

# iLIGHT

EUD CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES BULLETIN

July-August 2018

N° 7 · VOLUME 3

## CONTENTS

Disciples after Jesus.....	1
Jesus is .....	1
Religions of the World .....	2
Jesus wants all of me.....	2
Children's Prayers .....	3
In Synergy.....	3
Memorizing Bible Verses .....	4
Ellen White on Children.....	4
Teens Devotional .....	5
Questions & Answers .....	5
Activity Report .....	6
Keep in Mind .....	7
Upcoming Events .....	7
Intergenerational Worship.....	8
Recommended Resources .....	8
Special Material for WoP.....	9-24



## Finding Treasure in God's Word

## Jesus is... praying

God looks on the heart more than anything else, really. Jesus said, "Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him" (Matthew 6:8 NKJV). If that is the case, then why pray? The answer is pretty simple. Prayer is not informing God; prayer is inviting God. When I call out to the Lord in prayer and offer my petition, I'm not informing God of something he doesn't already know. Rather, I'm inviting God into my situation, into my challenges, into my problems.

Jesus was always praying. If Jesus, being God, felt the necessity to pray, then how much more should we pray? With all of our flaws, with all of our shortcomings, with all of our weaknesses, how much more should we follow the example that Jesus set for us? This brings us back to the why of prayer. Why should we pray? Because God will allow circumstances in our lives to keep us dependent on him.

[www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/did-you-know-jesus-is-praying-for-you.html](http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/did-you-know-jesus-is-praying-for-you.html)

## Celebrating the worldwide Week of Prayer

In a few weeks from now, as every year since at least 100 years, the SDA church will celebrate worldwide the Week of Prayer. This year, the readings will focus on the Bible, and the children's readings, written by Julie Weslake, are titled "**Finding Treasure in God's Word**".

The traditional practice started in 1885. We may say that the Week of Prayer is embedded in Seventh Day Adventist DNA. For most of us it has always be part of our spiritual life and we may not even imagine that this event may not exist anymore.

Thus, rites may come to be so habitual that we even don't have any more idea of why they have been put in place or we may have totally forgot the intention behind them. This may bring to downing the meaning and importance of the rite itself and losing its purpose and effectiveness.

As responsible to transmit faith and values to the next generations, we are expected to know the how and the why of those SDA rites to put on them the right

emphasis and share them with children so the next generation will continue keeping the same enthusiasm our pioneers had.

We found an interesting article written in 1952 that can give us an idea of how the Week of Prayer was in the past. You can read it here following.

It is interesting to notice that this article looks really up-to-date to our time. We hope that it will inspire you and give some more hints as you will share with the children in your territories this special event of our Church.

### Week of Prayer in the Church

(by A. V. Olson, GC Vice-President)

*Early in the history of the Advent Movement our leaders introduced the idea of a Week of Prayer to be conducted in all our churches on a given date toward the end of the year. The plan brought so much spiritual help and blessing to the churches and to the cause of God that it was repeated year after year. Soon the practice became an es-*

## RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD



### SIKHISM

Sikhism is a rather new religion, as it was founded about 500 years ago by the guru Nanak. The word *sikh* means "disciple" and refers to a person who follows the guru. They believe in one God (the Big Master) and equality of men. The community of *sikh* is called *Khalsa*, and from 15 years on, both girls and boys can become part of this community with a ceremony of initiation called *amrit sanskar*.

The *sikh* church is called *gurdwara*, and is the center of this religion: here is the domicile of the *guru Granth Sahib*, the holy book. It is treated as if it was a human guru. The *sikh* meet in the presence of this book as they did with the human gurus before. The service comprises hymns, the lecture of extracts of the *Granth* and a sermon to interpret this extract.

The *gurdwara* is also a social center. Here the *sikh* meet to enjoy fellowship together, while preparing and eating *pangat*, a meal all believers have after the ceremonies.

The *sikh* men carry a turban and five symbols that show they are part of the *Khalsa*. They are called the five K, because all of them start with K:

- *Kesha*: The hair which must not be cut, is hold back by a turban.
- *Kangha*: Wooden comb to hold the hair. It is a symbol of order.
- *Kirpan*: Double-edged sword to fight all sort of oppressors and defend the weak.
- *Kara*: A steel bracelet. The circle symbolizes the uniqueness of God, the steel the power.
- *Kacha*: Short trousers to facilitate movements.

From: Brown, A. & Langley, A.: *Les Religions du Monde expliquées aux enfants*. Hachette Livre, France, 1999

established fact among us. In every land and clime where our work is now established around the world our churches observe the annual Week of Prayer.

Just as ancient Israel had certain periods every year when the entire nation was to engage in earnestly seeking the Lord, so modern Israel, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, has adopted the plan of an annual Week of Prayer, when the church universal may unitedly seek the Lord. If the people of God in ages past needed such occasions for their spiritual refreshing, we upon whom the ends of the world have come surely need them also.

We are living in dangerous times—in times that try men's souls. Satan knows that his days are numbered, and he has come down to us in great fury. He hates the remnant church, and is determined to destroy it. To accomplish his purpose, he will employ every means at his command. Our only safety lies in keeping close to one another and close to God. We need to press together. Unitedly we must press our petitions to the throne of grace. "None but divine power," we are told, "can stay the arrogance of Satan united with evil men; but in the hour of the church's greatest danger most fervent prayer will be offered in her behalf by the faithful remnant, and God will hear and answer." (*Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 524.)

Now more than ever the church should heed the divine admonition: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Heb. 10:25. This applies to the services of the Week of Prayer as well as to the regular

services of the church throughout the year.

When properly conducted, the services of the Week of Prayer can be of inestimable value in fostering the spiritual life of the church. They can serve to revive drooping spirits, fan the smoking flax into a bright flame, reclaim back sliders, and bring added hope and courage into the most ardent souls. These services also tend to deepen the interest of the church in our great mission program and to increase its gifts for the finishing of the work at home and abroad. [...]

The success of the Week of Prayer depends to a very large degree upon the workers and church officers. If they manifest little or no interest in the services, no great blessing can result from them. On the other hand, if they will take time to plan prayerfully and carefully for these meetings, and by the help of God will do all in their power to enlist the cooperation of old and young, the week can be made a grand success. The one who presents the reading must have his own soul on fire with the subject. He must not, however, take so much time for reading and commenting that there remains little or no time for prayer and testimonies. We must always bear in mind that the primary purpose of the Week of Prayer is to afford an opportunity for the members of the church to engage in seasons of earnest prayer and supplication.

{May} God grant that every minister and mission worker the world around may, under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, do his very best to make the Week of Prayer this year all that God wants it to be for His people.♦



## JESUS

wants all of me

### Listen to God's Word

God promises to provide everything you need. He gives strength, health, food, good friends, family, and much more. Sometimes all of these things come in the form of instructions. For example, the Bible says which kinds of food are better for our

health. The Bible also says how we must act with our friends and family. The Bible provides all the instruction we need to live a better life. The Bible is like God's voice for us. How do you think you can hear God's voice? Have you already done this today?

"This same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

From: Ferreira de Oliveira, S.: *Talking with God*. Editorial Safeliz, Madrid, Spain, 2015

## PRAYER OF **CRISTIANO**

Dear Jesus,

I am very good. I am good with mommy, with daddy, with my brother Olivero, with my grand-parents, and with my friends. I am also nice to my teachers, I try to forgive them even when they are so boring.

From: "Caro Gesù, potresti cambiare il sapore agli asparagi? 100 nuove letterine dei bambini a Gesù". Sonzogno Editore, Milano, 2007

©Shutterstock.com



### IN SYNERGY

# Children's Week of Prayer: Additional Material from the Unions of the EUD

Prayer and Bible reading are vital, not only for adults but also and especially for children. That's why, already some months ago, the EUD CHM Union directors started to work together on additional practical material for the week of prayer. Ideas were collected and put together and you will find them in the second part of this Bulletin as a special issue for the Week Of Prayer. (After the first "normal" part, we added a section that just consists of this material we collected.)

