

DYNAMIC STEWARDS

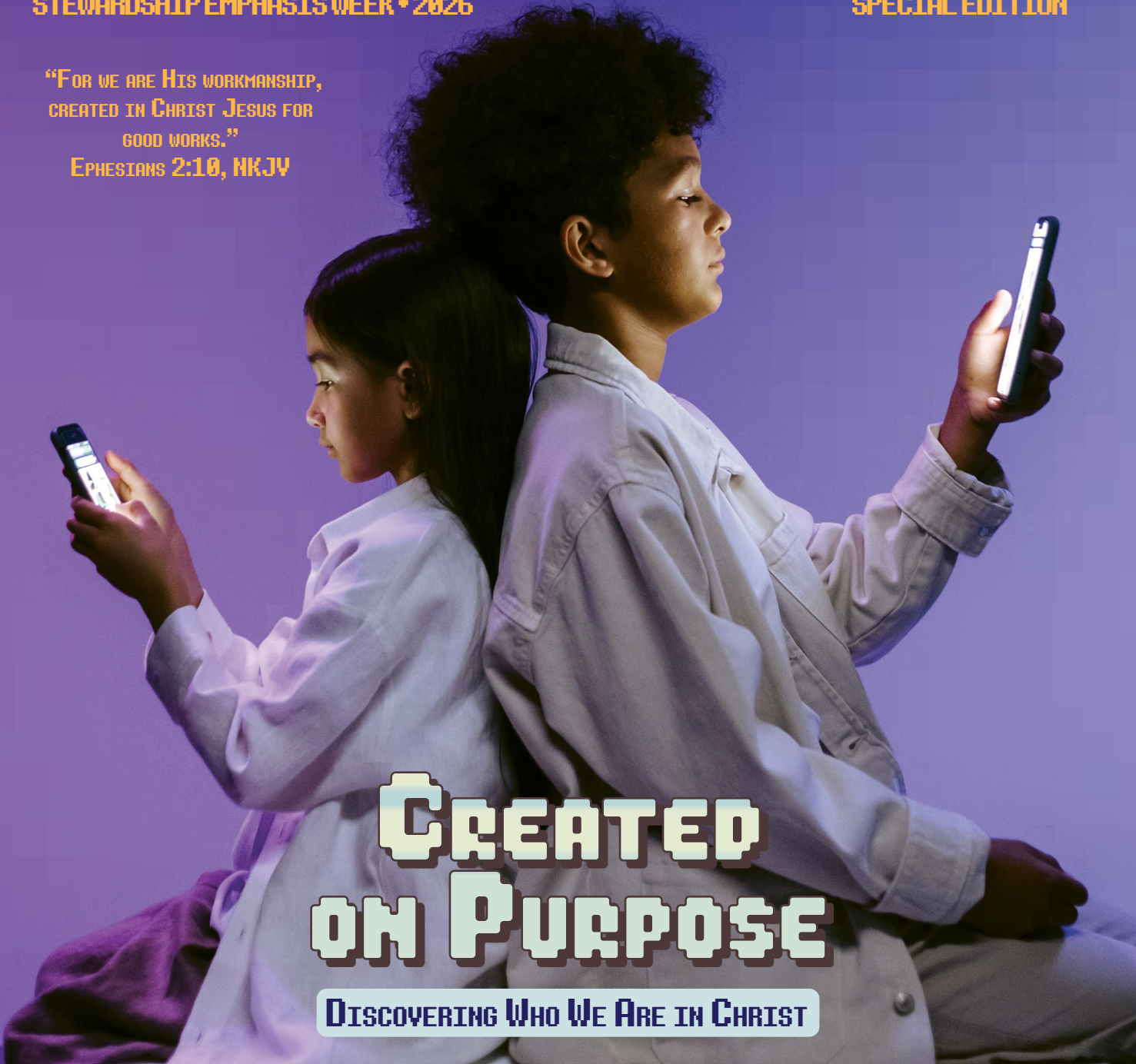
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STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS WEEK • 2026

SPECIAL EDITION

"FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP,
CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR
GOOD WORKS."

EPHESIANS 2:10, NKJV



CREATED
ON PURPOSE

DISCOVERING WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

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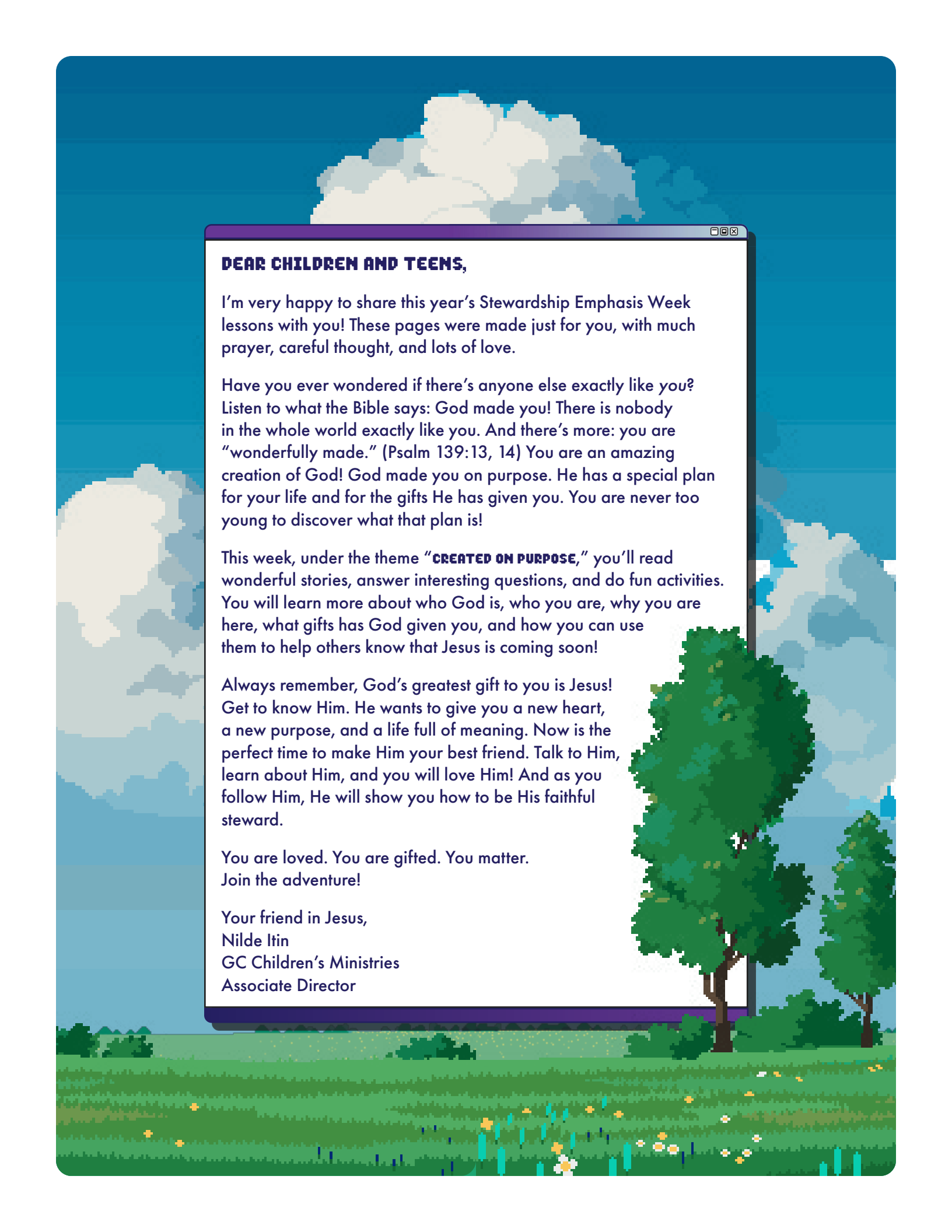
Day 8

THE GIFT THAT
CHANGES EVERYTHING Page **42**



Author

My name is Amandine Mooroooven, and I am currently pursuing a degree in Elementary Education at Southern Adventist University. Growing up surrounded by different cultures, I sometimes struggled to understand where I truly belonged and who I was. Over time, I discovered that my true identity is found in Christ alone, and that my worth comes from being His child. Learning this truth has been a meaningful part of my own journey, and it has been a joy to share it through these lessons with children who may be asking similar questions about their identity and purpose. As I prepare to become a teacher, I look forward to guiding students toward discovering their identity in Christ, growing in their relationship with Him, and sharing His love with those around them.



DEAR CHILDREN AND TEENS,

I'm very happy to share this year's Stewardship Emphasis Week lessons with you! These pages were made just for you, with much prayer, careful thought, and lots of love.

Have you ever wondered if there's anyone else exactly like you? Listen to what the Bible says: God made you! There is nobody in the whole world exactly like you. And there's more: you are "wonderfully made." (Psalm 139:13, 14) You are an amazing creation of God! God made you on purpose. He has a special plan for your life and for the gifts He has given you. You are never too young to discover what that plan is!

This week, under the theme "**CREATED ON PURPOSE**," you'll read wonderful stories, answer interesting questions, and do fun activities. You will learn more about who God is, who you are, why you are here, what gifts has God given you, and how you can use them to help others know that Jesus is coming soon!

Always remember, God's greatest gift to you is Jesus! Get to know Him. He wants to give you a new heart, a new purpose, and a life full of meaning. Now is the perfect time to make Him your best friend. Talk to Him, learn about Him, and you will love Him! And as you follow Him, He will show you how to be His faithful steward.

You are loved. You are gifted. You matter.
Join the adventure!

Your friend in Jesus,
Nilde Itin
GC Children's Ministries
Associate Director

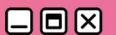
Lesson 1: Created for a Purpose



Lesson Objectives

- Explain that God created us in His image and with a purpose.
- Identify gifts and talents God has given us
- Describe ways we can worship God by using His gifts wisely.

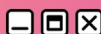
Introduction:



Have you ever gone to recess and collected sticks and rocks to build a make-believe person? Or maybe you have built a LEGO person at home. What are some of the feelings you had when you were done? And how would you feel if someone knocked down your creation right after you finished it? Most of us would feel very proud of our creation, and we would be sad or upset if someone came and knocked it all down. It was special to us because we know exactly how much time, energy, and thought went into making it. We know every piece that was added, every detail, and every decision that was made when placing the arms, nose, and head.

Our creation did not do anything special to make us proud of it. We are proud of it simply because we made it. In today's lesson, we will discover that God feels something similar about us. He created us with love, care, and purpose.

God the Creator



The very first book of the Bible tells us the story of Creation. In Genesis 1:1–31, we learn how God created the world and everything in it.

At first there was nothing, absolutely nothing. Then God decided to fill the world with all of the beautiful things He would create. First, God created the heavens and the earth with His powerful voice. Imagine hearing nothing . . . and then suddenly, at God's voice, light, skies, and oceans appear. Then He filled the earth with green leafy trees; every animal from the big, strong elephant to the small, clever ant; bright flowers; and many other beautiful things that we see around us today.

God created everything around us simply by speaking. Wow, isn't that powerful! After creating this beautiful world, God made something even more wonderful: He created humans. Unlike everything else that was created, God made us in His image. When I think about this, I like to imagine God looking at all of His wonderful qualities and choosing to place them in us. He gave us the ability to love, create, think, choose, and care for others. The Creator God, who carefully made everything on earth, chose to create you. How could He not love His creation?

We Are God's Special Creation



There is a verse in Psalms that warms my heart whenever I hear it: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:13, 14).

This verse is special to me because I once tried knitting, and let me tell you, it takes a lot of time and patience! Yet God carefully formed you while you were in your mother's womb. He chose your hair texture, your eye shape, your smile, and every detail that makes you unique. He carefully put everything together so that you could become the person you are today. The Creator God perfectly crafted you.

I know that sometimes it is easy to compare ourselves to others, especially at school. School is often where we make friends, learn new things, and begin to discover who we are and

how exactly we fit into this world. During this time, it can be tempting to look at other people and wish we were more like them. Maybe someone has the hairstyle that everyone likes right now, is the fastest runner in gym class, or seems to make friends wherever they go. Maybe someone seems popular or talented. But instead of looking to other people to feel special, we should look to God and His Word. Your identity comes from Christ because He made you exactly as He wanted you to be. God crafted and chose you. You don't need to compare yourself to anyone else because God made you unique on purpose.



Everything We Have Comes from God



Can you imagine if everyone liked the same color, had the same job, and looked exactly alike? That would be a very boring world! God did not create us to all be the same. He created each person with different talents, gifts, and purposes. God loves variety, and He designed every person to be unique. The Bible reminds us in Romans 11:36, "For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen." Everything we have comes from God, and everything was created for His glory.

Because God created us, we already have value. Our value does not come from how we look, what we can do, or what other people think about us. Our value comes from the God who created us.

God has also given each of us different talents and gifts. Some gifts might be music, art, sports, or speaking, but they can also include caring for animals, encouraging others, solving problems, making friends, or learning new things. If everyone had the same talent, what would be missing? God gave us different gifts because the world needs different kinds of people. We can use these gifts to care for His creation, serve others, and point people toward Him. Psalm 24:1 reminds us, "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Everything belongs to God, including our talents and abilities. Our gifts are not only for ourselves; they are blessings we can use to honor God and help others.

Sometimes we might think, "I'm too young for God to use me." But God has a purpose for you right now, in your home, school, church, and community. You may not know all your gifts yet, and that's OK. Pray and ask God to show you how He wants you to use them. Read His Word and learn how He has used ordinary people to do amazing things. God created you with a purpose, and He wants you to use the gifts He has given you for His glory.

Worshipping God with What He Has Given Us



God did not simply create the world and then leave us alone. Everything belongs to Him: the trees, animals, earth, and even our talents, time, money, and possessions.

Imagine your friend lets you borrow their favorite book or newest gaming console. You would probably take good care of it because you know how important it is to them. In the same way, God gave us many gifts, including our families, bodies, talents, and the world around us. He wants us to be good caretakers of everything He has given us.

