

2

The Creator's Best Gift

Worship
We worship God, the Creator.

POWER TEXT

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:2, 3).

KEY REFERENCES

- Genesis 2:2, 3
- Exodus 20:8-11
- *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 2, pp. 47, 48
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 57-60
- student lesson on page 32 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 20, The Sabbath
- No. 6, Creation
- No. 19, The Law of God

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that the Creator wants to have a relationship with us on the Sabbath day.
- **Feel** and express their love for God who created us for Himself.
- **Respond** by worshipping the Creator on the Sabbath day.

POWERPOINT

We respond in worship to God's love by keeping the Sabbath.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

As God completed the work of creation He set apart the seventh day of the week to be a memorial of creation. The Sabbath is an oasis of rest in time. It allows us to place aside the work and cares of everyday life and to spend uninterrupted time, listening to the voice of our Creator and Friend. The more we spend time building our relationship with God and with His children, the more His character is reflected in us.

This is a lesson about worship.

The Sabbath represents the special sign of God's relationship with us. Throughout the ages worship on the seventh-day Sabbath was a distinguishing sign of those who were faithful to God. At the close of earth's history God's worship on His holy day will once again be a test of faith (see Revelations 14:6, 7).

Teacher Enrichment

"With God, Adam and Eve explored their paradise home. The scenery was breathtaking beyond description. As the sun slowly set on that Friday, the sixth day of Creation, and the stars began to appear, 'God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good' (Genesis 1:31). . . . But as beautiful as was the world He had just completed, the greatest gift God could give to the newly created couple was the privilege of a personal relationship with Him. So He gave them the Sabbath, a day of special blessing, fellowship, and communion with their Creator. The Sabbath is central to our worship of God. The memorial of Creation, it reveals the reason God is to be worshiped: He is the Creator, and we are His creatures" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, pp. 281, 282).

"The Sabbath therefore lies at the very foundation of divine worship, for it teaches this great truth in the most impressive manner, and no other institution does this. The true ground of divine worship, not of that on the seventh day merely, but of all worship, is found in the distinction between the Creator and His creatures. This great fact can never become obsolete, and must never be forgotten" (John N. Andrews, *History of the Sabbath*, 2nd ed. [1873], p. 510).

How does my Sabbath worship strengthen my relationship with God? What could I share about my worship experiences on Sabbath that would help my students enjoy the holy day?

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 door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Dream Vacation*	white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
		B. Reminder	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, construction paper, markers, pens, pencils
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 27. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	7 plastic cups, jar with water
		Exploring the Bible	Bible, paper plates, written menus, pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15		white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
* 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

Dream Vacation

Prior to Sabbath School class have the following words listed on the board: place, climate, surroundings, activities, and menu.

Ask: **Why do you like vacations?** (Accept all answers.)

Say: **Today you have a chance to share with a partner some things about your dream vacation. Think of your favorite place where you have spent or would like to spend your vacation. Tell your friend about: where your vacation would be, how is the climate there, how are the surroundings, in what activities you would engage, and what you would like to have on the menu. You may look at the board to remember what questions to answer.**

Give students an allotted time for this activity.

Debriefing

Ask: **Would you be satisfied if your vacation would include all the things that you shared?** (Accept various answers.) **What if you went on such a vacation all by yourself?** (would feel bored/lonely after a while) **Would you still be able to fully enjoy yourself?** (not really) **For how long could you stay in your dream vacation place alone?** (not for long) **You see, when God gave us the Sabbath day, He also gave us the best gift of all, the gift of His friendship with us. This means that He makes everything we enjoy on Sabbath even more special because He shares that time with us**. **Let's say our power text together:**

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:2, 3).

Our power point today is:

We respond in worship to God's love by keeping the Sabbath.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk
- ☐ construction paper
- ☐ pens
- ☐ pencils

Reminder

Prior to class cut construction paper into bookmark-shaped pieces. Write the power text on the board.

Ask: **Have you ever attended a birthday party or family celebration, where the guests were so busy enjoying themselves that they forgot to spend time with the celebrated person(s)? How do you think that person must have felt?**

Say: **Today we are going to study about Someone who is often forgotten by those who pretend to celebrate His special day. You may know who I am talking about if I tell you that He reminds us through a special letter to keep His day holy.** (Accept responses.) **That's right. The Creator reminds us to honor Him by spending time with Him on the Sabbath day. Today you will write the power text on a bookmark that will help remind you to spend time with the Creator. You may write the passage on the bookmark from the board or from your Bible.** Distribute to students bags with blank bookmarks, pens, pencils, and markers. Specify a timeframe for this activity.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do we need the reminder to keep the Sabbath?** (We may forget that God wants to spend this day with us.) **How could you make sure you allow no distractions to rob you from your time with the Creator?** (by having a consistent relationship with God, by reading the Bible, and by listening to the Holy Spirit) **Let's say our power text together:**

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:2, 3).