Oftentimes, children are regarded as too young to fully understand what it is all about. However, this view is not true; it is not even Biblical. Jesus Himself stated that "unless [we] change and become like little children, [we] will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mat 18:3). Obviously, children ARE able to understand, and, it seems, even more than many adults. More often than not, the problem are we as adults, who underestimate children's willingness and readiness to learn and absorb Bible truths, or we fail to present topics in a way children can understand. Thus, we are becoming an obstacle for "these little ones", and God

strongly dislikes that (see Mat 18:6).

While collecting and putting together this additional material, we had in mind the idea to help children understand the importance of prayer and the Bible in our lives and the Bible. We collected real stories and experiences children and adults had to encourage others to start or continue praying and placing their trust in Jesus. We put together some ideas for a Bible expo and games for children, collected links for more ideas. Special thanks goes to all EUD CHM directors who helped with this material.

It is our hope and prayer that this material will be of value and inspire the



recipients to prepare a week of prayer for children they will never forget. We strongly believe this will become a benefit also for many adults, not only those who prepare the event, but also the parents of the participating children, and eventually the whole church.

by EUD CHM

## MEMORIZING BIBLE VERSES

### In Church: Verse work sheet files

#### Supplies:

- one ring binder/loose-leaf file per child
- pencil, pen, and paper
- ruler and eraser
- photocopier and paper
- access to the Internet and copyright free Bible puzzles books to help create the work sheet

#### Instructions:

1. Label each binder with a child's name. Keep them at church to be collected on the way into the service and to be left behind afterward.
2. Add a different Bible verse work sheet each week for the children to do. Base the puzzles around a significant verse being used in the sermon. You will need to coordinate this with the pastor or speaker for the day.
3. Use all the resources you can find to help you create an interesting Bible verse work sheet. There are computer programs and web sites that can help you create simple crossword and word search puzzles.
4. Include space and ideas for things children can draw in connection with the verse.
5. Use an outline font to create letters that can be colored in.
6. Add some questions that will help the children to think about what the text means to them and the difference it can make in their lives.
7. Copy one work sheet per binder for the children.



From: Holford K. *100 creative ways 2 learn memory verses*. With permission from GC CHM

## SPECIAL NEED MINISTRIES

### Five disability categories: 2. Autism

Autism is one of the fastest-growing disabilities in America. According to *Autism Speaks*, 1 in every 110 children born today in America will have some form of autism, and similar numbers apply for Europe.

Autism spectrum disorder is a general term for a group of complex disorders of brain development. ASDs can impact a child's functioning at different levels, from very mildly to severely. Autism is characterized by delays in language and communication development and difficulty with social interactions.

The *Children's Ministry Pocket Guide to Special Needs* (Group Publishing) offers these tips for serving children with autism:

- Be as concrete as possible in your stories and presentations.
- If there needs to be a change in routine, prepare the child by rehearsing the child's role in the new routine.
- If a child has an increase in unusual behaviors, this is usually a sign that the child is stressed.
- Avoid verbal overload.
- Break down activities into smaller parts.
- Build in special opportunities to show the child the special talents and abilities God gave him or her.
- Keep your classroom as calm as possible. Overstimulation can create confusion and fear for the child.
- Use repetition to help the child learn a new concept.

ALWAYS  
UNIQUE  
TOTALLY  
INTELLIGENT  
SOMETIMES  
MYSTERIOUS

©Shutterstock.com

From: Verbal, P. *Special Needs Ministry for Children*. Group Publishing, Loveland, USA, 2012

To know God is eternal life. Are you teaching this to your children, or are you teaching them to meet the world's standard? Are you getting ready for the home that God is preparing for you? ... Teach your children of the Saviour's life, death, and resurrection. Teach them to study the Bible.... Teach them to form characters that will live through the eternal ages. We must pray as we never have before that God will keep and bless our children.

Child Guidance, p. 494



# Father Adam



©Shutterstock.com

## Incredi-Biblical

"Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living."

Genesis 3:20

Who did Adam's son marry?" Anna asked her Bible teacher after class.

Caught by surprise, Miss Chloe asked Anna to repeat her question.

"What I want to know is, since there weren't any other families on earth with daughters for Cain and Seth to marry, who did they marry?"

Miss Chloe smiled. "You're right," she explained, "there were no other families on earth. God had created only Adam and Eve. But the first couple had many children, and eventually the brothers

and sisters married each other."

Anna's forehead wrinkled, "But how do you know that? I thought Adam and Eve only had Cain, Abel and Seth. I didn't think they had any daughters."

Miss Chloe reached for her Bible. "Let's see what Genesis says." Turning to chapter 5, she found the verse she was looking for.

"After Seth was born," Miss Chloe read, "Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and daughters" (Genesis 5:4). Then Miss Chloe handed the Bible to Anna so she could read it for herself.

Anna gave the Bible back to her teacher with a smile. "I never realized that," she told her. "I think that's the reason I like this class so much. We always find the answers in the Bible."

## Info Splat

Adam was 687 when, in man's eighth generation, Methuselah could have spent time with Adam. Noah was born 126 years after Adam died, but Noah's grandfather Methuselah could have shared stories he got from Adam.

## React now!

What other types of questions might people ask you that you would answer from the Bible? How can you know where to find your answers?

From: Bockmann, M. et al.: *Elasti-Brain. 365 Devotions to Stretch your Mind and Shape your Faith*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 2008

## SECRETS FROM THE TREASURE CHEST



### How can you really get into the Bible?

– Kendra, 13

I like the way Kendra phrased her question. She doesn't just want to read and contemplate God's Word. This girl wants to *get into* it!

Here's something I do that helps me time after time. Before I sit down with the Bible, I think about my life. What are my needs right now? Do I long for encouragement? Am I afraid? Do I have doubts? Am I having problems with someone at that moment?

Then I ask God to whisper to me through the texts I'm about to read. I'm always *amazed* at what happens next. Bible passages that didn't mean a thing to me before suddenly speak directly to my problems. Old memory verses, long ago learned and forgotten, jump out at

me with new and exciting messages.

You see, Kendra, it's not so much that I'm getting into the Bible; the Bible is getting into me! The God I worship has been waiting for this moment. He's primed and ready to fill my thoughts with unique revelations, with workable plans, with forgiveness.

I've also found that a Bible "promise book" helps a lot. You can buy them at Christian bookstores. They list texts covering any number of subjects.

Paul says, *"The word of God is living and active ... it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight"* (Hebrews 4:12, 13, NIV).

Dig in, Kendra. Let God's Word amaze you, too!



©Shutterstock.com

From: Mills, C.: *Secrets from the Treasure Chest. Questions Kids ask about Life*. Review and Herald Publishing Ass., Hagerstown, MD, USA, 1996



# ACTIVITY REPORT



## Global Youth Leaders Congress

### Youth Leaders called to pass it on

*Feedback from the Global Youth Leaders Congress organized to equip, engage, and empower leaders for the new generation*

Coming from more than 150 countries of the world, about 1,600 youth leaders arrived at Kongress Palais Kassel Stadthalle, Kassel, Germany, on July 31. They were all eager to attend the Global Youth Leaders Congress organized by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church (GC), from July 31 to August 4.

In the lobby of the Kongress Palais there was an excited exchange of hugs and greetings. It seemed that everyone knew each other, but all it took was being there to become part of the group, and to feel welcome.



iCOR coordinator, Baraka Muganda and Gilbert Cangy, former GC Youth Directors, Allan Martin, teaching pastor of *Younger Generation Church*, and the final message by Ted Wilson, GC President. All of them focused their lectures on the necessity to empower the identity

that will enable youth to live their Christian lives successfully. All the presentations were Bible based and Christ oriented, highlighting His forgiving approach to help youth to find the way of salvation. By the presence of Linda Koh, GC Children's Min-

istries, and some CHM Directors of the EUD, also children had their place at this congress.