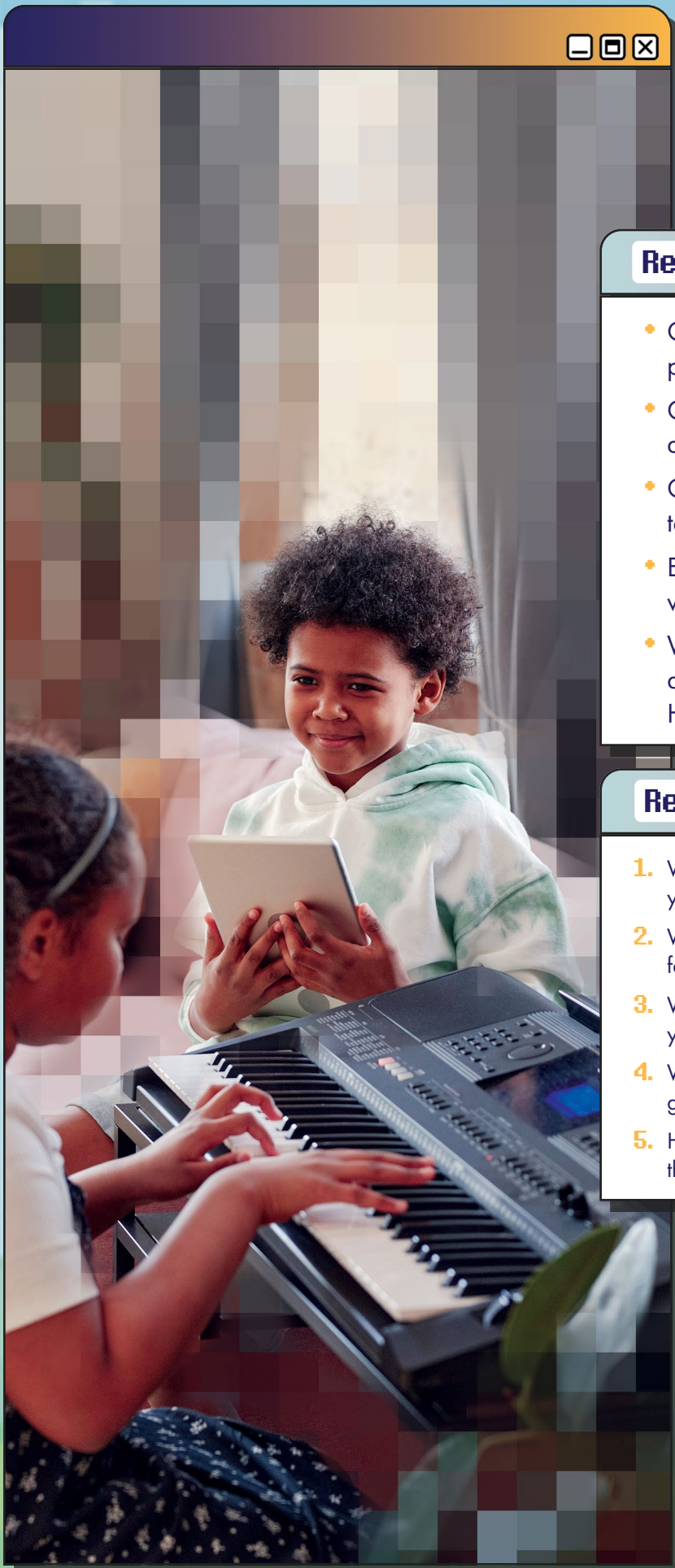
This is called stewardship. Stewardship means taking care of something that belongs to someone else. Since everything comes from God, we should use His gifts in ways that honor Him.

But how do we do that?

Many people think worship only means singing at church, but worship is much bigger than that. Worship means showing God that we love Him and want to grow closer to Him. We worship through prayer, reading the Bible, and praising Him. Prayer helps us talk to God, the Bible teaches us about Him, and praise reminds us of His goodness. Just like friendships grow stronger when we spend time together, our relationship with God grows stronger when we spend time with Him.

God also gives each of us talents that we can use to bless others and point people toward Him. Ellen White reminds us that our talents are gifts from God. She writes, "The talents that Christ entrusts to His church represent especially the gifts and blessings imparted by the Holy Spirit . . . , dividing to every man severally as He will" (*The Divine-Human Nature of Christ*, vol. 6, MR, no. 402). Because these gifts come from God, we should use them wisely and faithfully.

God gave us a beautiful world, and we can worship Him by caring for it. He gave us our bodies, and we can honor Him by making wise choices. He gave us time, and we can worship Him by spending time with Him through prayer and His Word.



Recap of What We Learned:

- God created each of us with love and purpose.
- God made every person unique, so we don't need to compare ourselves to others.
- God has given each of us different gifts, talents, and responsibilities.
- Everything we have belongs to God, and we should take good care of it.
- We worship God by spending time with Him and using what He has given us to honor Him.

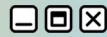
Reflection Questions:

1. What do you think it means to reflect God's image in your everyday life?
2. What could you remind yourself of when you start feeling like someone else is better than you?
3. What is one way you can remember that God made you special this week?
4. What are some gifts you think God might have given you?
5. How can you use your talents to worship God this week?

Activity: Created with Purpose

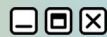


Objectives:



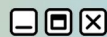
Help participants recognize that God created them with unique gifts and qualities that can be used to serve Him and others.

Materials:



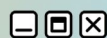
- Paper
- Crayons/markers
- Pencils

Instructions:



1. Draw a self-portrait in the center of your paper.
2. Around your portrait, write or draw words that describe you. Think about:
 - a. Things you are good at
 - b. Talents God has given you
 - c. Things you enjoy doing
 - d. Positive character traitsExamples:
 - i. Kind
 - ii. Helpful
 - iii. Creative
 - iv. Good friend
 - v. Athletic
 - vi. Curious
 - vii. Funny
3. When everyone is done, turn and talk to someone and share one word that describes you and explain why you chose it.

Discussion Questions:



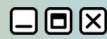
1. Why do you think God gave each person different gifts and talents instead of making everyone the same?
2. How could the gifts and qualities God gave you help someone else learn more about His love?



Activity: My Identity Collage

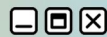


Objectives:



Help participants recognize that their gifts and talents come from God and discover ways to use them to honor Him and serve others.

Materials:



- Magazines or newspapers
- Scissors
- Glue
- Poster or construction paper

Instructions:

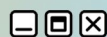


1. Flip through magazines or newspapers and cut out pictures, words, or images that represent who you are, your interests, your strengths, and your talents.
2. Glue the pictures onto your paper to create an "Identity Collage."
3. Next to each picture, write:
 - a. What talent, interest, or quality it represents.
 - b. One sentence explaining how that gift comes from God.
 - c. One sentence explaining how you can use that gift to honor or serve God.

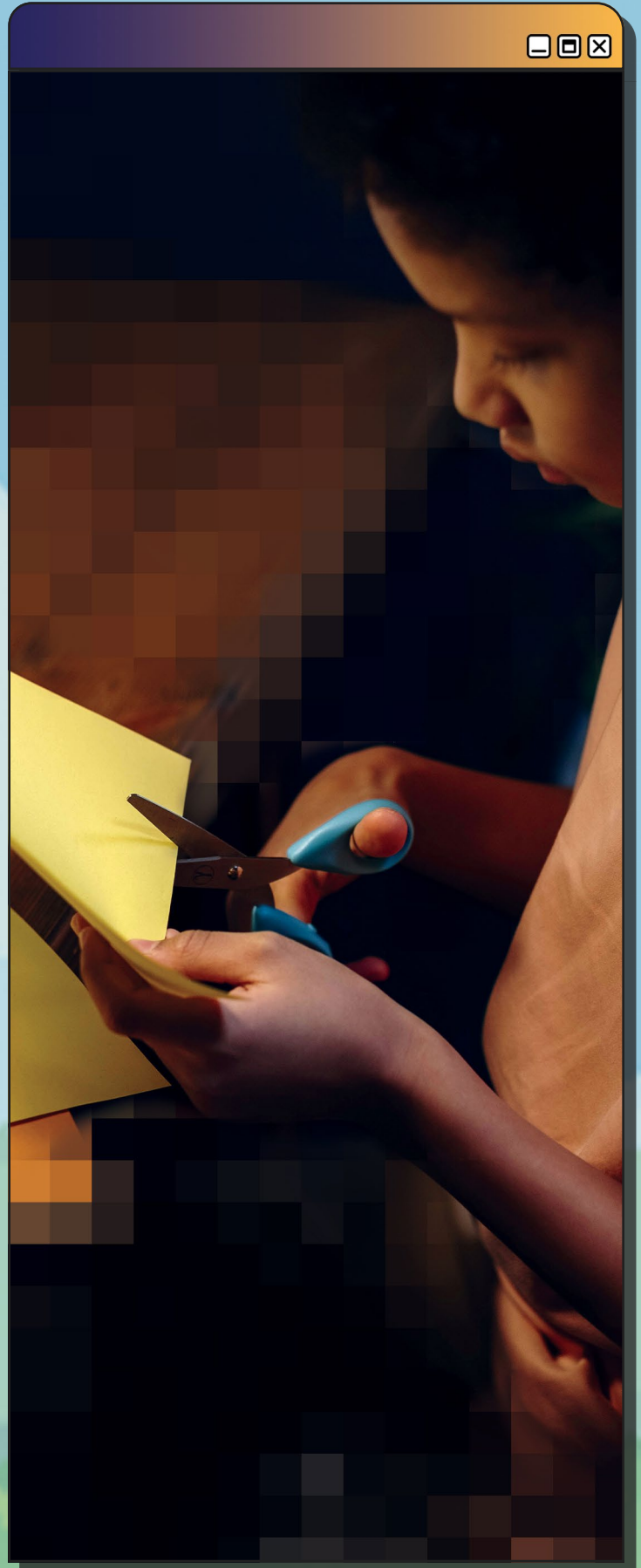
Examples:

- i. Picture: Soccer ball
 - ii. Gift: Athletic ability
 - iii. How it comes from God: God gave me a healthy body and the ability to play sports.
 - iv. How I can use it for Him: I can encourage my teammates and show good sportsmanship.
4. When everyone is done, turn and talk to someone and answer the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions:



1. How could one of your gifts help someone know more about God's love?
2. How would your life be different if you believed every gift you have is something God entrusted to you?



Lesson 2: Representing the King



God Our Model
WE ARE HIS REPRESENTATIVES

Lesson Objectives

Note for Parents/Teachers.

- Describe how Jesus showed God's character through His actions.
- Explain what it means to be a representative of God.
- Identify ways we can reflect God's love through our words and actions.

Introduction:



What are some of the first things you do when you wake up? Maybe you drink a big glass of water, brush your teeth, or make your bed. One of the first things I do is check the mirror to see what my hair looks like and if I need to fix it. Before leaving for school, many of us look in the mirror again to make sure we look presentable and don't have any breakfast stuck in our teeth!

A mirror reflects what is in front of it. It doesn't create anything new; it simply shows the image of whatever stands before it. In today's lesson, we are going to learn that our lives can be like mirrors too. The way we talk to our friends, the choices we make, and the way we treat others can reflect what God is like.

Jesus Shows Us the Way



When Jesus lived on earth, He showed people exactly what God is like. Can you imagine being one of the children who got to meet Jesus? Everywhere He went, He treated people with love, kindness, and compassion. He healed the sick, comforted those who were sad, and welcomed people who were often ignored by others.

One day, Jesus did something that surprised everyone around Him. In John 13:1–17, we read the story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet. Jesus and His disciples had gathered together for a meal. During the meal, Jesus stood up, took a towel and a basin of water, and began washing His disciples' feet.

This may not seem unusual to you because you have probably seen your family participate in footwashing at church. However, in Bible times, washing feet was a servant's job. People walked everywhere on dusty roads, and their feet became very dirty. Usually, the lowest servant in the household was given the responsibility of washing guests' feet. Think about that for a moment. Jesus, the Creator of the universe, the Son of God, and the King of heaven, chose to do the work of a servant. Wow! What a humble action from Jesus. The disciples were shocked. Peter even told Jesus, "You shall never wash my feet" (John 13:8). But Jesus continued because He wanted to teach His followers an important lesson. Jesus explained that He was giving them an example to follow. He wanted them to understand that true greatness is not about being served by others. True greatness is about serving others with love and humility.

love. When Jesus served others, He showed God's servant heart. Because Jesus perfectly revealed God, He became our model. A model is someone we learn from and imitate. When we want to know how to live, how to treat others, and how to make good choices, we can look at Jesus. Ellen White explains this beautifully when she writes, "The only begotten Son of the infinite God has, by His words, and His practical example, left us a plain pattern which we are to copy. By His words He has educated us to obey God, and by His own practice He has showed us how we can obey God" (*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 6, MS 1, 1892).

One of the best ways to learn more about God's character is by reading the Bible. Can you think of some of your favorite stories where Jesus treated someone with kindness and love? The Bible teaches us how Jesus treated people, how He responded when life was difficult, and how much He loves us. Prayer is also important because it allows us to talk with God and ask Him to help us become more like Jesus. The more time we spend reading God's Word and talking with Him in prayer, the more we learn about who God is. Over time, our lives begin to reflect His character more and more.

God Is Our Perfect Example

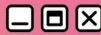


The story of Jesus washing His disciples' feet teaches us something important about God's character. God is loving, humble, kind, and compassionate. He does not use His power to make Himself seem more important than others. Instead, He uses His power to bless and help people.

Everything Jesus did revealed God's character. Think back to our mirror illustration. Jesus reflected God's character perfectly. When Jesus forgave people, He showed God's forgiveness. When Jesus cared for others, He showed God's



We Are His Representatives



Have you ever gone on a field trip and heard your teacher say, "Remember, you are representing our class and our school"? When I was younger, I didn't fully understand what that meant. But when you are wearing your school shirt and people see how you act, your actions can give them an idea of what your school is like.

Imagine your class is visiting the zoo. While waiting in a long line, you and your friends begin complaining about how boring the trip is. A family nearby might hear you and wonder, "Is this what students at that school are like?" Your actions are giving them an impression of your school. Representing God works in a similar way.

The Bible reminds us in 1 John 3:1, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" Because we are God's children, we represent Him wherever we go. A representative is someone who acts on behalf of another person. When we go about our day, people should be able to see God's love, kindness, and care through our words and actions.

Now, this does not mean God expects us to be perfect. We all make mistakes. Being God's representative means that each day we are trying to become more and more like Him. The Bible says in Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus." This means our everyday actions matter.

When you help a friend with homework, you represent God.

When you forgive a sibling who upset you, you represent God.

When you help a player up after they fall during a game, you represent God.