We respond in worship to God's love by keeping the Sabbath.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Students with physical or learning disabilities may need assistance with this activity. Have them work with a partner.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows that they shared with 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

"This is the Day" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 98)
"Think About His Love" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 40)
"Blessing and Honor" (*He Is Our* Song, no. 66)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. You may use a map of the world where the students can identify and mark with pushpins the location of the mission story.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Take the time to discuss the meaning and purpose of offerings. You may invite the church treasurer to come in and explain where the money is directed and how it is managed. Such discussions offer the opportunity to train our young about tithe and offerings. Encourage students to give an offering during the church service.

Say: **In our lesson this week we will learn about the Creator who set a memorial of creation on the seventh-day Sabbath. God loves us so much that He wants to share His friendship with us on this day. Unfortunately, many people around the world have never heard about the Creator who welcomes each one into a personal relationship with Him. Our mission offering today will help reach such people with the message of hope**.

Prayer

Ask a student to pray for the offering and for the people who need to hear about Jesus. Invite students to voice their prayer requests and keep a record of these (i.e., list of prayer requests/prayer journal). Give them the opportunity each week to share if they received answers to their prayers. They may also place a mark (i.e., a sticker) on a poster designed for answered prayers. This would help them remember that God is actively involved in their lives and responds to their needs, granting what is best for them.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **Do you like recess at school? Why do you think the school program allows for recesses?** (Recess allows you to rest, relax, and be recharged for the next class period.) **What are some reasons why it is good for us to stop and rest after a busy day at school or at work? Can you imagine life without ever stopping to relax?**

Say: **God knew that we need time to rest and regain our strength and energy for new activities and work. That is why He created a day of rest each week. In addition to rest, God gave us an even better gift on the Sabbath, the promise of His personal friendship. This week we will learn about the Creator's best gift to us.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ 7 plastic cups
- ☐ jar with water

Experiencing the Story

Invite students to the front of the class.

Say: **Imagine that you are a traveler in a hot desert. You are walking for hours and your water supply has run out. You look in the distance and all you can see is sand, dunes of sand. As you continue walking under the blazing sun, you earnestly pray to God that He would help you find a source of water. Not long after you uttered your prayer you see a tiny dot in the distance. You gather every ounce of energy and continue moving forward, hoping that you may find water soon. As you go, the dot on the horizon keeps growing and growing. Soon you discover that you are approaching an oasis.** (An oasis is a spot in the desert where there is a source of water.) **Your hopes and efforts were not in vain. As you enter the oasis you spot the well and you hurry your step. You find that on the rim of the well there are seven cups of water. Someone has already drawn water from the well before you got there. You discover that in the first cup there is only a mouthful of water.** (Start pouring a little water into the first plastic cup.) **You check the second cup, and again you see only a little bit of water in it.** (Add some water to the second cup.) **You move to the third** (repeat experiment), **then the fourth** (ditto), **next the fifth** (ditto), **then the sixth** (ditto), **and you see the same thing. You cast a final look at the final cup, and then . . . you realize that the seventh cup is full to the rim!**

Debriefing:

Ask: **Which one of the cups would you choose to quench your thirst? (**the one that is the fullest)

Say: **God wants to spend time every day of the week, but He pours a special measure of His blessings on the Sabbath day. If you are longing for a very close friendship with Him you will not be satisfied to receive a few drops of His blessings. You will want to spend a full measure of time with Him. Much like the desert traveler is truly satisfied only after a full drink of cool, refreshing water, so we could only enjoy a deep, satisfying friendship with God when we spend as much time as possible with Him.**

3 APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ written menus
- ☐ pencils

Exploring the Bible

Prior to Sabbath School, arrange the classroom with tables and chairs as for mealtime. Set the tables with paper plates. Place a Bible on each plate. Make menus for each student. Place menus and pencils next to each plate. Write the following Bible verses under the various categories on the menu:

Appetizers
- Exodus 20:8-11
- Isaiah 58:13, 14
- Ezekiel 20:12, 20

Entrées
- Mark 2:27, 28
- Luke 4:16
- 1 John 5:3

Desserts
- Revelation 14:6, 7
- Revelation 14:12
- Isaiah 66:22, 23

Today's Special
- Genesis 2:2, 3

Say: **Today you are all invited to a Sabbath dinner. Come have a seat at the table of your choice and start looking at the menu. You will be working with the person on your right or on your left. Choose an item from each section of the menu and put a checkmark next to it. Once you have your "order" marked, start finding them in your Bibles and take turns reading them with your partner. Share with each other your thoughts about these Bible passages. Let's pray about** _____ (designate volunteer to pray).