In addition to the messages and dozens of breakout seminars, where youth leaders could find ideas to equip, engage and empower their local youth groups, the day's mainstage presentations included the sharing of tangible tools for youth ministry. Difficult to list them without entering in details. We would like to highlight two that are

closer to our country context: *Twisted Reality* and *Steps to Christ*. Both of them are *new generation media approach projects* oriented, catching the attention of youth by the use of videos, groups dynamics, storytelling, etc. The goals of these two projects are mainly aimed on helping young people to give meaning to their lives and to rediscover the value of the Biblical perspective.

A wonderful surprise was also introduced at the opening session: a unique Bible for young people was presented as a world premiere. "A Bible with different features planned precisely to meet the needs of a young audience that needs answers, advice, and food for thought" said Mario Martinelli, CEO of the Publishing House Safeliz. This Bible is available in English, Spanish and French. The real surprise was that the Bible was given to all participants for free. You can order this Bible on: <http://safeliz.com/AD/yo/yo/index.html>

The Congress has been followed per live stream on <http://youth.adventist.org/GYLC>

by EUD Communication Department



We have to say that beyond the "business" aspects they were supposed to participate in, these youth leaders were sure to live an unforgettable event because whenever youth can meet other youth, it is to consolidate that feeling of camaraderie that makes them a unique body.

Gary Blanchard, GC Youth Leader, in his short opening message, inaugurating the congress, referred to the biblical character of Elijah, whom he sees as a model of a youth director for his role as an educator, who inspired others to determine a more intergenerational approach. And this was the tone of the whole congress.

The main messages were presented by youth speakers like David Asscherick, Australian pastor and co-founder of *ARISE*, Ty Gibson, American pastor and Co-director of *Light Bearers*, Stephan Sigg, former EUD Youth Director and



# Keep in Mind

EVENTS FROM THE INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

## 2018



### September 7-9

K.I.D. Training  
Porto, **Portugal**

### September 21-24

Children's Congress  
Sicily, **Italy**

### September 28-30

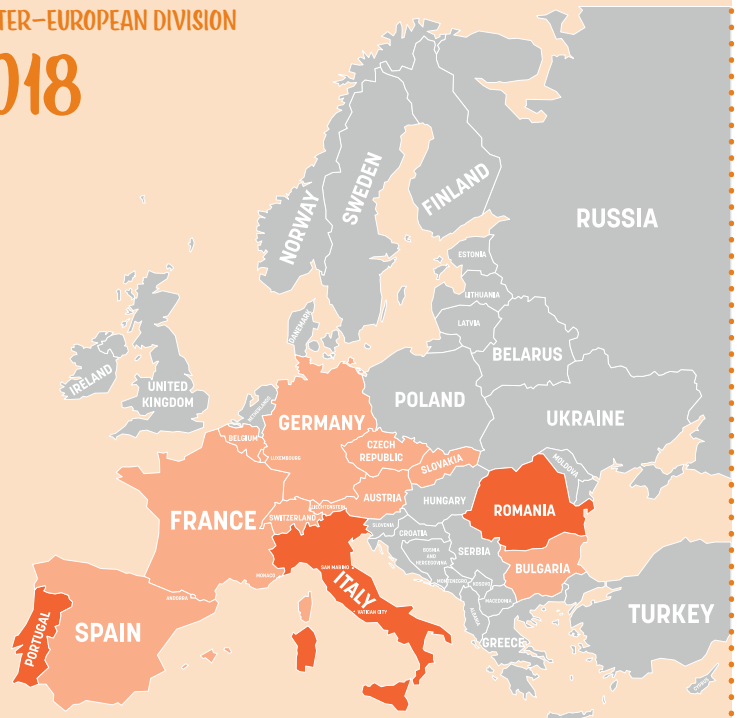
CHM Training Course  
Poppi, **Italy**

### October 5-8

CHM Training Course  
Vallegrande, **Italy**

### October 18-21

Special Needs Ministries Congress  
Bucharest, **Romania**



## SAVE THE DATE!

## 2019

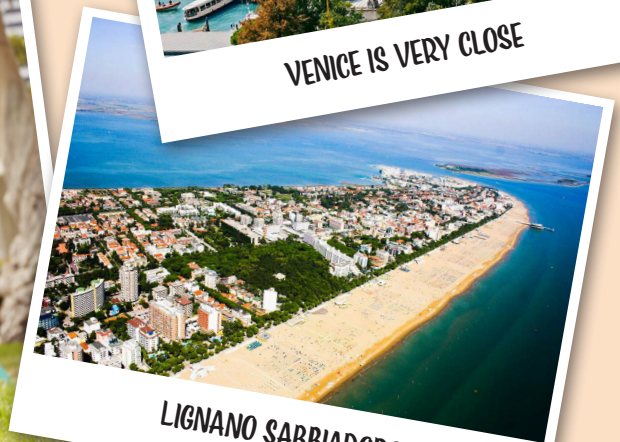
### September 18-22

**People 7.0. Forward Together**  
Interministries Summit  
Organized by  
Children's / Family / Women's Ministries  
Lignano Sabbiadoro (Venice), **Italy**

Very  
important event for  
all people involved in CHM /  
FM / WM – and others.  
Write it already on your agenda  
for 2019!



VENICE IS VERY CLOSE



LIGNANO SABBIAADORO



MAKE SURE YOU COME!



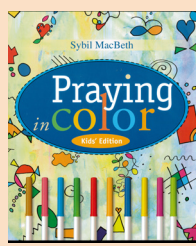
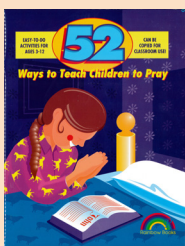
# Ten ways to involve children in the Offering

Even very young children can be taught how to help collect an offering. A supportive and helpful deacon can stand nearby if necessary. When we trust our children with an important and responsible task they feel very valuable.

1. A group of children could collect the offering under the supervision of a deacon or a deaconess.
2. Collect the offering in attractive gift bags, to remind the congregation everything we have is a gift from God, and it's lovely to say thank you by giving something back.
3. Involve children in praying the simple prayer dedicating the offering to God. They can write a few sentences ahead of time and read the words aloud, or they could sing a song of thanks to God for the money.
4. Give each person a plain envelope. Ask them to write or draw something on their envelope that they want to say "Thank You" to God for. Then they can put their offering in the envelope and place it in the offering plate.
5. Use an interesting offering container for the children's offerings, and collect their money in it when they come to the front for their children's story. Or let the children take it in turns to find or make interesting offering boxes for their special offering.
6. Give each child a plastic or cardboard tube, such as an empty denture tablet container. Ask them to decorate the tube and bring it back in a month's time filled with coins.
7. Supply children with their own colorful offering and tithe envelopes, or give them blank ones to decorate to celebrate the money they are giving back to God.
8. Some churches have a special offering that the children collect each month, and that money goes towards a local church project that will bless the children, such as a Holiday/Vacation Bible School event, or a special item for their Sabbath School rooms.
9. Invite children to design and decorate offering containers that can be used for a special church event, such as gift boxes for Christmas, or pumpkin shapes for Thanksgiving. Or maybe they could hunt for special collection boxes to match the themes of the sermons?
10. Ask the musicians to play quiet background music when the offering is being collected. During this time you can interview some of the children about the things they want to thank God for.