When you encourage a classmate who is nervous about speaking in front of the class, you represent God.

People around you will notice that you act differently. When they do, you can tell them about the loving God you serve and the example Jesus set for you.



Faithful Stewards of God's Character



In Lesson 1, we learned about stewardship. Stewardship means taking care of something that belongs to someone else. This lesson connects to stewardship because we belong to God. He has given us talents, abilities, words, time, and opportunities. He wants us to use these gifts in ways that reflect His character.

Throughout the Bible, Jesus used every opportunity to bless people. He taught those who wanted to learn, encouraged those who felt discouraged, healed the sick, and cared for those who were hurting. As His representatives, we are called to do the same. When we use our talents to help others, our words to encourage others, and our time to share God's love, we are acting as faithful stewards. We are taking care of the gifts God has given us and using them to reflect Him. The more time we spend with Jesus through prayer, reading the Bible, and following His example, the more our lives will reflect His love to the people around us.



Recap of What We Learned:

- Jesus perfectly showed us what God's character is like.
- God is loving, humble, kind, and compassionate.
- Reading the Bible and praying help us learn more about God's character.
- Christians are called to be ambassadors and representatives of God.
- We can reflect God's character through our words, actions, talents, and choices.

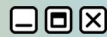
Reflection Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus chose to wash His disciples' feet?
2. What is one part of God's character that you would like to reflect more in your life?
3. How can reading the Bible help you become more like Jesus?
4. If someone watched your actions this week, what would they learn about God?
5. What is one way you can represent God at school, home, or church this week?

Activity: Ambassador Challenge

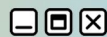


Objective:



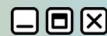
Help participants practice representing Jesus by choosing responses that reflect His character in everyday situations.

Materials:



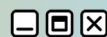
- Scenario Cards (increase complexity depending on age and maturity level)

Instructions:



1. Small groups act out a prompt.
Examples:
 - i. Someone is sitting alone.
 - ii. A friend forgot their lunch.
 - iii. You worked really hard on a group project, but during the presentation your teacher only praises another student. Nobody mentions all the work you did.
 - iv. You find a wallet on the playground with money inside. None of your friends saw you pick it up.
2. Students act how people might normally respond.
3. Then, students act how a representative of Jesus might respond.
4. The class then guesses, "Which response reflected God's character?"

Discussion Questions:



1. Which response reflected God's character the best? What made it different from the other response?
2. Why do you think following Jesus is sometimes harder than simply doing what everyone else does?



Lesson 3: Trusting the One Who Provides



GOD THE PROVIDER

WE ARE DEPENDENTS

Lesson Objectives

Note for Parents/Teachers.

- Describe how God faithfully provides for His children.
- Explain why trusting God is an important part of stewardship.
- Recognize that returning tithe is one way we thank God for providing for us.

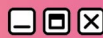
Introduction:



Have you ever worried about something? I think we all have! Maybe you worried about the grade on a hard math test or whether your volleyball team would make it to the finals. Sometimes we worry about bigger things, too, like whether our family has enough money or food. It is easy to worry because we care about so many things.

But sometimes we forget that God is always watching over us and caring for our needs. James 1:17 reminds us that every good and perfect gift comes from Him. Everything we have, from the air we breathe, the food we eat, our families, and our friends, is a gift from God. Today, we will discover what it means to trust God as our Provider and how that trust helps us become faithful stewards of everything He has given us.

God Provides for His People



OK, I'm thinking of a Bible story. It has a *lot* of people, a very long journey, lots and lots of sand, and happens in the book of the Bible called Exodus. Can you guess what it is? If you guessed the Israelites in the desert, you are absolutely right!

Even after God provided a leader and rescued the Israelites from slavery, they still had a long journey to the Promised Land. They traveled through the hot desert for forty years. There were no grocery stores, farms, or restaurants. Imagine wondering, "How will we find food? Will we have enough water?" The Israelites had many reasons to worry.

Soon the Israelites became hungry and began complaining. Have you ever done that when things didn't go your way? They started wondering if God had completely abandoned them. But God had not abandoned them. He provided exactly what they needed at just the right time. In Exodus 16, the Bible tells us that every morning the ground was covered with manna, a special bread that fell from heaven. Then, each evening, God also sent quail, a bird similar to a chicken, for them to eat. Day after day, God faithfully provided everything His people needed. Don't we serve an amazing God who always cares for His children?

God also gave the Israelites specific instructions. He told them to gather only enough manna for one day. Each morning they collected just enough for that day's meals. If they tried to save extra for the next day, the manna spoiled overnight. However, on the day before the Sabbath, God provided enough manna for two days so they could rest on the Sabbath without needing to gather more.

Why would God do that? Well, there is a very important lesson. Through this miracle, God wanted them to trust Him every day. If the Israelites took extra for the next day, that would mean that they didn't trust that God would provide for them the next day. Instead of worrying about tomorrow, God wanted them to believe that He would continue providing for them.

God Is Our Provider



This story teaches us something wonderful about God's character. God knows our needs before we even ask Him. Matthew 6:8 reminds us, "Your Father knows what you need before you ask him." He is loving because He cares for us, faithful because He always keeps His promises, and generous because He gives us more blessings than we could ever count.

Can you think of some of the ways God has provided for you? Take a few seconds to think about it. Maybe you thought of food, but God's blessings go far beyond that. He gives us families and friends who love us, homes where we can grow, teachers who help us learn, air to breathe, and healthy bodies. He also gives us strength after a long day of practice, peace when we are worried about a test, and wisdom when we don't know what to do.

In Matthew 6:26, Jesus reminded His followers of this truth when He said to look at the birds of the air. They do not plant or harvest, yet God feeds them every day. If God cares for the birds, how much more does He care for His children?

We Depend on God



Have you ever said, "I can do it myself!"? I know I have. Sometimes we think we don't need anyone's help. We want to solve our own problems when sticky situations arise, make our own plans for the future, and rely on our own strength. But God didn't create us to live that way. He created us to depend on Him. John 15:5 explains it perfectly: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." All the nutrients and everything we need come from the vine, and we depend on Him for those things.

Depending on God doesn't mean that we stop working hard or stop making wise decisions; it means that we recognize that everything we have ultimately comes from Him. Our abilities, our health, our families, our opportunities,

and even each new day are gifts from our heavenly Father.

Just like friendships grow stronger when we spend time together, our relationship with God grows when we pray, read the Bible, and talk with Him throughout the day. Our relationship with God grows stronger when we trust Him and invite Him into every part of our lives.

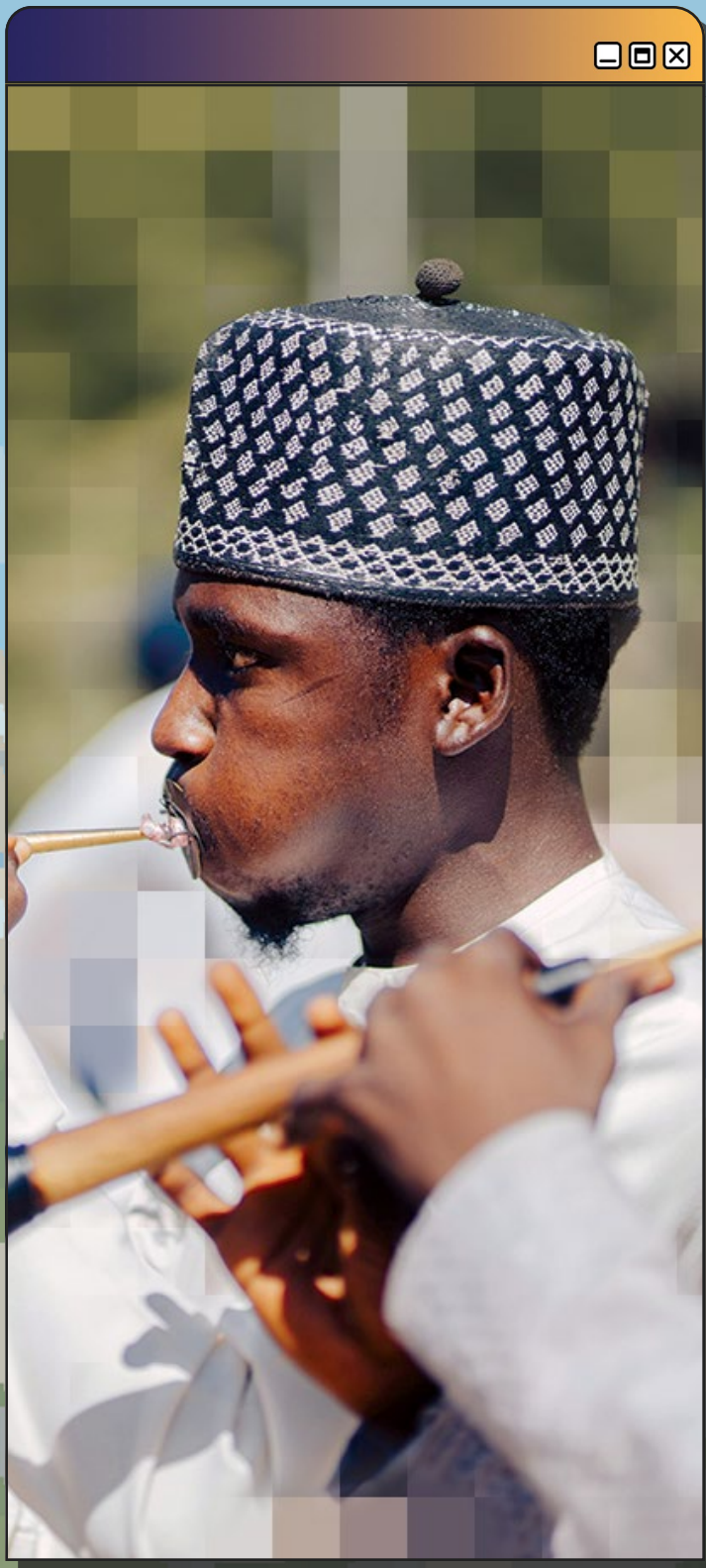
The more we know God, the easier it becomes to trust Him when life is difficult and to have faith that He will provide for us.

Trusting God Through Stewardship

When we recognize God as our Provider, it changes the way we think about everything we have. We begin to understand that nothing truly belongs to us. Everything is a gift that God has entrusted to our care. This is what stewardship is all about. A steward faithfully manages what belongs to someone else. Since God is the Owner and Provider of everything, we honor Him by using His gifts wisely.

One of the clearest ways we show that we trust God is by returning our tithe and giving offerings. Ellen White writes, "The Lord graciously entrusts to His stewards His treasures, but of the tenth He says: This is Mine" (*Counsels for the Church*, p. 274). Returning our tithe is our way of saying, "God, I know everything I have comes from You, and I trust You to continue taking care of me." We are not paying God back, because we never could. Instead, returning tithe is an act of worship. It is a joyful way to thank God and show that we believe He will always provide for us.

God knows your needs, hears your prayers, and walks beside you every day. As you grow closer to Him and trust Him as your Provider, you will discover the joy of faithfully caring for everything He has placed in your hands.



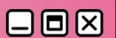


Recap of What We Learned:



- God is our faithful Provider and knows exactly what we need.
- God wants us to trust Him each day instead of worrying about tomorrow.
- We grow closer to God by praying, reading the Bible, and depending on Him.
- Everything we have belongs to God, and we are called to be faithful stewards of His gifts.
- Returning our tithe and giving offerings are acts of worship that show our trust in God.

Reflection Questions:

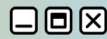


1. What do you think is harder: Trusting God when you don't have much, or trusting Him when you have a lot? Why?
2. What are some things you have that you sometimes forget to thank God for?
3. What is the difference between trusting God and just hoping things will be OK?
4. Why do you think worship is more than just singing? How can our choices show love for God?
5. How does giving tithe remind us that everything we have comes from God?

Activity: God's Daily Provision Chain

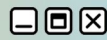


Objectives:



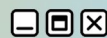
Help participants recognize that God provides for their needs and learn to respond with gratitude for the blessings He has entrusted to them.

Materials:



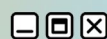
- Strips of colored paper
- Tape or stapler
- Pens/pencils

Instructions:



1. Each student writes 3 things God has provided on different strips.
Examples:
 - i.
2. Connect everyone's strips into one giant paper chain around the classroom.

Discussion Questions:



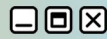
1. How should recognizing God as our Provider change the way we use and share what He has given us?
2. Why do you think God gives us blessings that are meant to be shared with others, not just enjoyed by ourselves?



Activity: Budget Like a Steward

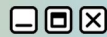


Objectives:



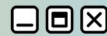
Help participants understand that everything they have belongs to God and practice using their resources wisely through giving, saving, spending, and sharing.