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you learn about the Sabbath from God's Word? What are some ways that make this day special?** (Focus on the importance of nurturing our relationship with God.) **Why is the Sabbath important to you? Why do you think the Bible verses about Sabbath were divided this way on the "Menu"? (**Appetizers: verses from the Old Testament about the promise of God's blessing on the Sabbath; Entrees: verses from the New Testament about Jesus' example in keeping the Sabbath; Desserts: verses about the call to worship God and promises about keeping the Sabbath in heaven; Today's Special: today's power text)

Let's say the power text together:

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:2, 3).

(Adapted from Priscilla Odinmah's activity included in the book *Sabbath Action Blast.* This activity is also available on the *Guide* magazine Web site, http://guidemagazine.org/sabbath-action-blast/3884-idea-22-spiritual-food.)

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

Brainstorm with students some ways we worship God on Sabbath. Write their answers on the board.

Say: **Give me some examples of how you worship on the Sabbath in church.**

Ask: **How do you spend the Sabbath hours outside of church? As you relax on Sabbath afternoon, do you remember that this is the Lord's day? Is there room in your activities for God?** (Accept various answers.)

If you are looking for creative activities for Sabbath, check out the books *Sabbath Action Blast,* a publication of *Guide* magazine, and *100 Creative Activities for Sabbath,* by Karen Holford.

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4

SHARING THE LESSON

Scenario

Read and discuss with your students the following scenario:

One day Lidia, a 17-year-old Bible-believing Christian girl takes the bus home from high school. She is quite tired, so she doesn't mind being distracted by anything that could catch her attention. As Lidia gazes at the scenery through the window she suddenly catches a few snippets of a conversation. She starts listening more attentively and realizes that the two men in front of her are talking about a religious topic. From the conversation Lidia gathers that the men are questioning which day of the week is the Lord's day. One of them says that from the Bible it appears that Saturday is the holy day, but they both seem to be uncertain on this topic. Lidia knows the truth about the Sabbath, and though she would like to share her knowledge, she doesn't want to interfere in people's conversations. Before long the bus halts at a stop, and the two men get off. Lidia ponders, *What a golden opportunity I missed to share with these people what I know about God's holy day.*

Debriefing:

Ask: **What would be your response in a similar situation?** (You could encourage someone like Lidia to pray for individuals like those she saw on the bus. If they sincerely want to know more about God's true day of rest, He will bring the right people and circumstances into their lives to guide them.) **What would you share about what you know about the Sabbath?** (Accept answers that reflect the way they could share their understanding about the Sabbath, and their relationship with God.) **Why is it important to share our knowledge about the Sabbath with others?** (Because there are many people who are looking for answers. Because God has blessed us with this knowledge in order to share it with others.)

Let's remember that:

We respond in worship to God's love by keeping the Sabbath.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Close with a prayer. Ask God to help everyone present to remember to nurture their relationship with God on His holy day.

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.**

Closing:

Say: **This week, prepare for spending more quality time with the Creator on Sabbath. Share what you have learned about the Sabbath with someone who may appreciate hearing about it.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **God created us free to make moral choices. The decisions we make reflect whether we love God.**

Notes

Student lesson

The Creator's Best Gift

Why do you like vacations? What would your life be like if you never stopped to rest? Try to picture what the first Sabbath Adam and Eve spent with God in the Garden of Eden might have been like.

A light breeze whispered gently over the garden and made the leaves rustle. The fiery orb of the sun began to rise on the seventh day of the first week. It made the dew-drops sparkle like millions of diamonds on the sleeping flowers. Little by little the woods of Eden started to awaken at the sound of bird song. Soon the garden was teeming with all kinds of creatures, each unique and attractive.

All of a sudden Adam and Eve remembered the words of their Creator. He promised to spend this day with them. Eagerly Adam and Eve hurried through the paths of the garden to the meeting place with God. Once they arrived, they felt indescribable joy in the company of the Creator. With great interest they listened to His words on this day that completed God's work of creation. Now God could rest in the joy of spending time with Adam and Eve.