From: Holford, K.: *Altogether Wonderful. Exploring Intergenerational Worship.* With permission from GC CHM

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES



52 Ways to Teach Children to Pray

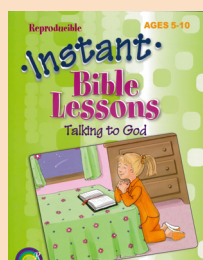
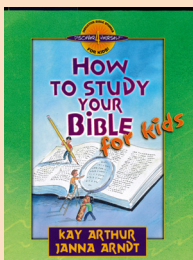
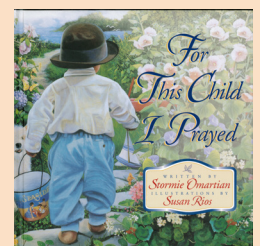
Praying in Color

How to Study your Bible for Kids

Instant Bible Lessons

My Time with God

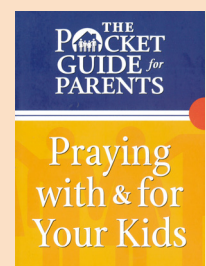
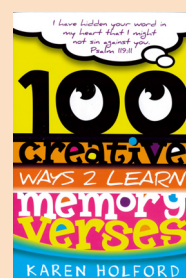
For this Child I Prayed



100 Creative Ways 2 Learn Memory Verses

Praying with & for Your Kids

All these books are great resources you can use for preparation for the Children'd Week of Prayer.



Producer: Elsa Cozzi  
Editor: Regina Fleischmann

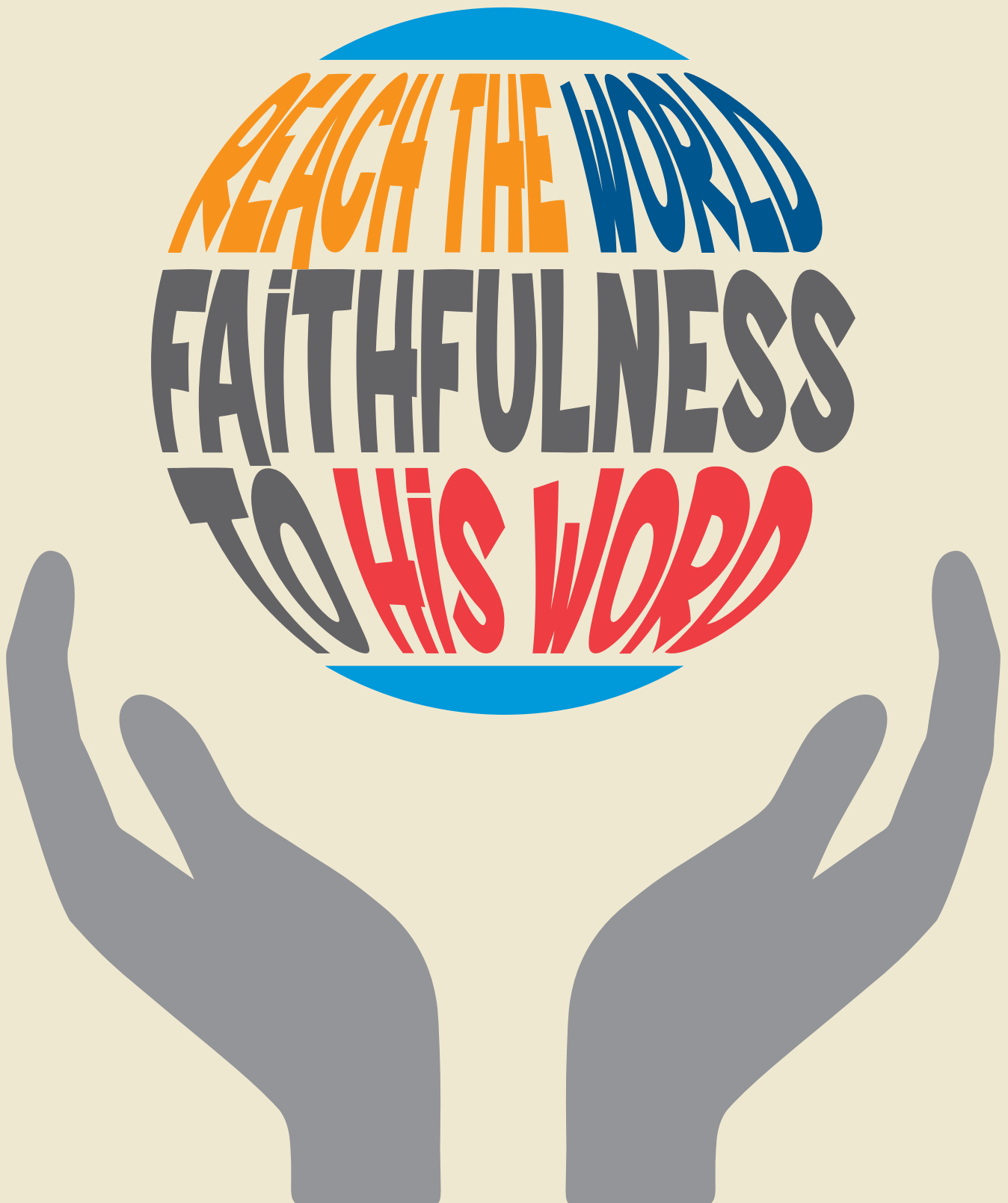
Contact: [elsa.cozzi@eud.adventist.org](mailto:elsa.cozzi@eud.adventist.org) | [regina.fleischmann@eud.adventist.org](mailto:regina.fleischmann@eud.adventist.org)





**CHILDREN'S**  
*Week of Prayer*  
**2018**

**- Additional material for the Week of Prayer 2018 -**



## INTRODUCTION

On the following pages, you will find some additional thoughts and ideas from Julie Weslake, author of the Children's Week of Prayer, that may be used to prepare your Week of Prayer activities. After that, we share faith and prayer experiences collected from people in EUD territory, together with ideas for activities for children. The last pages include additional readings sent

from the Czecho-Slovakian Union. We hope you will find a help for your WoP planning

### Some words from Julie

"One of the most important things you will do in your life is finding 'Treasure in God's Word'. We find Jesus our Saviour through reading the Bible, and we can rely on the many treasure texts to give us hope and encouragement.

Gemma is a real grand daughter. She isn't old enough to ask me the questions I have written, but one day I pray that together we will search and find the amazing treasures that God has written for us.

May you enjoy reading and praying. I have prayed that you will find Jesus."



## PREFACE - Interesting Suggestion from the Past

# The Church School Week of Prayer

(Original article to be found in the Ministry Magazine, October 1952; [www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1952/10/the-week-of-prayer](http://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1952/10/the-week-of-prayer))

"Children of eight, ten, or twelve years are old enough to be addressed on the subject of personal religion. Do not teach your children with reference to some future period when they shall be old enough to repent and believe the truth. If properly instructed, very young children may have correct views of their state as sinners and of the way of salvation through Christ. Ministers are generally too indifferent to the salvation of children and are not as personal as they should be. Golden opportunities to impress the minds of children frequently pass unimproved."

Testimonies, vol. 1, p. 400

The peak age for baptisms among our own Seventh-day Adventist young people is twelve to fourteen years. And the twelve-to-fourteen-year-old children are in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades of our church schools. The worker who makes clear, definite calls for decisions for Christ in grades one to five will find that the Holy Spirit will strive with the hearts of those who are entering the portal of manhood and womanhood, to be baptized and thus be born into the church. I love to think of the first great choice of early manhood and womanhood being the choice for God, indicated by baptism.

In order for children to have correct views of their state as sinners and of the way of salvation through Christ, we should make the talks given during our Week of Prayer clearly portray the two paths—the world and the Christian way—the power of the Holy Spirit, of prayer, and of the Bible; and the love of God.

{...}

### Teaching Children to Testify and Pray

Some workers have been disappointed in the response church school pupils give to a call for testimonies and prayer, when the truth is that some children actually do not know how. It is our privilege to teach boys and girls the joy of testifying for

Christ and the joy of taking part in prayer.