Materials:



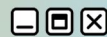
- Pretend money
- Whiteboards with jars drawn on them
- Whiteboard marker and eraser

Instructions:

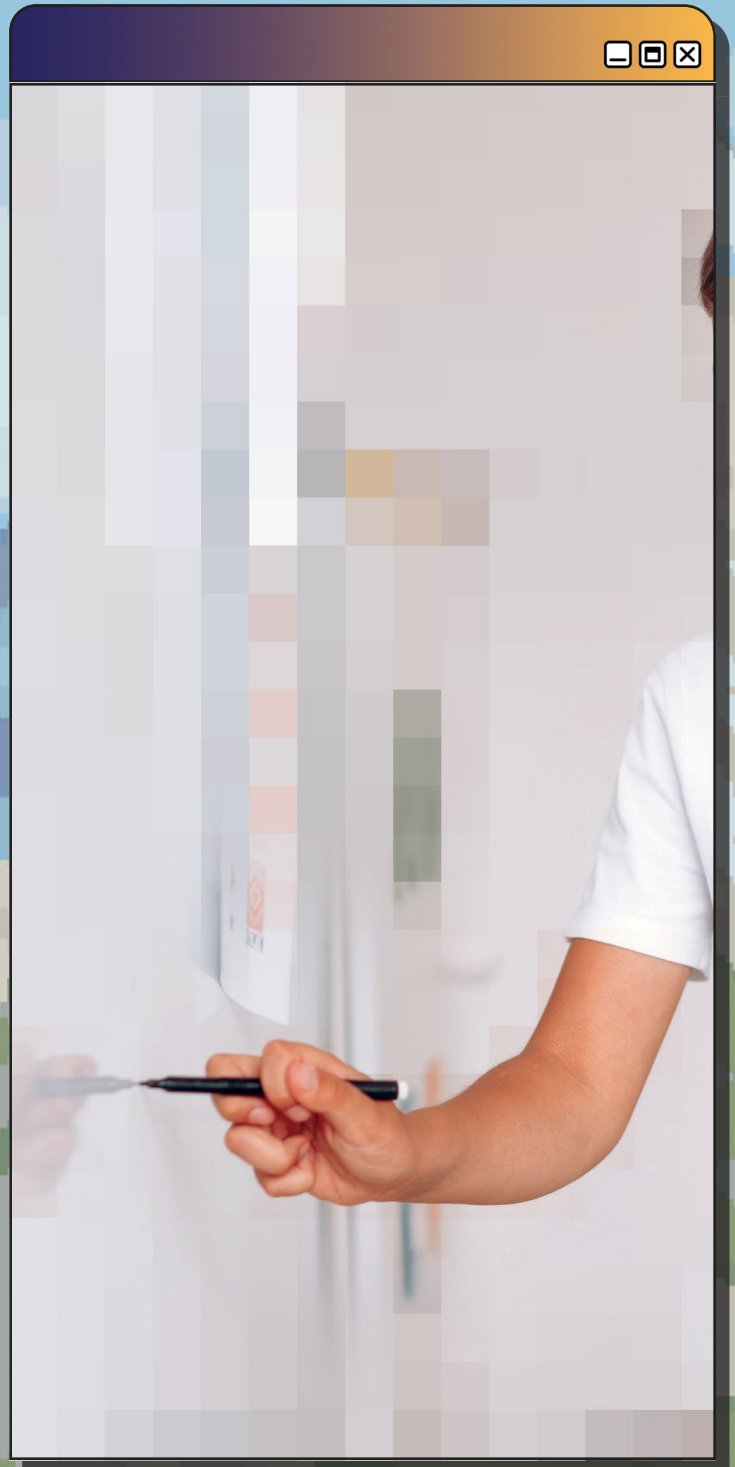


1. Give each child a pretend \$20 bill and say that they got it from helping their neighbor.
2. Ask: "How would you use it?"
3. Draw four jars:
 - a. Tithe
 - b. Save
 - c. Spend
 - d. Share
4. Have students draw how much money they would place into each jar.

Discussion Questions:



1. If God does not need our money, why do you think He invites us to give? What does giving teach our hearts?
2. What is the difference between being an owner and being a caretaker of something God has given you?



Lesson 4: Called by the Master—Ready to Serve



GOD THE MASTER
WE ARE HIS SERVANTS

Lesson Objectives

Note for Parents/Teachers.

- Explain how God lovingly leads us as our Master.
- Identify ways we can serve God as His faithful servants.
- Recognize that God can use us right now.

Introduction:

Have you ever been asked by someone, maybe your parents or your teacher, to do something that you felt you couldn't do? Maybe your chaplain asked you to preach (that actually happened to me!), or your coach asked you to be the captain of the team. When adults, mentors, or other people ask us to do these things, many of us immediately think, *Why me? There are so many other people who could do a much better job than I could. So why are they asking me?*

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about another important way to understand God: as our Master. Sometimes God asks His children to do things that make us feel uncomfortable or unqualified. But when God calls us to serve, He also gives us everything we need to faithfully serve others. As His children, we are His trusted servants in His kingdom.

A Voice in the Night



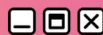
Before Samuel became one of Israel's greatest prophets, he was simply a young boy serving in the temple. He wasn't a king, a soldier, or even a grown-up. He probably never imagined that God would speak directly to him or ask him to do something so important.

Imagine this: You are fast asleep on your straw mat (I know, that doesn't sound very comfortable!), when suddenly you hear someone call your name. Since you were sleeping, you might think it was just a dream. But then you hear it again. You go to the only person who could be calling you, but he says it wasn't him. Confused, you go back to bed. Then you hear your name again! Once more, you return to the person you think called you, but he still says it wasn't him. At this point, I think I would be a little spooked!

This is exactly what happened to young Samuel. In 1 Samuel 3, Samuel was sleeping in the temple when he heard a voice calling, "Samuel!" As an obedient young boy, he immediately went to the priest Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me" (verses 5 and 6). But Eli had not called him. This happened three times before Eli finally realized that God was the One calling Samuel. Eli told him, "If he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening'" (1 Samuel 3:9).

The fourth time God called, Samuel responded exactly as Eli had instructed. He called himself God's servant and listened carefully to what God wanted him to do.

God Is Our Master



This story teaches us something important about our relationship with God, something we haven't talked about yet. It helps us understand God as our Master. When Samuel called himself God's servant, he was recognizing God's authority over his life.

The word master simply means someone who has authority or leadership over another person. God is our Creator, our King, and our Lord, so He has the right to lead our lives. Throughout the Bible, we see people refer to Him as Master. For example, after fishing all night without catching anything, Peter said, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But

because you say so, I will let down the nets" (Luke 5:5).

When we hear the words master and servant, we might picture someone cruel or unfair, a master who mistreats servants and forces them to do difficult jobs. But that is not what God is like.

God is a Master who loves us, cares for us, and stays close to us. He does not use His authority to control us or make our lives miserable. Instead, He lovingly guides us, protects us, and leads us. We gladly call Him Master because we love, trust, respect, and honor Him. We know that His plans for us are always good.

The best way to understand God's loving leadership is by spending time with Him. As we read the Bible, we see Him guiding His people, forgiving them when they failed, providing for their needs, and never giving up on them. The more we know God, the easier it becomes to trust Him as our loving Master.

We Are His Servants



If God is our loving Master, then what does it mean for us to be His servants?

Being God's servant does not mean we are forced to obey because we are afraid of Him. Instead, it means we willingly place our lives in His hands because we know He loves us and wants what is best for us. When we call ourselves servants of God, we are saying, "God, my life belongs to You. Use me to help others and build Your kingdom."

Samuel gave us a beautiful example of what this looks like. He responded, "Speak, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10). Samuel was only a young boy when God called him. He didn't wait until he was older to begin serving God. He listened, obeyed God's instructions, and faithfully followed wherever God led him.

God still calls His children today. He has given each of us unique talents, gifts, abilities, and opportunities that we can use to honor Him and bless others. The Bible reminds us in 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." God didn't give us our gifts just to keep them for ourselves. He gave them to us so we could serve others and bring glory to Him.

As faithful servants, we should use these God-given gifts to serve the people around us. If God has called us, then He already knows we are ready. It doesn't matter if we think we are too young, too shy, too poor, or not popular enough. God has a special mission for every one of us.

Serving Is Stewardship

Samuel didn't just listen to God; he faithfully used everything God had given him to serve. He used his ears to listen carefully, his voice to share God's message with others, and his life to obey whatever God called him to do. Samuel understood that everything he had belonged to God, and he wanted to use those gifts to honor his Master.

That is exactly what stewardship looks like.

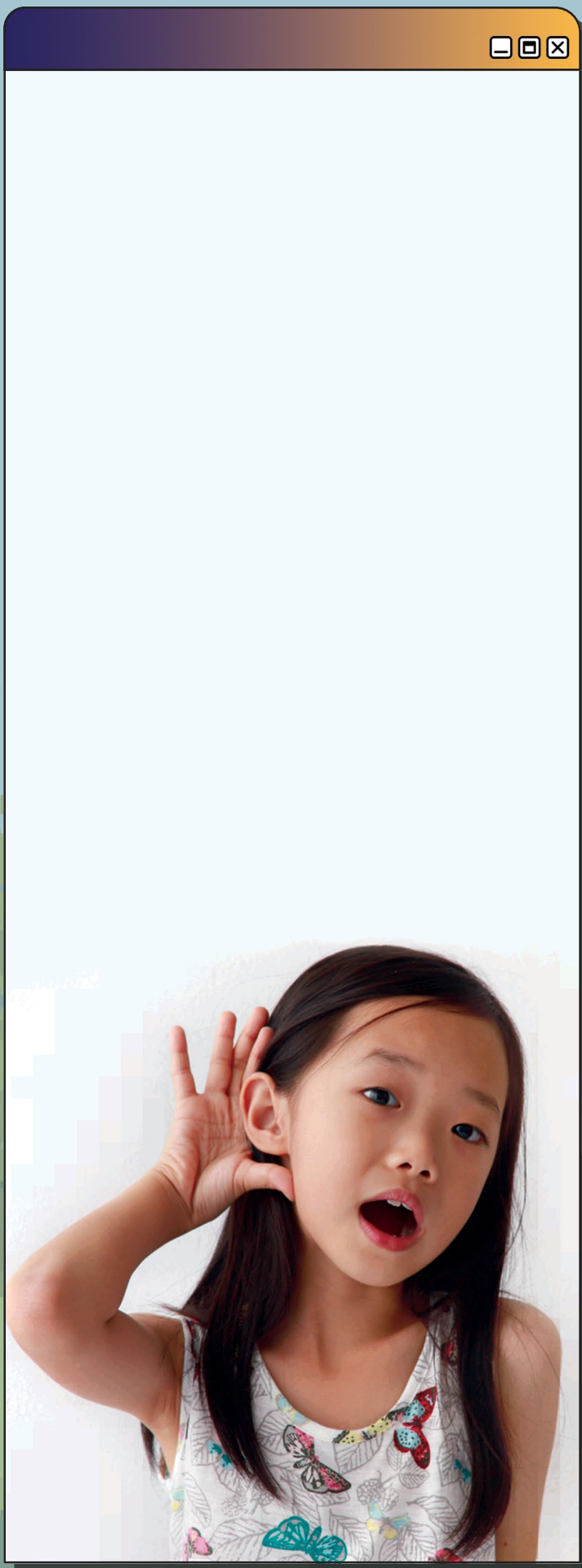
In our previous lessons, we learned that stewardship means faithfully caring for everything God has given us. That includes our time, talents, abilities, money, gifts, and opportunities. These are all resources God has placed in our care, and every day we get to decide how we will use them for Christ.

This week, try praying the same prayer Samuel prayed: "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening."

Then, pay attention. God may not speak through an audible voice as He did with Samuel, but He speaks through His Word, through prayer, through the Holy Spirit, and sometimes through the people He places in our lives.

Remember, God is not looking for the strongest, smartest, or oldest person. He is looking for someone willing to place their life in His hands and faithfully serve Him. The Bible reminds us in 1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

So, when God shows you a way to serve, don't be afraid or worry that you aren't qualified. If God has called you, He will also equip you. He will give you everything you need, including the gifts He has already placed within you, to accomplish what He asks. When we place our lives in God's hands, He can use us in amazing ways to bless others and bring glory to His name.





Recap of What We Learned:



- God is our loving Master who guides, protects, and cares for His children.
- Like Samuel, we can listen for God's voice and faithfully respond when He calls us.
- Stewardship means using everything God has entrusted to us to honor Him and bless the people around us.
- We are never too young for God to use because He equips those He calls.
- God speaks to us today through His Word, prayer, the Holy Spirit, and the people He places in our lives.

Reflection Questions:

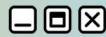


1. Why do you think God chose Samuel, even though he was young? What does that teach us about how God sees us?
2. If God asked you to do something difficult or scary, what could help you trust Him and follow His voice?
3. Paul told Timothy that being young does not stop him from being an example. How can you show God's love through your words and actions this week?
4. Where do you think God might be asking you to help or serve others right now?

Activity: Build God's Kingdom

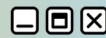


Objectives:



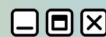
Help participants recognize that God gives each person unique gifts and understand that every gift is valuable when used to serve others and build His kingdom.

Materials:



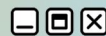
- LEGO blocks

Instructions:



1. Tell students: "Your team is building God's kingdom. Every person has a role."
2. Assign hidden roles. (Other group members don't know each other's roles.)
 - a. Builder
 - b. Encourager
 - c. Planner
 - d. Problem solver
 - e. Listener
3. Give them a building challenge.
4. Halfway through, remove one or two roles.
5. Let students finish the building challenge.

Discussion Questions:



1. What happened when everyone used their role and worked together? What happened when roles were removed? How did each person help the team succeed?
2. Have you ever thought that one of your gifts was not important? Why do you think God values every gift, even ones that others may not notice?





GOD OUR COMPANION

WE ARE
RELATIONAL BEINGS

Lesson Objectives

Note for Parents/Teachers.

- Discover that God desires a close and personal relationship with each of us.
- Understand that God created us to have meaningful relationships with Him and with others.
- Recognize that faithful stewardship includes valuing people and relationships more than possessions.

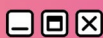
Introduction:

Imagine this: It's your birthday, and you invited all of your friends and family to come over to celebrate with you. Your house is decorated with streamers hanging from the ceiling and balloons covering the floor. Your favorite cake is ready to be eaten, and everyone is having fun. But instead of spending time with your friends and family, you spend the entire party organizing your presents, cleaning your room, and making sure everything in your house is perfect. By the time you finish cleaning and arranging everything, your friends and family are getting ready to leave.

Wouldn't that make you sad? You were finally ready to enjoy your birthday!

Sometimes in life, we become so busy taking care of things around us that we forget to spend time with the people who matter most. Today's lesson reminds us that while God has given us many wonderful gifts and blessings, His greatest desire is not for us to focus on things, but for us to know Him and love the people around us.

Choosing What Matters Most



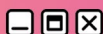
After a long day of walking and teaching, Jesus and His disciples stopped at the home of two sisters, Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38–42). Martha was busy preparing the food, cleaning the house, and making sure everything was ready for her special guest. I mean, if Jesus came to my house, I would probably want to make sure everything was spotless too!

However, Mary made a different choice. She decided to sit at Jesus' feet and listen as He spoke and taught. This frustrated Martha because while she was working hard to make sure everything was ready, her sister was not helping her. Finally, out of frustration, Martha asked Jesus to tell her sister to come help her.

But Jesus responded in a way that was very different from what Martha expected. He said in verses 41 and 42, "Martha, Martha, . . . you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Jesus wasn't saying that cleaning the house or preparing food was wrong. Martha was doing something good, and she was doing it because she wanted to serve Jesus. But Jesus wanted her to understand that spending time with Him was even more important. Our relationship with God comes before the responsibilities He gives us.

God Is Our Companion



This story reveals something beautiful about God's character. God doesn't simply want us to know about Him; He wants us to know Him closely and personally.

