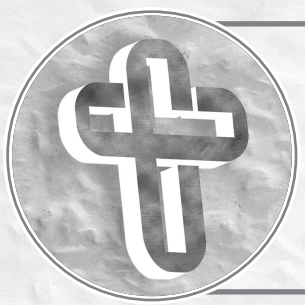
Share the following case study and discuss it with your students.

Jolene has made a commitment to be a part of her church youth group. Sometimes the group's functions interfere with her social life—like tonight. There is a group planning meeting, but Jolene wants to go to her friend's birthday party.

What would Jesus do in Jolene's situation?

What commitments are most important to keep?

What kinds of conflicting commitments are we likely to face in the last days? How can we remain loyal to God? Would you agree that the distinguishing mark of the remnant church is an uncompromising commitment to God and God alone? Why or why not?



Remind the students about the reading plan that will take them through the inspired commentary of the Bible, the Conflict of the Ages Series. The reading that goes with this lesson is *The Acts of the Apostles* (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapter 57.

LESSON 12

CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS

JUNE2026

STUDENT LESSON

Scripture Story: Revelation.
Commentary: *The Acts of the Apostles* (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapter 57.

forever faithful



Photo by JupiterImages Corporation © 2010/Digital photocomposing by Truman

keytext

"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."

(Revelation 1:3, NIV)

flashlight

"Let none think, because they cannot explain the meaning of every symbol in the Revelation, that it is useless for them to search this book in an effort to know the meaning of the truth it contains. The One who revealed these mysteries to John will give to the diligent searcher for truth a foretaste of heavenly things. Those whose hearts are open to the reception of truth will be enabled to understand its teachings, and will be granted the blessing promised to those who 'hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein'" (*The Acts of the Apostles,* pp. 584, 585).

what do you think?

Either/Or

- I believe God blesses people today with the gift of prophecy in the same way that He blessed John with the gift of prophecy when he wrote Revelation. OR I believe John had a unique gift of prophecy and no one has been blessed in the same way since.
- The book of Revelation is primarily about Jesus. OR The book of Revelation is primarily about prophecy.
- The message delivered to the seven churches of Asia in the book of Revelation was more positive than negative. OR The message delivered to the seven churches of Asia in the book of Revelation was more negative than positive.
- According to Revelation, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the remnant church. OR According to Revelation, the remnant church is comprised of Christ's followers—regardless of denomination—who keep God's commandments and have the testimony of Jesus..

did you know?

In exiling John, the enemies of truth had hoped to silence forever the voice of God's faithful witness; but on Patmos the disciple received a message, the influence of which was to continue to strengthen the church till the end of time. Though not released from the responsibility of their wrong act, those who banished John became instruments in the hands of God to carry out Heaven's purpose; and the very effort to extinguish the light placed the truth in bold relief."—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 581.

INTO THE STORY

"The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. . . .

"'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'

"I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: 'Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.'

"Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus."

"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, 'Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.'

"A second angel followed and said, ' "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great," which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries.'

"A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: 'If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.' This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus."

"At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you

and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.'"

(Revelation 1:1-11; Revelation 12:17; Revelation 14:6-12; Revelation 19:10, NIV)

OUT OF THE STORY

Read the passages in the Into the Story *section and then reflect on this statement by Pastor Morris Venden:*

"[There is] one unique doctrine of [the Seventh-day Adventist] church. There are other people who believe the Sabbath truth and have held on to that truth for years. There are others who believe the same way we do on the condition of man in death. There are others who accept the gift of prophecy, and there are many, many people, of almost every denomination, who believe in the second coming of Christ. Our only unique contribution to the religious world has been the three angels' messages and the connection they made for us with the sanctuary and judgment teaching."[1]

Questions to consider:

- What is at the heart of the three angels' messages?

_____
_____
_____

- How does your local church do at proclaiming the three angels' messages of Revelation 14?

_____
_____
_____

- How do these messages affect how we live?

_____
_____
_____

- What would my life look like if I were to apply these messages to my life?

_____
_____
_____

punch lines

"If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing" **(1 Corinthians 13:1, 2, NIV).**

"Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved" **(Romans 9:27, NIV).**

"So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace" **(Romans 11:5, NIV).**

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come" **(Matthew 24:14, NIV).**

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" **(1 John 1:7, NIV).**

further insight

"In comparison with the millions of the world, God's people will be, as they have ever been, a little flock; but if they stand for the truth as revealed in His word, God will be their refuge."—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 590

Sabbath

Read John 16:1, 2.

Review the *What Do You Think?* section. Notice how the either/or statements are based on major themes from the book of Revelation. Next to each of these themes listed below, write a few words that summarize what you believe the book of Revelation teaches on each theme.

Gift of prophecy _____
Jesus _____
Church _____
Remnant and its mission _____

Sunday

Read Revelation 12:17.

What is the meaning of the "testimony" or "witness of Jesus Christ"? "In the Greek this phrase may be understood either as the 'testimony' (or 'witness') Christians bear concerning Jesus or as the 'testimony' (or 'witness') that originates with Jesus and is revealed to His church through the prophets (see on ch. 1:2). In Revelation 19:10 the 'testimony of Jesus' is defined as the 'spirit of prophecy.'

"Since it is the distinctive work of the prophets to bear messages from Jesus to the people, the interpretation that the testimony of Jesus refers to the 'testimony,' or 'witness,' that Jesus bears to the church is strongly supported. Seventh-day Adventists thus interpret the passage and believe that the 'remnant' will be distinguished by the manifestation of the gift of prophecy in their midst."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 7, p. 812.

Monday

Read Revelation 1:3.

Read the *Key Text* then explain the difference between *reading* the words of prophecy, *hearing* the words, and *taking the words to heart*.

Reading: _____
Hearing: _____
Taking to heart: _____

Tuesday

Read 1 John 1:7.

Have you ever been intimidated by the book of Revelation? Why or why not?

What do you think Ellen White meant when she said it is possible to experience a "foretaste of heavenly things"?

What blessings would you like most from your study of Revelation?

Wednesday

After each text in the *Punch Lines* section, write what you think it has to say about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its mission:

Romans 11:5 _____
Romans 9:27 _____
Matthew 24:14 _____
1 John 1:7 _____
1 Corinthians 13:1, 2 _____

Thursday

Read Romans 9:27.

What difference does it make to me today whether or not I am part of God's remnant people? Did it make a difference in Noah's day?

How does the belief that you belong to God's remnant affect your spending habits? hobbies? choice of entertainment? friendships with nonbelievers? understanding of God?

Friday

Read Matthew 24:14.

Should God's remnant followers today:

- Stick to ourselves—and stay out of the world?
- Get in the world and live like the world?
- Maintain the purity of the remnant while interacting with others in the world in a quest to keep learning more about God and His remnant?

Explain your position:

_____
_____
_____
_____

_____

[1] Morris Venden, *The Pillars* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1982), p. 32.

this week's reading*

The Acts of the Apostles (or *Unlikely Leaders*), chapter 57.

**Unlikely Leaders* is a special adaptation of *The Acts of the Apostles,* created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.