The easiest way to begin is to announce your subject the day before, and ask the boys and girls to find a text on that subject to read or repeat. They will find no difficulty in standing to repeat a text on:

- The love of God
- Praising God
- Keeping the commandments
- The promises

Then, when they are accustomed to standing and talking, the leader can announce a "blessing day," and suggest testimonies like these:

"I thank God for my eyes, and I am determined that they shall read and look at only that which is pure and clean."

"I thank God for my feet, and with His help I will go only to places where the angels can accompany me."

Two or three patterns could even be written on the blackboard. You will be delighted to see how the pupils will adapt them and change them to fit their individual needs and desires. Even with adults it helps to give two or three suggestive testimonies as you are inviting them to stand.

Many workers have followed the practice of having those who will testify stand all together. No only is it much easier for the

timid ones, but it saves a great deal of time.

In teaching children to pray it is good to start with the Lord's prayer, having them repeat it after you phrase by phrase, if necessary, three or four times, then in unison. After this take another prayer, and have them repeat it after you phrase by phrase, so that they can become accustomed to the phraseology of prayer. Then write out a number of sentence prayers and distribute them among the pupils, and let them read the sentence prayers. Next, tell them to read the sentence prayer and then add a phrase of their own, and you will be delighted to see how soon boys and girls will be able to pray a very acceptable prayer. I have used this method with my prayer bands at Junior camp, for often about half of the boys have not yet learned how to pray, and always before camp is over they eagerly take part in prayer.

The worker who thus leads his boys and girls through a Week of Prayer, following a theme that is illustrative and interesting, and who takes pains to teach his pupils to testify and pray will assuredly "see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied."

Eric B. HARE, GC, Associate Secretary,  
Sabbath School Department

Even if this text was written 66 years ago, and for the SDA schools, it is still valid for today and our churches, especially those with children. We want to encourage everyone who is working with children to take these words to heart and act accordingly.

## Why We Treasure the Bible

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Matthew 6:20, 21

### Let's Talk

1. What are some of the things that you treasure?
2. What could you spend your time and money on to get the treasures from the Bible?
3. What Bible texts do you treasure?
4. Talk to your friends and family, and see if you can find them all in your Bible.

### Let's Make

Draw a treasure map for around your room, church or home. Hide Bible texts and show on the treasure map where to go to find them. When your friends and family have found them, read them out together.

## Read the Bible It Can Be Trusted

“From infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

2 Timothy 3:15,16

### Let's Talk

1. What are some of the books and programs you have read or seen that you know are not real?
2. What books and programs do you have that are real and true?
3. How many Bibles do you have at home?
4. Where would you go to get a Bible?
5. Who are some people who don't have a Bible? How could they get one?
6. What would be good Bibles for children to read?
7. What would be a good way to read the Bible?
8. What would be a good time to read the Bible?

### Let's Make

Take a piece of fabric that is long enough to be tied around your friend's or family's eyes as a blindfold. Arrange the chairs in your room into an obstacle course. Have turns having your eyes blindfolded and being lead through the course and then leading people through the course. Make sure that people can trust you to lead them safely. Write directions for people to read to help others to get around and through the obstacle course. For example write down how many steps left and how many steps right or forward they need to make.

## Explore the Bible How I read the Bible

“In the same way, your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.”

Matthew 18:14

### Let's Talk

1. When do you have time to read the Bible?
2. Who reads it to you and helps you love the stories and God?
3. What other ways can you receive the Bible message other than reading?

### Let's Make

Design and make some Bible reading glasses. You could make these from cardboard and clear plastic or cellophane. Or you could make them from bending pipe cleaners.

## Applying God's Treasure the Bible Guides Me

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

### Let's Talk

1. If you could spend a day with Jesus, what would you talk about? where would you go? what would you do?
2. What things that you do with Jesus help can you thank him for?
3. What things that you do would you like him to change?

### Let's Make

Make a clay, plastercine or play dough animal. Have people guess what it is. Give it to someone else and have them change it into a new animal. Study the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly or a frog. Notice the big changes that are made by God's power. Understand that we also have this power when we ask for it and are connected to Jesus through the Bible.

## The Bible Shows Me Jesus

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21

### Let's Talk

1. Find out what your name means and why you were called that.
2. What questions would you like to ask Jesus?
3. What are your favourite names of Jesus?

### Let's Make

Write the treasure texts about Jesus on to strips of paper that are the same length. **Make a paper chain** by making the strips into little circles and as you join them together make them link together. Hang them between a picture of Jesus and a picture of you and your family.

## Understanding the Treasure of Hope

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Romans 15:4

“You are my hope and my shield; I have put my hope in your word.”

Psalms 115:114

### Let's Talk

1. What have you looked forward to?
2. How would you explain hope to another boy or girl?
3. Why is heaven so important to you?

### Let's Make

**Make a Promise Box.** Make a little box by folding paper or use a box that you already have. Decorate it with your drawing, stickers and stars. Cut out small pieces of cardboard or paper the same size and write your favourite Bible texts on to them. You can roll them up or leave them flat.

## Right from Wrong the Bible Helps Me Tell the Difference

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Mark 12:30, 31

### Let's Talk

1. What is a good guide for working out what is right and wrong?
2. When is a time that you showed your love for Jesus?
3. When is a time that you showed God's love for people?
4. What can you do if you make mistakes in loving God or others?

### Let's Make

Pack a box of clothes. Label each one with an action or character trait. Some will be labeled with words such as gentleness, sharing, reading the Bible, praying, and others will be labeled with words such as watching lots of DVD's, being selfish, lying and stealing. Sort the clothes into a suitcase that contains the clothes we are packing for heaven.

## Encouragement from the Bible

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”  
“Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.”

Psalms 119:05, 111

### Let's Talk

1. What eight treasures did we learn about this week?
2. Which ones are you good at doing?
3. Which ones would you like help with?
4. How can you build a strong relationship with Jesus?
5. How can you let your light shine for Jesus?

### Let's Make

**Make a Bible bookmark.** Write on it your favourite Bible text. Decorate it with pictures or stickers. Tie on some pretty ribbon to hang below the Bible page you are reading.

## EXPERIENCE FROM SWITZERLAND

### God Moves

*Every day, we as grandparents place our children and grandchildren in God's hands through prayer.*

Nearly every week I could take care of our three grandchildren. Every time I looked forward to this day. Urs, the oldest, was nearly 10 years old. He was a kind and cheerful boy. As I often did, I helped him with his homework after school. He had to divide in written form. Urs wanted to finish as soon as possible. So he did not write well and with errors. I corrected him. This time, Urs didn't like it at all! He looked at me angrily and said irritably: "There are too many exercises, and I don't need your help either!" In addition, he didn't behave well!

Silently I prayed and asked God for wisdom and calmness for Urs and myself.

With a morose expression he finished his math homework.

Later I cut Urs' hair, and after that he withdrew to his room to play. In the evening, when I knocked at his door to say goodbye, he came to me, hugged me and said: "Granny, I'm sorry because of what happened earlier!" His expression was open and cheerful again.

In this moment I was very happy and thankful that God had moved his heart and helped me stay calm.

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Is 55:8-9)**

## EXPERIENCE FROM SWITZERLAND

### Story of an accident

Hi, everyone I'm Laura and I live in Switzerland but I come from Martinique!

When I was living in Martinique with my mom, we were used to go to a tailor in town to make our dream dresses, especially for going to church on Sabbath.

Unfortunately, I do not remember if this time, the dress was for me or for my mom or even my grandma, but this day... we had to pick up a traditional dress of my Island. This dress was long, and colorful - how pleasant it was to see it!

My mom and I went to the dressmaker shop and she gave us the dress!