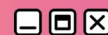
From the very beginning of the Bible, we see that God has always wanted to be close to His people. Before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve walked and talked with God in the Garden of Eden. Can you imagine that? They weren't afraid of Him or trying to hide from Him. They talked with Him like a child talks with a loving parent or like friends who enjoy spending time together.

When sin entered the world, that close relationship was broken, and Adam and Eve hid from God because they were ashamed.

But God still came looking for them (Genesis 3:9). We see this same thing happen again and again throughout the Bible. God continually reaches out to His people because He wants to restore that relationship.

God doesn't simply want our obedience; He wants our hearts. He wants to be part of our everyday lives, to celebrate with us during our birthdays, comfort us when we don't do as well on our tests, and guide us when we aren't sure what decision to make. Like any friendship, the best way to personally and closely know God is by spending time with Him. We can read the Bible and discover the love He has for His people, pray and ask Him to guide our lives, and listen for His voice. This is what God desires: to be our close and personal Companion.

We Were Created for Relationships

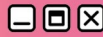


God could have created us to live completely alone, but He didn't. He made us relational beings. In Genesis, God created Eve for Adam because "it is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). This shows us that God designed us to love, to be loved, to be part of a community, and most importantly, to have a close relationship with Him.

Think about your happiest memories. I can think of quite a few! They probably aren't about a specific toy you received or a game you played on your tablet. They are probably about a family trip, laughing with your friends, celebrating a birthday, or spending time with people you love. That is because the moments we remember most are often the ones we share with the people who matter to us.

God created our hearts to find joy in relationships, not in earthly possessions. Things may make us happy for a little while, but godly relationships fill our hearts in a way that things never can. Ecclesiastes 4:9–12 explains this beautifully when it says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. . . . A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." God created us to experience life together because the relationships He gives us are far more valuable than anything we could ever own.

Stewardship of Relationships



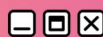
Stewardship isn't only about taking care of our money, talents, and possessions. God has also entrusted us with relationships. Every friend, family member, teacher, neighbor, and church member is someone God has placed in our lives for a reason. Isn't that an amazing thought? God knew exactly who you would need in your life, and He chose to place those people around you. But here's something even more incredible: God also placed you in other people's lives for a reason. He knows that you can encourage them, help them, and show them His love. When we remember that God intentionally gave us these relationships, it makes us want to care for them and not take them for granted.

Just as we take care of a valuable gift, God asks us to take care of our relationships. We do this by forgiving someone instead of holding onto grudges. We listen instead of always wanting to be heard. We encourage others instead of criticizing them behind their backs. We choose kindness over selfishness, even when it is hard.

Our relationship with God is the most important relationship we will ever have because it teaches us how to love others. If you want to learn more about how to love someone else, you should read 1 Corinthians 13. The more time we spend with Jesus, the more we understand His forgiveness, and the easier it becomes to forgive others. His love begins to change the way we treat the people around us.

Ellen White has a powerful quote that says, "The law of love calls for the devotion of body, mind, and soul to the service of God and our fellow men" (*Education*, p. 16). This means that because God loves us, we love Him with everything we are. We show that love by serving God and caring for other people.

Choosing What Matters Most



This week, think about how you spend your time. Watching TV, playing, or spending the whole day cleaning aren't bad things, but don't let those things become more important than your relationship with God and the people He has placed in your life.

In Luke 10:40, Martha became "distracted by all the preparations that had to be made." She was doing something good, but she became so busy that she missed the most important thing: spending time with Jesus. Mary chose to sit with Him, and Jesus said she had chosen "what is better" (Luke 10:42).

God created us to live in relationship with Him and with others. This week, choose people over your earthly possessions and time with Jesus over everyday distractions. Every time you make those choices, you are faithfully caring for one of God's greatest gifts: relationships.





Recap of What We Learned:



- God created us to have a close relationship with Him because He wants to be our loving Companion.
- Spending time with Jesus is more important than being distracted by the things and responsibilities around us.
- God created us to live in relationships with others, and the people He places in our lives are gifts to treasure and care for.
- We practice stewardship by using our time, love, and actions to strengthen our relationships and reflect God's love to others.

Reflection Questions:



1. What are some things that can distract you from spending time with God or the people you love? How can you make time for them?
2. Why do you think God created us to have friends and family instead of being alone?
3. What can the way you treat others teach people about God's love?
4. Who is someone God may want you to encourage, help, or spend more time with? How can you do that this week?
5. What is one simple way you can show God's love to someone this week?

Activity: If Jesus Came to My House

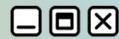


Objectives:



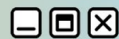
Help participants reflect on their personal relationship with Jesus and recognize the importance of making time to know Him and grow close to Him.

Materials:



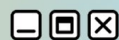
- Paper
- Markers/crayons
- Pencils

Instructions:



1. Have students imagine: "If Jesus comes to your house today and wants to spend time with you, what would you do?"
2. Have students write or draw their responses to these questions:
 - a. Where would you spend time together?
 - b. What would you talk about?
 - c. What questions would you ask Jesus?
 - d. What would you want Jesus to know about your life?
 - e. Would there be something you might be hesitant to show him?
3. After students are done drawing or writing, have them answer these questions with a partner:
 - a. Why do you think Jesus wants to spend time with you?
 - b. What is something you would want to tell Jesus about your life right now?
 - c. What is one thing you could do this week to spend more time with Jesus?
4. Bring the group back for whole-group discussion.

Discussion Questions:



1. Why do you think Jesus wants a personal relationship with you instead of only wanting you to follow rules?
2. Sometimes we can be busy doing good things but still miss time with God. How can we tell the difference between serving God and becoming too distracted to spend time with Him?



Lesson 6: The Teacher Who Builds Us Strong



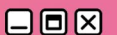
GOD THE TEACHER
WE ARE LEARNERS

Lesson Objectives

Note for Parents/Teachers.

- Explain that Jesus is my Teacher who guides me.
- Recognize that being a learner of Jesus means following His teachings.
- Identify ways I can use God's wisdom in my daily life.

Introduction:



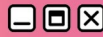
Let's say that your family is going to build a brand-new house. You go to the store, pick out the paint colors, decide where the bedrooms will go, and choose all the cool shelves and decorations for your room. Everything seems so exciting!

But before anyone builds the walls or puts on the roof, something important has to happen first. The builders have to decide where the house will stand and what it will be built on. Would they build it on soft sand that shifts every time it rains? Hopefully not! You wouldn't want your bed moving around while it's raining outside. They would choose a solid foundation that can hold the house through every storm.

The foundation may not be the most exciting part of the house, but it is the most important. If the foundation is weak, the whole house will be weak.

Our lives are a lot like that house. We all have to decide what we will build our lives on. Today's lesson reminds us that Jesus is our greatest Teacher, and when we listen to His instructions and put them into practice, He helps us build a life that stands strong.

Learning from the Greatest Teacher



One day, Jesus sat down on the side of a mountain with a huge crowd gathered around Him. Everyone wanted to hear what the greatest Teacher had to say. This message is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Throughout the day, Jesus taught people how to live in God's kingdom. He spoke about loving your enemies, trusting God instead of worrying, forgiving others, praying sincerely, and treating people the way we want to be treated. That's a lot to learn in one lesson! I hope nobody forgot to bring a snack!

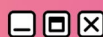
To finish His lesson, Jesus told one final parable, a story with an important spiritual lesson. I have a feeling many of you already know this story. It involves two builders, some sand, and a big rock. Yes, it's the parable of the wise and foolish builders!

One builder wanted to finish quickly, so he built his house on the sand without thinking about the foundation. The other builder carefully chose solid rock because he knew a strong house needs a strong foundation. Then a storm came. The rain poured down, the rivers rose, and the winds blew against both houses. The house built on the sand came crashing down, but the house built on the rock stood firm.

This story was not only about building houses. Jesus explained that the person who builds on the rock is the one who hears God's words and puts them into practice. The other builder hears God's words but chooses not to follow them (Matthew 7:24–27).

The difference between the two builders was not that one heard Jesus and the other didn't. Both heard His teaching. The difference was that one trusted Jesus enough to obey Him.

God Is Our Educator



This parable reminds us that Jesus is much more than a great storyteller. He is our Teacher. When Jesus taught, His goal was not only to give people information. He wanted to transform their hearts, help them know God personally, and teach them how to live in a way that reflects His love.

Jesus still teaches us today through the Bible, prayer, the Holy Spirit, and the experiences He allows us to have. Psalm 32:8 reminds us of God's promise: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." God does not leave us to figure life out alone. He lovingly guides us and helps us grow.

Have you ever gone through something difficult? Maybe you studied hard for a test but didn't do well, or you had an argument with a friend and didn't understand why. Sometimes God can use the challenges we go through to teach us something. He may be teaching us to trust Him, be patient, or use our words with kindness. The next time you face something difficult, ask, "Jesus, what are You trying to teach me?" and pray for His guidance.

Just like students learn best by spending time with their teacher, we grow spiritually by spending time with Jesus. The more we pray, read His Word, and listen to His voice, the more we understand His heart.

We Are Learners



Being a learner means more than gaining knowledge. It means having a heart that is willing to grow. Even though God created us with love and purpose, sin has affected our world and our hearts. That means we all have areas where Jesus wants to help us grow and become more like Him.

Learning doesn't only happen at school. When we follow Jesus, we become lifelong learners.

The Bible reminds us in James 1:22, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." Being a learner of Jesus means we don't just hear His teachings; we allow them to change the way we think, speak, and act.

We learn patience when we have to wait for recess. We learn forgiveness when someone hurts us. We learn kindness when we choose to help instead of complain. God uses our everyday experiences to teach us, but we have to be willing to listen.

Just like the wise builder, we are called not only to hear Jesus' words but to put them into action. Every time we follow what Jesus teaches, we build a stronger foundation.

Wisdom Is Stewardship



Throughout these lessons, we have learned that stewardship means faithfully caring for everything God has entrusted to us. God has given us time, talents, abilities, possessions, relationships, and opportunities.

But how do we know how to use these gifts wisely?

We ask our Teacher.

A builder would never ignore the blueprint when building a house because it gives the instructions needed to build correctly. In the same way, God has given us His Word as the blueprint for our lives. The Bible teaches us how to use our time wisely (Ephesians 5:15, 16), how to treat others (Luke 6:31), and how to honor God with everything He has given us (1 Corinthians 10:31).

When we seek God's instructions, we become wise stewards. Just as a house built on rock stands firm during a storm, a life built on Jesus' teachings remains strong.

Building on the Rock



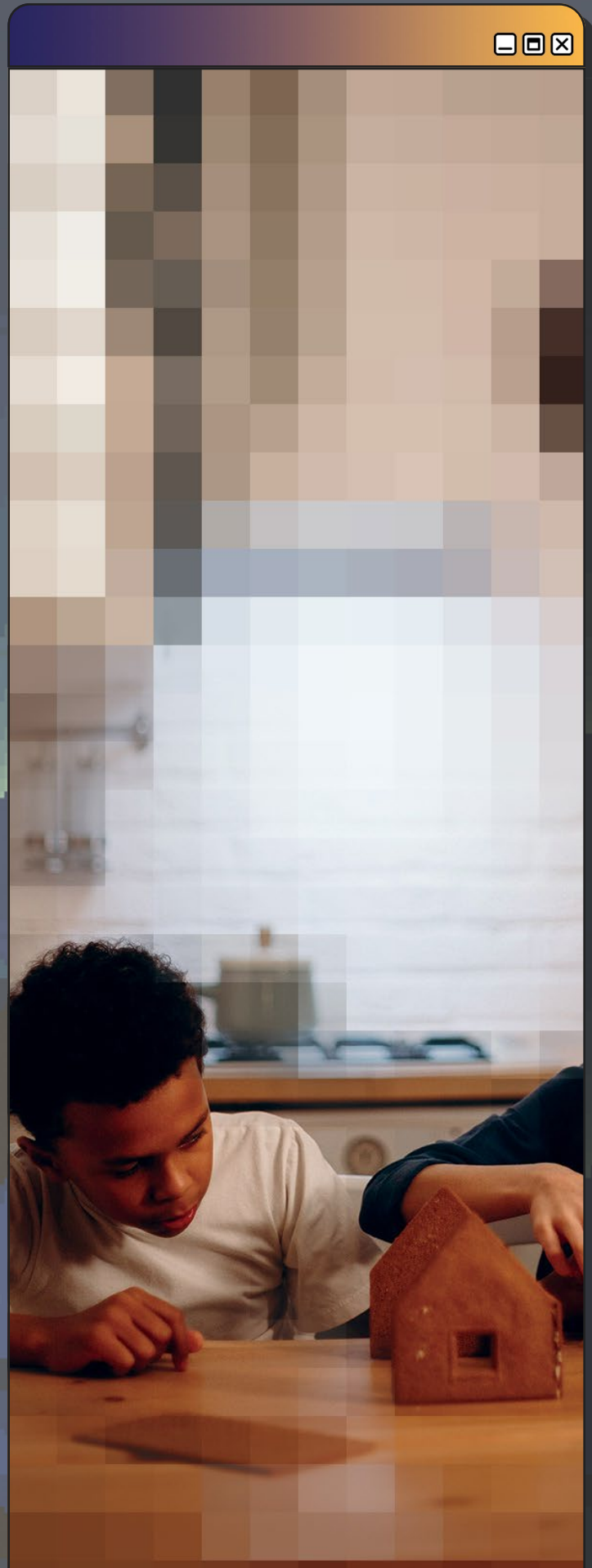
Every friendship grows stronger by spending time together, and our relationship with Jesus is the same. The more we know Him, the more we trust Him. The more we trust Him, the more willing we become to follow His instructions.