The Creator had eagerly waited for this day. On the first day of Creation, when He changed the darkness into light, God thought of them. As He arched the sky above the earth on the second day, Adam and Eve were on His mind. The Creator wanted them to feel at home. So on the third day He decorated the landscape with grass, flowers, shrubs, and trees. God reached out on the fourth day and framed the sun, the moon, and the stars, sources of light and energy. Everything around was spotless but very still. So on the fifth day the Creator filled the sky with cheerful bird song and the waters with lively creatures. At His life-giving words on the sixth day, a multitude of animals covered the land with vibrant life. When everything was prepared, God created human beings, who would enjoy the wonderful world He had made for them.

Adam and Eve were in awe. Their hearts were filled with love and admiration for their Maker.

"You are such an awesome God!" they exclaimed. "As we consider Your masterful works, our hearts are filled with praise and adoration. Please remain with us."

The Creator promised to meet with them during the week, and on the seventh day of each week He would spend the entire day with them. Spending this day with their Friend would make the seventh day the best day of the week for Adam and Eve. "Our loving Creator," echoed the grateful voices of Adam and Eve, "this is the best gift of all!"

The Creator called their attention to the holiness of the Sabbath. "Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:3). Often thereafter Adam and Eve would recall God's instructions. They could almost hear Him say each week: "The Sabbath is a day of rest for you. Just as I worked six days to make this new world, you are to work six days taking care of this garden. Just as I rested on the seventh day from My work of creating, you are also to rest on this day from your usual activities. Remember to honor My holy day." Just as God took time to meet with them, they were to remember to take time to meet with Him.

Adam and Eve had a day packed with exciting discoveries and unforgettable conversations with their Creator and Friend on the first Sabbath of their lives. As they walked home through the meadows of the garden they watched the sun descend beyond the horizon. Soon the white globe of the moon moved into the sky, casting its glimmer on their happy faces. They looked into the distance at the glow of the stars. As they spotted the Pleiades star cluster Adam may have asked his companion, "What do you think that is?"

"I don't know," Eve could have replied. "The Creator will tell us."

Adam and Eve listened to crickets and watched the sparkle of fireflies here and there. They smelled the fragrance of lilies. They felt perfect peace, contentment, and joy. *What an awesome God is our Friend!* they thought as they rested securely in the love of their Creator.

KEY REFERENCES

- Genesis 2:2, 3
- Exodus 20:8-11
- *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 2, pp. 47, 48
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 1, pp. 57-60
- Our Beliefs, nos. 20, 6, 19

POWER TEXT

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done" (Genesis 2:2, 3).

POWER POINT

We respond in worship to God's love by keeping the Sabbath.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 19.

Sunday

READ Read Genesis 2:2, 3 and this week's story, "The Creator's Best Gift."

LEARN Use the bookmark that you made in Sabbath School, or create one with the power text on it. Start to memorize the power text, Genesis 2:2, 3.

THINK What important instructions from these verses can you use to keep the Sabbath holy?

PRAY Praise God for the Sabbath and for the gift of His friendship.

Monday

READ Read Exodus 20:8–11.

DISCUSS Ask a family member why it is important for us to work six days a week and to rest on the seventh day.

PLAN Participate in some Sabbath activities that will remind you of the Creator (e.g., nature walk with your family).

PRAY Ask God to help you finish your work for the week so you can enjoy the Sabbath.

Tuesday

READ Read Ezekiel 20:12.

THINK What does this verse mean to you? Reflect on the signs of your relationship with your friends. How could people tell that you are friends?

SHARE Tell someone that the Sabbath is God's special mark of friendship with you.

PRAY Thank God for teaching you about the special sign of His friendship.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 12:9–12.

THINK In what ways could you help others by doing good on the Sabbath?

WRITE In your Bible journal, create a plan of how you will use the Sabbath hours to get to know God better and to help others.

PRAY Ask God to help you worship Him by serving others on the Sabbath day.

Thursday

READ Read Revelation 14:6, 7.

REFLECT What do you think is the message of these texts?

THINK Reflect on the importance of worshipping the Creator on His holy day as a test of faithfulness in the last days. Will you be faithful to God's call to worship?

PRAY Ask God to help you remain faithful to Him by keeping the Sabbath even in trying times.

Friday

READ Read Isaiah 66:22, 23.

SHARE At family worship, talk about how it will be to celebrate the Sabbath in heaven.

THINK What would you like to ask God when you meet Him face to face in heaven on Sabbath?

PRAY Thank God for the promise that soon we will spend the Sabbath together in heaven.