We got back in the car, took our seats and my mom started to drive...but we were discussing about how we wanted to spend that Sabbath afternoon or something like that, and because of that neither of us saw that we were going just

in the wall, right in front of us! We were about to have an accident, not so heavy as to get to the hospital, but the car might be broken and useless.

When my mom saw that, she immediately turned the steering-wheel as hard as she could to avoid the wall...but while she was trying to avoid that wall, we hit another one... and that wall was an electric board on it, with many dangerous cables in it.

The car was completely damaged, but we were alive. We were so thankful that nothing happened to us. My mom and I realized that we were protected by God and of course, that we had to be more careful.

I thank God for His protection in this dangerous situation and in every moment in my life, because He said that He would be there for us, always!

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Creation Story Anagram

Word list:

animals, birds, darkness, earth, fish, heaven, light, stars

adeknrss \_\_\_\_\_

aailmns \_\_\_\_\_

aeehvn \_\_\_\_\_

aeprt \_\_\_\_\_

arsst \_\_\_\_\_

bdisr \_\_\_\_\_

fhis \_\_\_\_\_

ghilt \_\_\_\_\_



©Shutterstock.com

## EXPERIENCE FROM AUSTRIA

### The Rabbit Prayer

It was a long time ago, and our children were still little. One of my daughters was 7 years old, the other 9. Back then, we had two rabbits named Schnuffi and Hoppel, whom my daughters liked very much. During the warm season, Schnuffi and Hoppel could gambol outside in the garden, and only in the evenings, we put them back in the cage to protect them from martens and cats.

But one evening it happened. We forgot to put the rabbits back in the cage. When I went into the garden the next morning, tousled Hoppel was there, but Schnuffi was nowhere to be seen. I called the children and we looked through the whole garden. However, we didn't find our Schnuffi. Both girls were very sad and cried because they were afraid a marten had eaten Schnuffi.

We went from house to house in the neighborhood and asked for our pet. But unfortunately, everything was in vain, Schnuffi was still missing.

Then my younger daughter said: "We can ask Jesus to

help us! For sure he knows where Schnuffi is."

I was somewhat indecisive, because I didn't want my daughter's faith to be shaken in case God didn't hear our prayer. But they began to pray right there on the street in front of our house. After we said "Amen", we went back to our house. Two women came towards us. We didn't know them and greeted them kindly. They greeted back and then stopped. One of them asked: "Excuse me, do you know someone in the vicinity who's missing a rabbit?" We could hardly believe it! God had heard our prayer even before we said it! The children were overjoyed and jumped for joy. Our rabbit had hopped over the street and through three gardens until the inner courtyard of a factory, and nothing had happened to it! Those two workers of the factory had found Schnuffi in the morning and put it in a box. Now they just bumped into us when looking for the owner of the rabbit. God's timing is really perfect and I could experience that hears every prayer!

## EXPERIENCE FROM PORTUGAL

### Prayer Experience

We were returning home after a missionary trip to the Indian village of St. Georges in French Guiana. Everything seemed perfect until we had to stop because a light of the car's dashboard went on. The car left us in the middle of the forest with a burning sun and nobody around who could help us. Everyone started to pray in their hearts asking God to help us quickly solve this problem. We thought it would be enough to pray and the answer would come immediately. But the answer did not come right away, and this was disappointing. But God wanted to strengthen our faith even if his answer took more time to arrive.

We had to do something, and even if we didn't know much about mechanics, we did know the car had overheated and we had to cool it down. When we opened the radiator to let the smoke out, the lid fell and disappeared between the cables of the engine. The problem had become worse, because now we could not start the car anymore. Our thoughts raced. Why doesn't God answer to our prayers? Why doesn't he see our need? Why doesn't he

help us? Hadn't we prayed? The problem didn't get fixed. It became more and more difficult and we continued to pray. You remember, with the lost lid everything was lost because we could not start the car anymore. So far, the three of us had prayed alone in our heads. Now we united and prayed together. The prayer was strong and simple: "Father, help us to find the lid and get back home safely. Help us to stay faithful in spite of the difficulties and to always trust you." Opening our eyes, the lost lid that was impossible to find was before our very eyes in the middle of all the cables. Hurray, what joy! God is great. He doesn't want us to stop praying even if things get difficult and impossible. It is surely impossible for us, but God can and lets us know without equivocation. But he also wants us to unite in prayer. God's words sounded in our ears: "Pray continually and if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven" (1 Thessalonians 5:17 and Matthew 18:19).

# Bible Character Riddles for Kids

## Jonah

Instead of going to Nineveh  
This person decided to bail  
Thrown overboard while out to sea  
He was swallowed up by a whale

## Joshua

When tasked with what seemed  
impossible  
He didn't just refuse and frown  
He marched the people round Jericho  
And the walls came tumbling down

## Moses

He led Israelites out of Egypt  
And went up Mount Sinai alone

He came back down with ten  
commandments  
Written on two tablets of stone

## Jesus

He is someone who  
Helped the blind to see  
He is also part  
Of the trinity

## David

It's amazing what this person did  
With a pebble and a sling  
He got rid of a giant  
And eventually became king

## Eve

This woman was created  
So Adam wouldn't be alone  
And the way that God made her  
Was by using Adam's rib bone



©Shutterstock.com

Sara



*My name is Sara, I'm 13 years old. I live in Italy. My father is Italian, but is not Adventist, my mother is from Romania and she is a Seventh Day Adventist. I live in Jesi, a city where most of the population is Catholic, and sometimes it is not easy to explain our faith to other people. However, I'll tell you the experiences I had which deeply touched me.*

**My first experience**

I had my first experience with the Lord when I was 7 years old. I subscribed to a Gymnastics training and by the end of the year the Sport Society informed us that our final essay was scheduled for a Saturday morning. When I got home I talked to mom and dad; I was so sad, because Sabbath is God's day and I wanted to go to church, not to the final essay. We began to pray together, so that God could do something in order to change the day

of the essay. A few weeks later I received God's answer to our prayer: the teachers told us that the essay was rescheduled for Sunday, due to organizational reasons. I was overjoyed. When I came home, I knelt down and thanked God for His help. This experience gave me a first-hand understanding of the presence of God in my life; it also gave me the strength to face my shyness in talking about Jesus to others.

**God does not abandon me!**

Since that time I have realized that God won't abandon me. In fact, after attending a project called "K.I.D., Kids in Discipleship" at our local Church (where parents and children are gathering together to study the Bible to become disciples of Jesus), I felt that God spoke to my heart and wanted me to be more committed to him. KID has been a wonderful experience, because it helped me to connect more with Jesus, and share Him more with my family and friends through prayer.

In fact, after a short time, a beautiful thing happened.

You need to know that in Italy, children must take one hour of instruction in the Catholic religion in school; however, as an Adventist, I could have asked for a dispensation. But my family

and I have always felt that by participating I could better share my faith with others, so I always attended this hour of Catholic religious teaching. During one of the lessons, the teacher began to ask questions about the Bible and I was the only one who knew the answers; so, the teacher was curious and one day she asked me how I knew the Holy Book so well. I explained that I'm a Seventh Day Adventist and that on Sabbath in Church we have Sabbath School, where I learn the many Bible stories; then, during the week, I review them with my parents. That's why I know Bible so well. My teacher was satisfied with my answer and asked if she could come to my church sometime to see how Sabbath School works. One day she came to Church on a special occasion and was really pleased, telling me that she would be back.