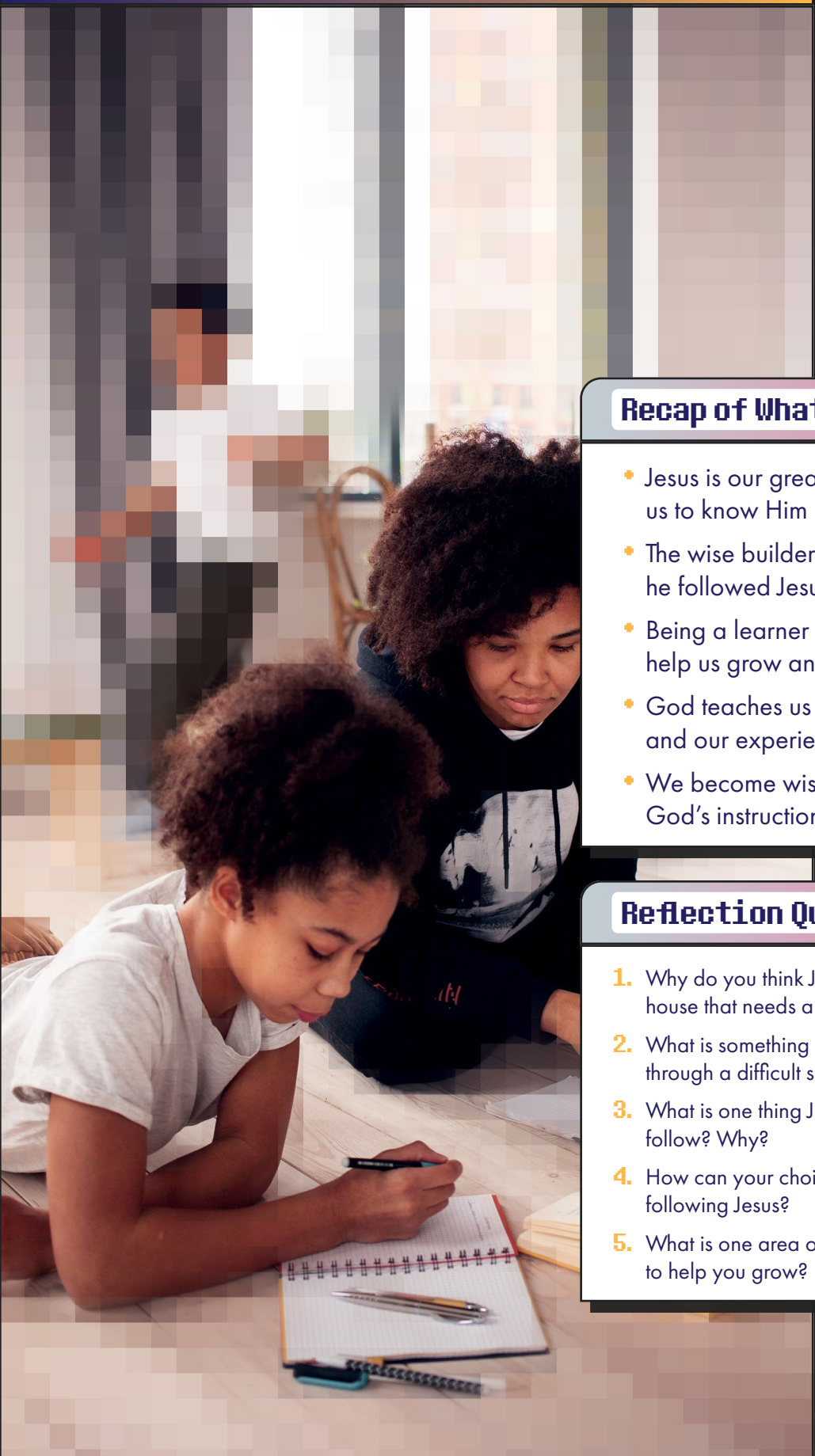
Spending time with Jesus each day is not about checking something off a list. It is about knowing the One who loves us most. When we open our Bibles, we are listening to our Teacher. Ellen White reminds us that "the Bible is God's voice speaking to us, just as surely as though we could hear it with our ears" (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 393).

When we pray, we are talking with our Teacher. When we obey Him, we are building our lives on the Solid Rock.

This week, spend a few minutes each day reading your Bible and asking Jesus, "Teacher, what do You want me to learn today?" Then look for one opportunity to put what you learned into practice.

Remember, Jesus is not looking for students who simply memorize His words. He is looking for learners who trust Him enough to let His teachings change the way they live.





Recap of What We Learned:



- Jesus is our greatest Teacher, and He wants us to know Him personally.
- The wise builder built on the rock because he followed Jesus' words.
- Being a learner means allowing Jesus to help us grow and change.
- God teaches us through His Word, prayer, and our experiences.
- We become wise stewards when we follow God's instructions.

Reflection Questions:

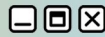


1. Why do you think Jesus compared our lives to a house that needs a strong foundation?
2. What is something God might be teaching you through a difficult situation?
3. What is one thing Jesus teaches that can be hard to follow? Why?
4. How can your choices show others that you are following Jesus?
5. What is one area of your life where you want Jesus to help you grow?

Activity: My Life Blueprint

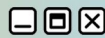


Objectives:



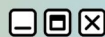
Help participants understand that Jesus' teachings are the foundation for their lives and discover how His instructions guide their choices and relationships.

Materials:



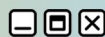
- Paper with a house outline
- Pens/pencils

Instructions:



1. Students create a blueprint of their life:
 - a. Foundation: Write, "Jesus."
 - b. Blueprint: Write a Bible teaching they want to follow.
 - c. Rooms: Add areas of life (family, friends, school, talents).
2. Students write how Jesus guides each area.
Examples:
 - i. Friends—be kind and forgive
 - ii. School—be honest and work hard

Discussion Questions:



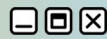
1. Why do you think a strong foundation is important for both a house and our lives?
2. Why do you think Jesus gives us instructions for life instead of letting us figure everything out on our own?



Activity: Build Your Foundation Challenge

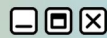


Objectives:



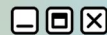
Help participants discover that Jesus is the strongest foundation for their lives and understand that following His teachings helps them remain strong through challenges.

Materials:



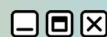
- Blocks
- Popsicle sticks
- Paper
- Fabric
- Cardboard
- Sand

Instructions:



1. Students work in groups to build a house using blocks and popsicle sticks.
2. Give them different foundations to build on:
 - a. Paper
 - b. Fabric
 - c. Cardboard
 - d. Sand
3. Test the house by shaking the table, blowing air, or gently adding weight.

Discussion Questions:



1. What did you notice about the houses built on different foundations? What does that teach us about the choices we build our lives on?
2. What are some things people build their lives on besides Jesus? Why might those things not always be strong foundations?





GOD THE JUDGE

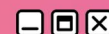
WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE BEINGS

Lesson Objectives

Note for Parents/Teachers.

- Understand that God is our loving Judge who asks us to be faithful.
- Recognize that God has entrusted each person with unique gifts and blessings.
- Identify ways we can faithfully use and be accountable for the gifts God has given us.

Introduction:



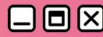
Let me give you a scenario. Your parents are going out for a little while, and they ask you to take care of something important. Maybe it's your younger sibling, a pet, or a plant they just bought. Before they leave, they give you a few simple instructions and tell you they will be back soon.

What would you do? Would you ignore their instructions and spend the entire time playing games or watching TV? Would you forget about your sibling and expect them to take care of themselves? Or would you do your best to take care of what your parents entrusted you with? To entrust something means to give someone the responsibility of taking care of something valuable because you trust them to do it well.

When your parents come back, they might ask, "How did everything go?" They aren't asking because they want to get you into trouble. They are asking because they trusted you with something important and want to know how you took care of it.

In today's lesson, we're going to look at a story Jesus told about three servants who were each trusted with something valuable. Through this story, we'll discover that God has given each of us different gifts and blessings. One day, He will ask us how we used and cared for what He gave us.

Faithful with What Has Been Given



Near the end of His time on earth, Jesus told a story about a wealthy master who was going on a long journey (Matthew 25:14–30). Before he left, he called three of his servants and gave each of them some of his money. To one servant he gave five talents, to another he gave two, and to the last he gave one.

A talent was worth a lot of money, but this story isn't really about money. It reminds us that God gives each of us different gifts, abilities, opportunities, and responsibilities. The servants did not all receive the same amount, and God has not given all of us the same gifts either.

What do you think the first two servants did after the master left? Did they hide the money? Spend it all? Nope! They got to work right away. They wisely used what their master had given them, and when he returned, they had doubled what they had received. Wow! That's pretty impressive, isn't it?

What about the third servant? Was he excited to use what the master gave him? Not at all. He was afraid, so he buried it in the ground. He thought that if he simply returned exactly what his master had given him, everything would be fine.

But when the master came back, he asked each servant what they had done while he was gone. The first two servants joyfully shared how they had used what they were given. The master proudly replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21).

The third servant, however, had done nothing with the gift he had received. Instead of trusting his master, he acted out of fear and missed the opportunity to use what he had been given.

God Is Our Judge



If I say the word "judge," what comes to your mind? Maybe you picture a huge courtroom, a gavel, and a serious judge who is always looking for mistakes. Usually, that isn't a very positive picture, is it?

But the Bible shows us something different. God is our Judge, but He is also our loving Father, our Companion, our Teacher, and our Provider.

He knows everything about us because He walks with us every day.

Imagine standing before Jesus one day and hearing Him smile and say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Wouldn't that be amazing? Jesus won't compare us to anyone else because He created each of us differently and gave us different gifts. Unlike human judges, God does not only look at what others can see. The Bible reminds us that "the LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). He knows our struggles, our efforts, and how much we want to serve Him. Because He knows us personally, He will lovingly ask if we were faithful with what He gave us.

Have you ever worked really hard on something and wanted someone to notice? Maybe you cleaned your room, helped someone, or practiced a skill. You wanted someone to see that your effort mattered. God sees our efforts too. His judgment reminds us that what we do matters, even when other people don't notice. He sees how we use the gifts He has given us and knows when we are trying our best to honor Him.

We Are Accountable Beings



So, what does this story teach us about our lives? Each servant was given something valuable by the master. They did not all receive the same amount, but that was not the important part. What mattered was what they did with what they were given. Ellen White reminds us, "The value of service to God is measured by the spirit in which it is rendered, rather than by the length of time spent in labor" (*Testimony for the Church*, vol. 9, p. 74). This means God doesn't expect everyone to have the same gifts or do the same things. He simply wants us to faithfully use what He has given us.

God has given each of us gifts that are special and unique. Maybe you are good at drawing. Maybe you are really good at making new kids feel welcome. Maybe you enjoy helping your parents without being asked. These are all gifts that God has given you.

God gave you these gifts for a reason. He wants you to use them to help others and honor Him. We don't want to be like the servant who hid his talent because he was afraid. Instead, we want

to use what God has given us and be ready to tell Him how we used it.

The good news is that God doesn't expect you to do something He has not given you the ability to do. He simply asks you to be faithful with what He has entrusted to you.

Faithfulness in Stewardship



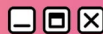
Throughout these lessons, we have learned that stewardship means faithfully caring for everything God has entrusted to us.

Imagine two students. One is really good at singing, while the other is really good at helping people. They have different gifts, but God is pleased when both use their gifts to serve Him.

God isn't asking us to have someone else's gifts, talents, or opportunities. The Bible reminds us in 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." God has given each of us something special, and He wants us to use it faithfully.

Every time we choose to be kind to a friend, generous with a sibling, or honest with a teacher, we are using what God has given us to honor Him and show His love to others. That is faithful stewardship.

Growing Closer to Our Judge



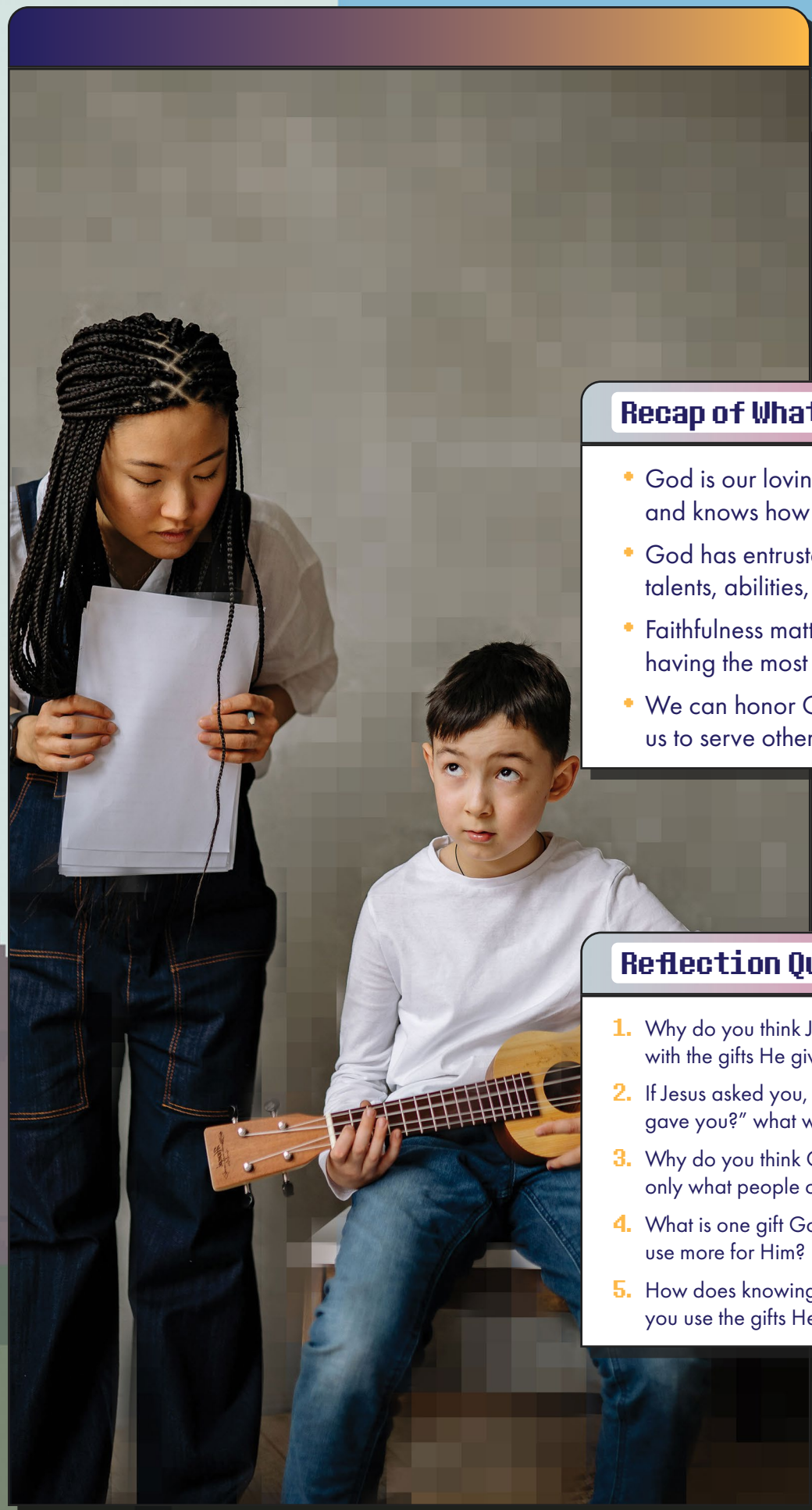
One of the saddest parts of Jesus' parable is that the third servant misunderstood his master. He was afraid, so he hid the talent instead of using it.