**Teacher for a day**

Even in junior high school one of my teachers was curious about my religion, because in class I spoke openly about it; I told her what we did in my local Church. So she asked me if I could give a lecture during her class time explaining the differences between our religion and the Catholic religion, and also to explain how we spend Sabbath at Church. So I prepared

a speech with the help of the Sabbath School teachers as well as the Pastor. Even my parents helped me, especially my father who, despite not being baptized, put great deal of effort into looking for verses in the Bible. I must admit that when I arrived in the classroom, I was very excited: I had brought my Bible and my little copybook. As I spoke I was stunned that my classmates were listening to me with great interest and eventually they asked me so many questions! When I talked about the 4th commandment, about the Sabbath, my teacher was surprised and concerned; she realized for the first time that the Bible tells clearly that God's day is the Sabbath, not Sunday. Then, at the end of the lesson she asked me if it were possible to arrange to have our class come to my Church and participate in a Sabbath worship next year. I was delighted with her proposal, and cannot wait until that day arrives.

God is using me to proclaim his Word and I pray that, through Him, I can touch someone's heart. I ask you to pray for me and for my class that will soon be coming to my Church. Dear friends, never be ashamed of your God, because He will always remain at your side!

# Bible Questions

**Where in the bible (Old or New Testament) you could find the following books?**

Genesis, Joshua, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Mark, Romans, Ephesians

**In which books can you find the following?**

- Adam and Eve in Eden
- Moses parting the sea with ease
- Jesus healing sick people



©Shutterstock.com

## EXPERIENCE FROM GERMANY

### My Name Is Kathy (name changed by editor)

I grew up in a house where we didn't talk about God. My mother had lost her faith still as a child, my father grew up totally unbelieving. That's why I didn't know anything about God.

When I was about 14 years old, my mother and I didn't get along at all anymore.

We had a crisis. We quarreled all the time. It was that bad that I spent some time in a hostel for young people only not to see each other.

Also, I started to wonder if there was a God or not. Who could answer this question?

At the same time, my mother, who suffered a lot with the situation, was asked by one of her colleagues if she wanted to grapple with God. This colleague had started attending the Adventist church because her daughter was part of the pathfinder group there. A classmate had taken the daughter to the pathfinder meetings where she had come to know God and had been baptized. Then her mother had taken Bible studies and was baptized as well. Now this mother and my mother got into conversation and my mother wanted to know a lot about God. Her colleague invited her to a women's group meeting. I realized how my mother changed. Our relationship got better; she was more pa-

tient. One day I asked her if I could accompany her to this group meeting. Of course, I could.

So I sat among these women who were a lot older than me. And that's where I still sit every week. My mother was baptized. The only one of our family, she believed and started to attend church every Sabbath.

In the meantime, I have found God, too. I know: Jesus is my Saviour. I am happy with this. Of course, there is still much to learn. At the moment, I have no time for Bible classes – but maybe that will come. I try to attend church.

I can only recommend to every teenager to tackle with God. Just look for people who can explain it all to you. Don't be afraid to put your questions. I am curious about what will still happen in my life with God.

I often talk about God with my friends, who mostly don't believe. "What? You believe in God?" they ask in amazement. I am just a normal teenager and don't look somewhat "religious". "Yes, why not?" I usually answer. And then we talk.

If you already know God, talk to others. Only through those people who were not afraid to talk about their relationship with God I came to know Him.

## EXPERIENCE FROM GERMANY

### A Way to God

We are a big pathfinder group in Germany.

We meet every other week and have a lot of fun together. The good thing is that we have many kids of non-Christian families with us. Here they probably come to know God for the first time in their lives. When we meet, we always have a devotional and sing Christian songs. As our friends don't know much from the Bible, we sometimes spend the whole day together and play a biblical story. We dress up as, and play the persons in the story. One leader tells the story in sections and we play exactly what he says. Then we do handicrafts, cook, and paint something about it. And when we are journeying or stay in the church overnight, we do worship on Sabbath: that way, our friends automatically come to know Jesus

and we really have fun.

The best thing is that by this, decisions for Jesus were made.

A girl was baptized at age 14, and a little later her mother, who just wanted to know what her daughter was doing. And through this mother, another family came to know Jesus, and more people were baptized.

Some older youths who did not grow up in church are now leaders in our group. They totally support the Christian message and pass it on to younger children.

We hope that in this way, still many of our friends can come to know Jesus.



©Shutterstock.com

### Helpful youtube videos:

- **Experience the book**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jg9ru2HjgB8>
- **Kids answer Questions about What is the Bible?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51zIRCRvQEc>
- **Put God First**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1f9c-9rKLno>
- **on the same concept:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfitKtBdUZU>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppMJJVSBPmI>



## Neuropsychology Exam

Hello everyone, my name is Laura, and I come from Martinique but I'm actually living in Switzerland! I'm in this country for my studies in speech therapy which can be hard sometimes. Maybe some of you know my future work because you or a friend of yours have already been at speech therapy!

Well, I was saying that this study could be hard sometimes, because you have to learn so many things...about what you have in your magnificent brain, how does it work, what can you do with it? So many questions, so many lessons though! For example do you know that 90% of the human population are right-handed and just 10% are left-handed and more incredible...this is tied to your brain's working process or the fact that we do not have just one type of memory but different memories! I learned all that stuff in neuropsychology class! And by the end of the month of January, I had to pass the exam of this class. I was so worried that all this informations could not fit in my memory!

So, I prayed to God and

I said to Him, "Please, do something, I'm so worried that I may forget, that I miss something when revising my lessons..." I asked Him, "Am I doing all things right? Maybe I'm missing something because I have so many doubts about what I can remember for the exam." I was really scared but in the same time I was praying that God may help me to relax and keep learning my lessons. So, I did my best to learn everything, but I was still wondering if it was enough...

Exam day came and I was somehow not stressed, I prayed again and I said to God: "Okay, I'm here, I have learned everything I could, now it's your turn to show me what to do!" I received my copy, took my pen and started to read what all the exam was about.

There were four exercises, the first one was okay, the last one was okay too...but the problem was in the second one, plus, it was tied to the third one. So, you wonder what the problem was? Well, it was about a diagram! A diagram that I had to draw but I could not remember any part

of this one, the other I could, but not this one! I prayed again "Lord, I'm not worried about it anymore, if I do not remember, and I have to take this exam a second time, that's okay." Well, I'm not saying that I was not trying to figure out, what this diagram looked like on my computer...I did try to remember.

I decided to put this one aside and come back after doing those I did remembered. After that I came back, and still "Lord, I surrender, I'm not upset, I'm not mad at myself or you, it's okay but if you plan to do something for this exam please, now is the time."

So I tried to answer the third question without the second one, but of course, if they were linked, they had a reason.

But you know what...I was reading the exercise's instruction and something told me "just read again this sentence" so I read it again and when I did it, the whole diagram just appeared in front of my eyes. Just like that, the whole diagram with the names of each part was just in front of me!

I was so glad about it. But more important, I do know that it was not just about me who remembered something but God who helped me remember it! And indeed, the third exercise was linked to the second, but not just a bit!

I remember that I was glad, felt such a relief and got the assurance that God does not leave us alone. But you know, what I found the most important is to have faith, to believe that no matter how things go, God wants to be with us...So I was prepared to take this exam a second time not because I did not believe that God can do something but because I know that sometimes or many times, my plans are not His. However, I know that we have a common plan, way bigger than passing an exam, He loves me and wants me to be happy with Him, I do know that He can use my studies to do something amazing for Him but He can use something else to teach me another way to give Him praises and glory.

## Did you know?

### Why do we have a Week of Prayer?

The General Conference recommended already in December 1885 to have a Week of Prayer. At first, it was hold in December, connected with Christmas:

*"We would therefore recommend [...] That our people everywhere be requested to make Christmas donations to the European and Scandinavian Missions, to relieve them as much as possible from their present embarrassment. And we would further recommend that the week between the holidays, including the Sabbath, January 2, be set apart as a Week of Prayer; and that the General Conference Committee suggest suitable subjects for consideration each day, and also prepare addresses to be read at the beginning*

*of this Week of Prayer and at suitable intervals during the week. We would urge upon all presidents of conferences, ministers, and church elders to give this matter their immediate and faithful attention, and see that every church, and as far as possible every individual, is informed of the nature and object of this Week of Prayer; and that all join in humbling ourselves before God and pleading with him for a deeper conversion, that his blessing may rest upon the work that is begun, and that he may open the hearts of those that have means to use this talent which God has given them to send the truth to the nations of the earth, to gather out of them a people for his name."* (Seventeenth Meeting, December 6, 1885).