Sometimes we can misunderstand God in the same way. We might think God is always watching and waiting for us to make a mistake. But that isn't who Jesus is. The Bible reminds us, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). When we understand God's love for us, we see that He isn't waiting for us to fail. He wants us to grow and become more like Him.

The more time we spend with God through prayer, reading the Bible, and listening to His voice, the more we learn about who He really is. We learn that He is loving, patient, forgiving, and trustworthy. Knowing Jesus changes the way we see God. We don't serve Him because we are afraid of punishment. We serve Him because we love the One who gave us our gifts, talents, friends, and families. We love because He first loved us.

When we know Jesus personally, we don't have to be afraid of meeting our Judge. Instead, we can look forward to hearing the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Remember, God isn't asking you to be the smartest, richest, or most talented person. He simply asks you to be faithful with what He has placed in your hands.





Recap of What We Learned:



- God is our loving Judge who sees our hearts and knows how we use His gifts.
- God has entrusted each of us with different talents, abilities, and opportunities.
- Faithfulness matters more to God than having the most gifts or abilities.
- We can honor God by using what He gives us to serve others and show His love.

Reflection Questions:

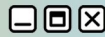


1. Why do you think Jesus wants us to be responsible with the gifts He gives us?
2. If Jesus asked you, "What did you do with what I gave you?" what would you want to tell Him?
3. Why do you think God looks at our hearts instead of only what people can see?
4. What is one gift God has given you that you want to use more for Him?
5. How does knowing God loves you change the way you use the gifts He has given you?

Activity: "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant!"

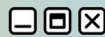


Objective:



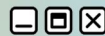
Help participants recognize that faithfulness, not being the "best" or having the most abilities, is what matters to God.

Materials:



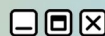
- Sticky notes
- Pens/Pencils
- Poster paper title: "Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant!"

Instructions:

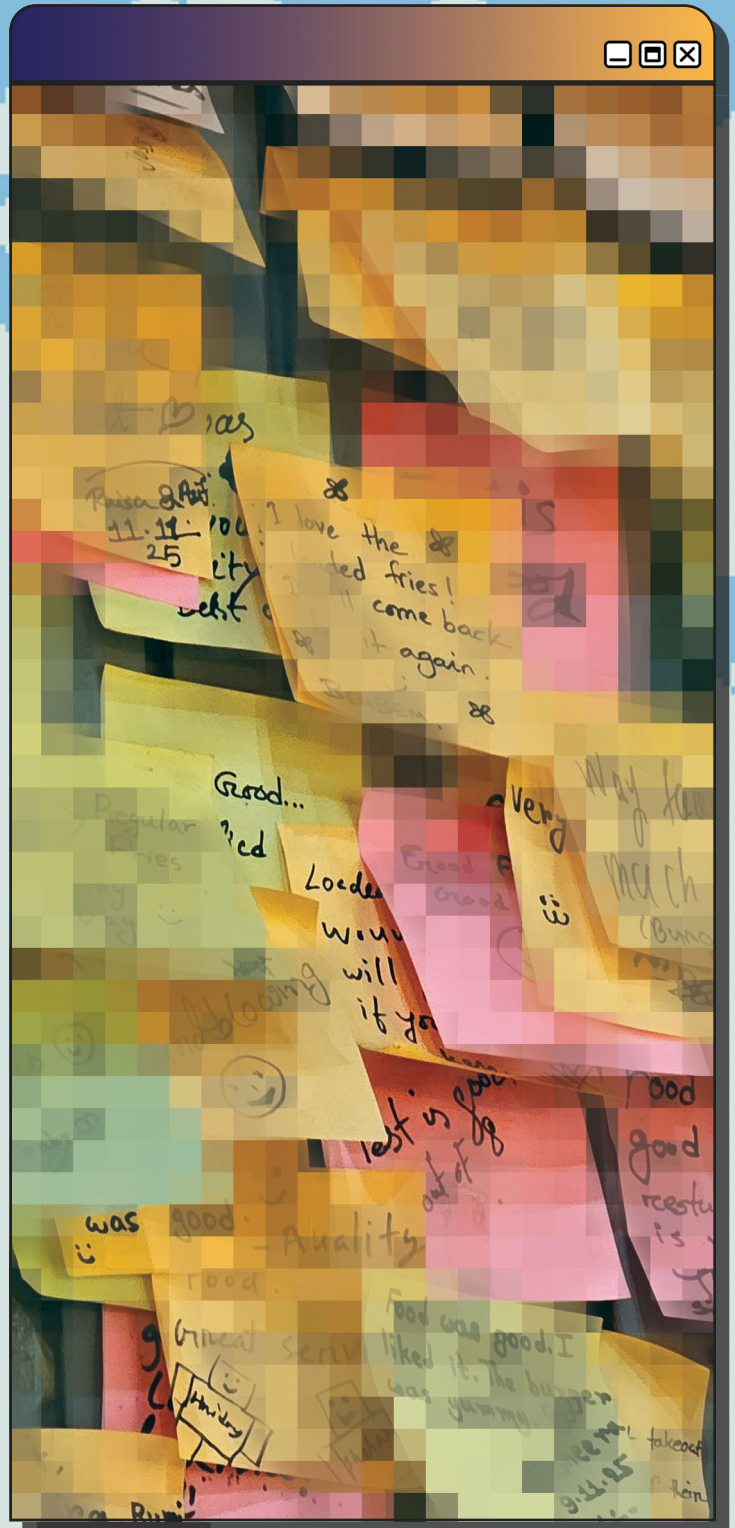


1. Read: "In Jesus' story, the master didn't praise the servants because they had the most talents. He praised them because they were faithful with what they were given."
2. Students write on a sticky note:
 - a. One gift God has given them.
 - b. One way they want to use that gift this week.Example:
 - i. God gave me patience. I want to use it when my little brother annoys me.
3. Students place the sticky note on the poster.

Discussion Questions:



1. Why do you think Jesus cares more about how we use our gifts than how many gifts we have?
2. If Jesus looked at the way you used your gifts this week, what is one thing you would hope He would say, "Well done" about?



Lesson 8: The Gift That Changes Everything



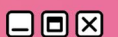
GOD THE SAVIOR
WE ARE SAVED

Lesson Objectives

Note for Parents/Teachers.

- Understand that Jesus came to save us because of His great love for us.
- Recognize that salvation is a free gift received through faith alone.
- Explain how a relationship with Jesus transforms our hearts and helps us reflect His love.

Introduction:



Someone is offering you the greatest gift you could ever receive. What's the first thing you thought of? Well, it's not a video game, not the coolest bicycle, and not even a room filled with all the toys and games you've ever wanted. Those gifts can make us happy, but they don't last forever. Imagine they offered you something that money could never, ever buy: a second chance.

Have you ever made a mistake or done something super embarrassing that you wish you could go back in time and do completely differently? Maybe you hurt someone's feelings, fell in front of your crush, disobeyed your parents, or played the wrong note in your piano recital. The wonderful news of the Bible is that Jesus offers every one of us something even greater than a second chance. Bet you didn't think it could get much better than that, huh? He offers us forgiveness, a new heart, and a brand-new life with Him.

In today's lesson, we will discover what it truly means to be saved by Jesus and how His love changes our hearts so we can live every day as His faithful stewards.

A Life Changed by Jesus



One day, Jesus entered the city of Jericho. There was a huge crowd gathered around Him because everyone wanted to see the famous Teacher. In the crowd, there was a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector, and many people didn't like him because he would take more money than he should have from others and became rich. Zacchaeus had a lot of money and could buy many things, but he realized that money could not give him what his heart truly needed: a relationship with Jesus.

But Zacchaeus had one problem: He was too short, so he wasn't able to see over the crowd. He decided to climb a sycamore tree, hoping to catch just one glimpse of Jesus as He passed by.

When Jesus passed the sycamore tree where Zacchaeus was sitting, something amazing happened. Jesus looked up and called Zacchaeus by name. "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5). Can you imagine how surprised Zacchaeus must have been? Out of everyone in the crowd, Jesus chose to spend time with him! That day, Zacchaeus didn't just meet a famous Teacher; he met his Savior.

As Zacchaeus spent time with Jesus, something changed inside his heart. He stood up and said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount" (Luke 19:8). Jesus then said, "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:9).

Zacchaeus didn't change so that Jesus would love him; he changed because he had experienced Jesus' love.

God Is Our Savior



Throughout this series, we have discovered many wonderful things about God. We learned that He is our Creator, our Model, our Provider, our Master, our Companion, our Teacher, and our Judge. Today, we discover that Jesus is also our Savior. And that might be the most beautiful truth of all.

The Bible tells us that everyone has sinned. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We have all made wrong choices, said hurtful words, or disobeyed. No amount of good behavior, kindness, or hard work can ever erase our sins. That is why Jesus came. But the wonderful news is that our mistakes do not separate us from God forever. Romans 3:24, the verse just after saying that we are all sinners, reminds us that we are "justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." This means that Jesus offers us forgiveness, not because we have earned it, but because He loves us and chose to save us.

Jesus loved being in heaven with His Father and the angels, where everything was perfect. He wanted us to experience that with Him one day, so because He loved us so much, He was willing to leave heaven and come to earth to save us. He lived a perfect life on earth, free of sin, died on the cross, and rose again on the third day so that every person who believes in Him can receive forgiveness and eternal life with Him in heaven.

Salvation is God's free gift to us. Think about receiving a birthday gift. You don't earn it by being perfect or doing enough good things. Someone gives it to you because they love you. Salvation is the same way. Jesus gives us His gift of forgiveness because He loves us.

We Are Saved



Being saved means much more than simply knowing Bible stories, which is an amazing start! It means that we know Jesus personally. When we pray throughout the day, read His Word, worship Him, and choose to follow Him every day, our relationship with Him grows stronger.

Just like Zacchaeus, the closer we become to Jesus, the more He changes our hearts. We begin to love the way He loves. We become



kinder to our classmates, more generous to others, more forgiving with our siblings, and more willing to serve others. Following Jesus does not mean we will never make mistakes again. It means that, every day, Jesus helps us grow, make better choices, and become more like Him.

Ellen White beautifully explains what happened in Zacchaeus' life: "It is when Christ is received as a personal Saviour that salvation comes to the soul. Zacchaeus had received Jesus, not merely as a passing guest in his home, but as One to abide in the soul temple" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 556). Jesus didn't just visit Zacchaeus' house; He changed Zacchaeus' heart. That is what God wants for us too. He doesn't want to be someone we only think about on Sabbath or during Bible class. He wants to live in our hearts every day and transform us from the inside out.

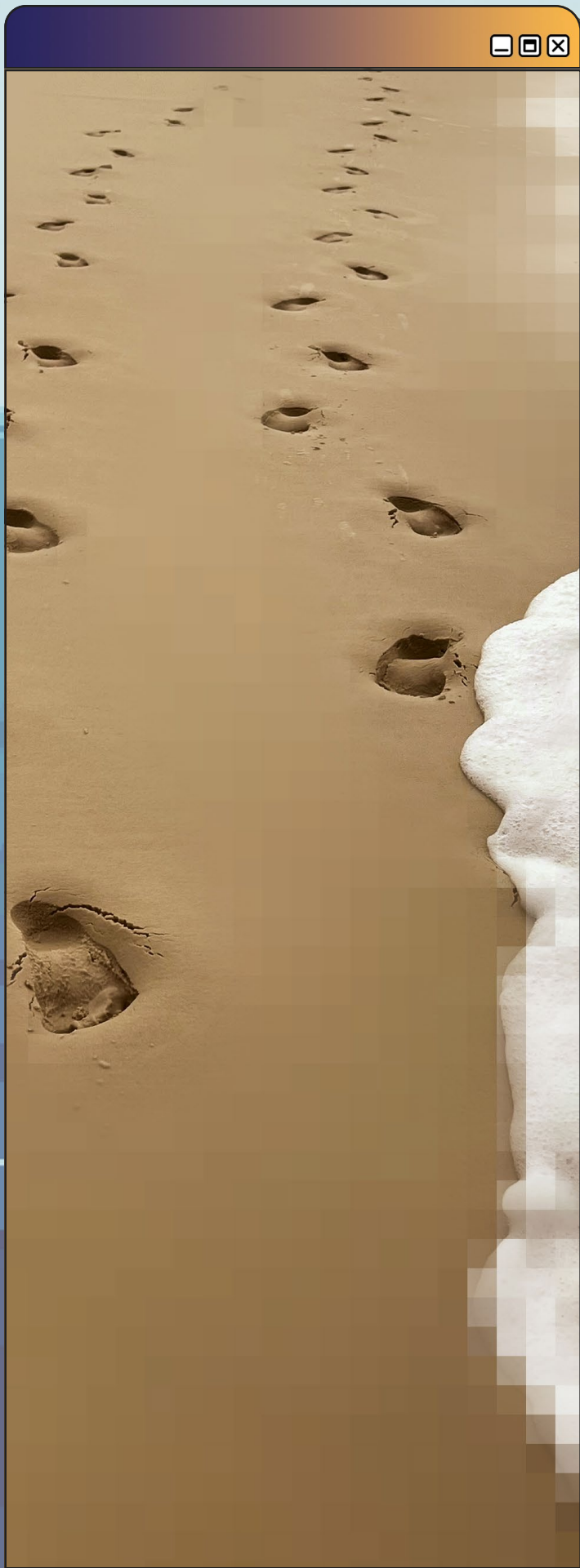
Walking with Our Savior

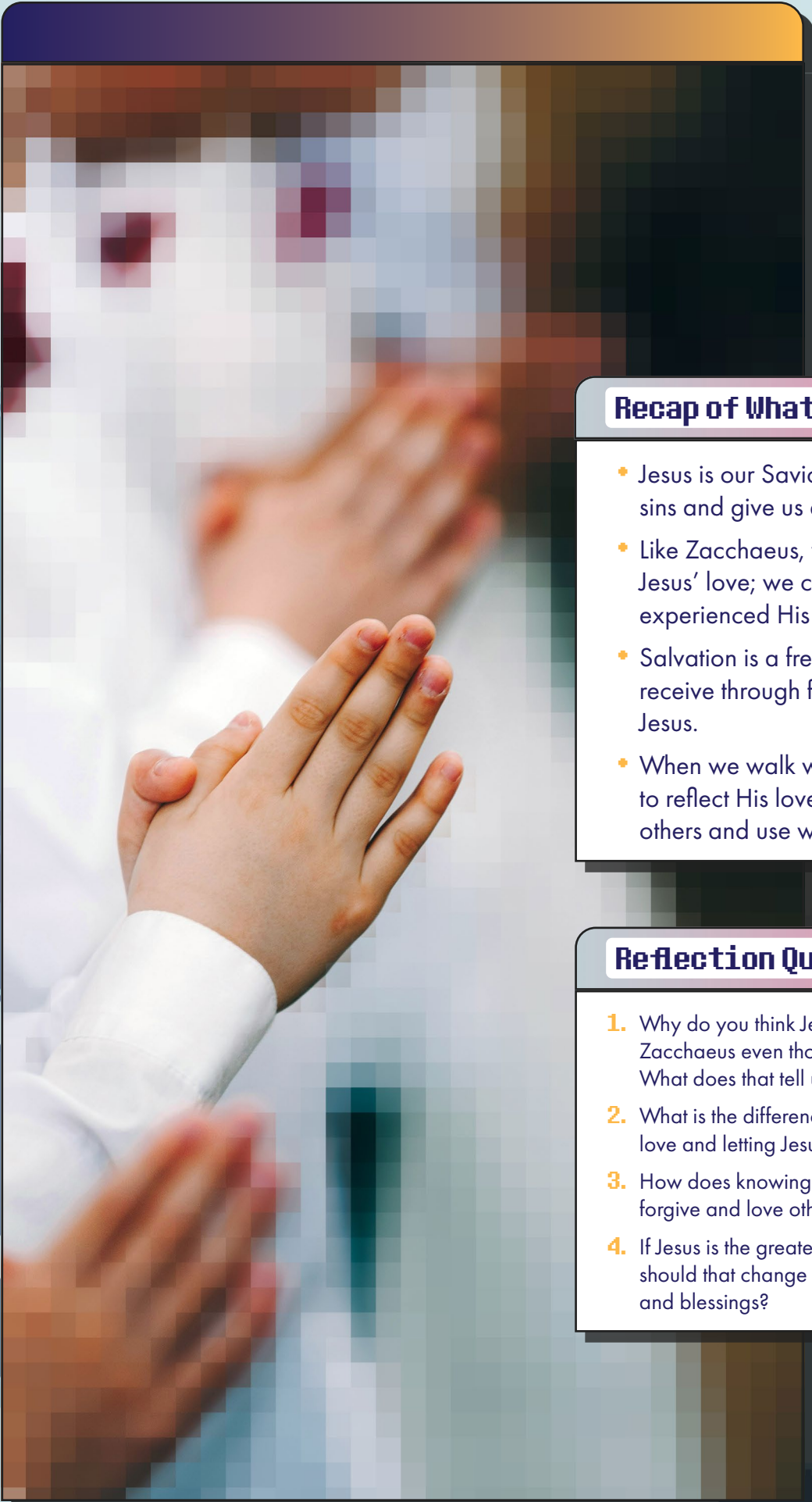
A relationship with Jesus is the greatest treasure we could ever have, better than any toy, game, show, or even friendship. Every day, He invites us to walk with Him. He listens when we pray, no matter where we are. He speaks to us through His Word, forgives us when we confess our sins, gives us strength when life is difficult, and promises to never leave us.

Throughout these eight lessons, we have discovered who God is and who we are because of Him. He created us, calls us to reflect His character, provides for us, invites us to serve Him, wants to be our Companion, teaches us His ways, lovingly holds us accountable, and through Jesus, saves us.

As we grow closer to Jesus, our lives begin to reflect His love and character. Stewardship isn't something we do only once in a while; it becomes a way of life. We don't use our gifts to make God love us more. We use our gifts because He already loves us.

Remember, stewardship is not about earning God's love. It is about living each day in response to the greatest gift we have ever received: Jesus Himself. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, He begins changing our hearts and helping us become more like Him. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come." Because Jesus saves us, we can joyfully use everything He has given us to reflect His love to the world.





Recap of What We Learned:



- Jesus is our Savior who came to forgive our sins and give us a new life with Him.
- Like Zacchaeus, we do not change to earn Jesus' love; we change because we have experienced His love.
- Salvation is a free gift from God that we receive through faith and a relationship with Jesus.
- When we walk with Jesus, our lives begin to reflect His love through the way we treat others and use what He has given us.

Reflection Questions:

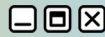


1. Why do you think Jesus chose to spend time with Zacchaeus even though others did not like him? What does that tell us about Jesus?
2. What is the difference between trying to earn Jesus' love and letting Jesus change your heart?
3. How does knowing Jesus forgives you help you forgive and love others?
4. If Jesus is the greatest gift we can receive, how should that change the way we use our time, talents, and blessings?

Activity: Finding the Greatest Treasure

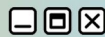


Objectives:



Help participants recognize that Jesus is their greatest treasure and learn how His love changes the way they live.

Materials:



- Clue Cards
- Small “treasure” box

Instructions:

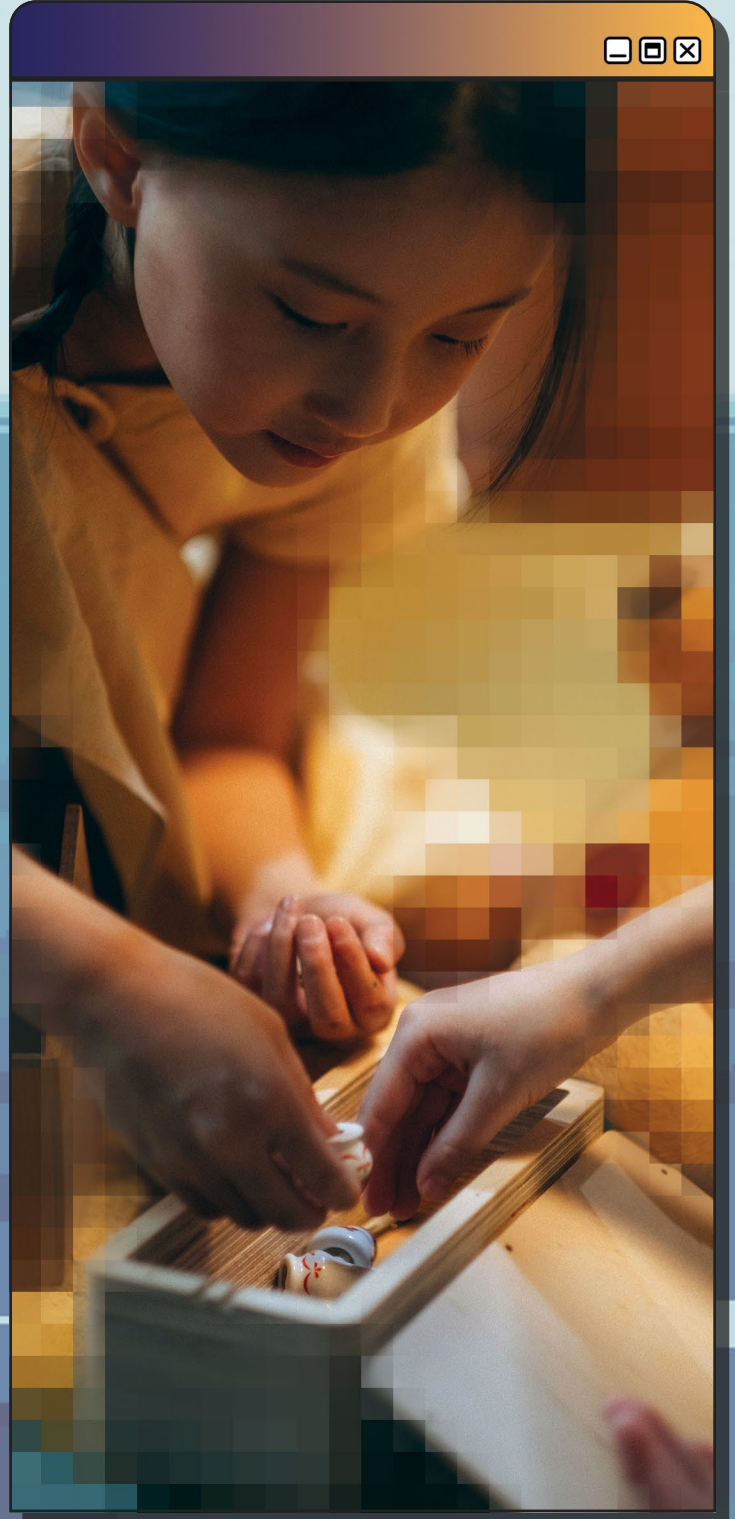


1. Hide clues around the room leading students to a treasure box.
2. Each clue connects to something from the lessons.
Example:
 - i. “I created you and know you by name.” → Creator
 - ii. “I provide everything you need.” → Provider
 - iii. “I teach you My ways.” → Teacher
 - iv. “I forgive your mistakes.” → Savior
3. Show students the treasure box. It contains a note:
 - a. “The greatest treasure is not something you can buy. It is a relationship with Jesus.”
4. End by praying and thanking Jesus for being our greatest treasure.

Discussion Questions:



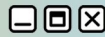
1. A treasure is something we protect and value. What are some ways we can show that our relationship with Jesus is valuable to us?
2. After learning about God as our Creator, Provider, Teacher, Judge, and Savior, which part of God’s character means the most to you and why?



Activity: The Heart Exchange

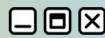


Objectives:



Help participants reflect on areas of their lives where they need Jesus' help and recognize that salvation begins with allowing Jesus to transform their hearts.

Materials:



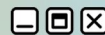
- Paper hearts
- Markers
- Pencils/Pens

Instructions:

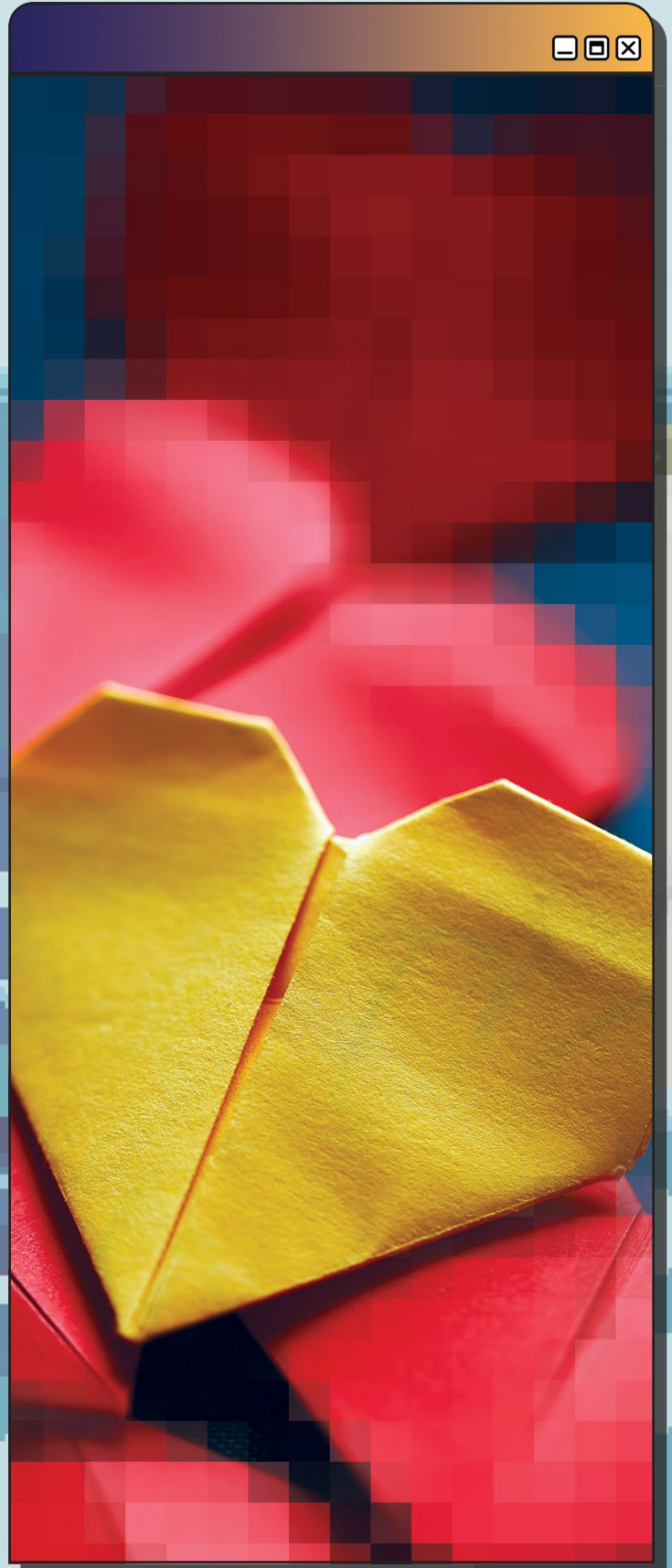


1. Give each student a paper heart.
2. On one side, they write/draw things they want Jesus to help them change.
Examples:
 - i. Selfishness
 - ii. Impatience
 - iii. Anger
 - iv. Fear
 - v. Unkind words
3. On the other side, they write how Jesus can help them become more like Him:
Example:
 - i. Kindness
 - ii. Forgiveness
 - iii. Patience
 - iv. Love
4. End by praying and asking Jesus to continue changing their hearts.

Discussion Questions:



1. Why do you think it can sometimes be hard to accept a gift that we didn't earn? What does that teach us about accepting God's gift of salvation?
2. Why do you think Jesus wants to give us a new heart instead of just changing our outside actions?



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