During the 27th Annual Session (October

17 - November 4, 1888), it was recommended to have one week set apart

for all churches as a week of prayer. Included in this week were days of fasting and special prayer, as well well as a day of praise and thanksgiving. It was also decided to prepare "appropriate articles or Bible readings". The minutes on this point start with a statement:

"The plan adopted for the last two years, of having a week of prayer in December, with important instructions to be read each day to our people, has proved a great spiritual blessing to all our churches which have carried out the plans suggested [...]."

Source: <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Minutes/GCSM/GCB1863-88.pdf>

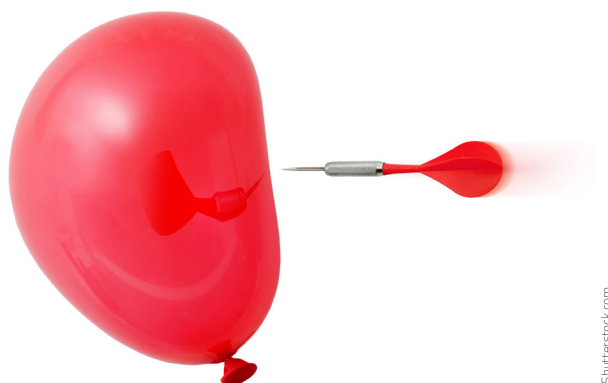


# Fun Ways to Memorize Bible Verses

## Balloon Darts

Print off 2 copies of the memory verse on different colored paper and put the words of the memory verse into about 5-6 balloons. Blow up the balloons and stick them to the wall. Split the group into 2 teams and give them some darts. The teams won't know which balloons will have their memory verse words in it. When all the balloons have been popped, the first team to arrange the memory verse and read it out is the winner.

Warning: Don't let kids go up to the wall until all the balloons have been popped and no one is throwing any darts!



©Shutterstock.com



©Shutterstock.com

## Sing it (from K. Moser, *Creative Christian Ideas*, p. 82)

Split into groups and have each group do the memory verse in a different music genre (eg. Advertising jingle, high school musical, rap, soap opera TV theme song, Opera, Country and Western etc). Record the songs if you have the technology and use them in the coming weeks to remember the verse.

Alternatively, use a memory verse song already written (eg. Colin Buchanan) to teach the memory verse. You can play the song on CD and sing along or play it live! (playing live might be best, because the CD can be a bit lame).

## Verse Response (from K. Holford, *100 creative ways 2 learn memory verses*, p. 53)

Give each child a piece of paper and a pen. Read the memory verse aloud; then discuss it together. What does it mean? How does it apply to your life today? What does the verse tell us about God's love? If you were to rewrite the text, what would you write? What is the best thing that the verse has to say? What does it say to you personally?

Give the children the time and space to write a letter to God in response to the verse after they have explored the verse and what it means. You can also invite the children to write a poem, song or story instead of a letter. Or let them draw a picture or create something instead of writing a reply.



©Shutterstock.com

## Word for Word Relay

(from K. Moser, *Creative Christian Ideas*, p. 85)

Form teams for a relay race where each team member has to run up to the whiteboard and write one word of the memory verse (in correct order) until the entire verse is written. If time permits can do multiple rounds with different instructions e.g. Hop/jump to the whiteboard. Can also do with a memory verse jigsaw puzzle.



©Shutterstock.com

# Bible Quiz (with Answers)

1. What was the first thing that God created?  
**LIGHT**
2. Which day did God create plants?  
**THIRD**
3. What was the boat Noah built called?  
**AN ARK**
4. How many of each type of animal did Noah have on the ark?  
**TWO**
5. What is the symbol of God's promise to Noah?  
**RAINBOW**
6. Who received the 10 commandments from God?  
**MOSES**
7. What are we told to do in the fifth commandment?  
**HONOR OUR FATHER AND MOTHER**
8. What was the name of Moses' brother?  
**AARON**
9. What food do we ask God to give us in the Lord's prayer?  
**BREAD**
10. People look on the outward appearance, but what does God look on?  
**the HEART**
11. His father gave him a coat of many colors.  
**JOSEPH**
12. Who was thrown into a lions' den by King Darius? This person prayed to God three times a day.  
**DANIEL**
13. This young boy defeated a giant.  
**DAVID**
14. This prophet was swallowed by a fish.  
**JONAH**
15. What animal was often used for transportation in the Bible?  
**CAMEL or DONKEY (either answer is correct)**
16. Who was the Son of God?  
**JESUS**
17. What was the name of Jesus' mother?  
**MARY**
18. What did Jesus' father do for a job?  
**CARPENTER**
19. Jesus told a parable about a prodigal \_\_\_\_\_.  
**SON**
20. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?  
**JESUS WEPT**
21. How many disciples or apostles did Jesus have?  
**TWELVE**
22. Which of the apostles betrayed Jesus?  
**JUDAS**
23. What is another name for the sermon on the mount?  
**THE BEATITUDES**
24. What did Jesus feed to 5,000 people?  
**FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD AND TWO SMALL FISH**
25. What was the name of the Sea where Jesus calmed a storm?  
**THE SEA OF GALILEE**



## More Ideas for the Week's Readings

- Show and use images and illustrations connected with the reading (maps, sites, objects, ...) as much as possible.
- When the "Scriptures" are mentioned, tell the children that this is not the only interpellation - show also the Torah and/or other Bibles.
- Get each child to think about which story he/she does like the most. Then have them ask in prayer that Jesus helps them to apply in life what this story teaches them.
- For young children it is a bit difficult to understand the concept of "a plan for your life". You may want to give them some ideas, e.g. be available more often to help others.
- Whenever possible and feasible, learn Bible verses with gestures. That way it is easier for children to learn.
- After the week of prayer: put the Promise Box (see Thursday activity) that has been prepared on the table at the time of dinner. Every evening, one person opens the box and randomly takes a roll, reads the verse, and during dinner, everyone can explain what this text means to him/her.
- Make a puzzle containing the eight treasures (Bible verses) learned during this week.
- If time permits, let the children make two bookmarks (see Sabbath activity), one for him-/herself and one to be offered to a person of his/her choice.



# Ideas for Bible Expo

## Brainstorming WITH CHILDREN:

- What does the Bible mean to them?
- How and what may they put together to organize a Bible Expo?
- Where prepare it and for how long?
- What do they want people to remember from this Expo?
- Who will present the different steps?
- Whom to invite to visit it?
- ...

## Collecting material:

- Bibles: from church members (the oldest, the biggest, the smallest, different languages, editions, ...)
- Information about how the Bible is composed, illustrations, printed, ...
- How did the Bible come to us?
- ...

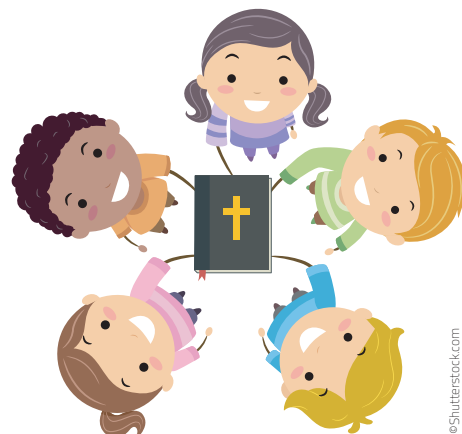
## What the Bible represents for

### people:

- Lamp
- Sword
- Protection
- Guide, ...
- ...

### Additional ideas:

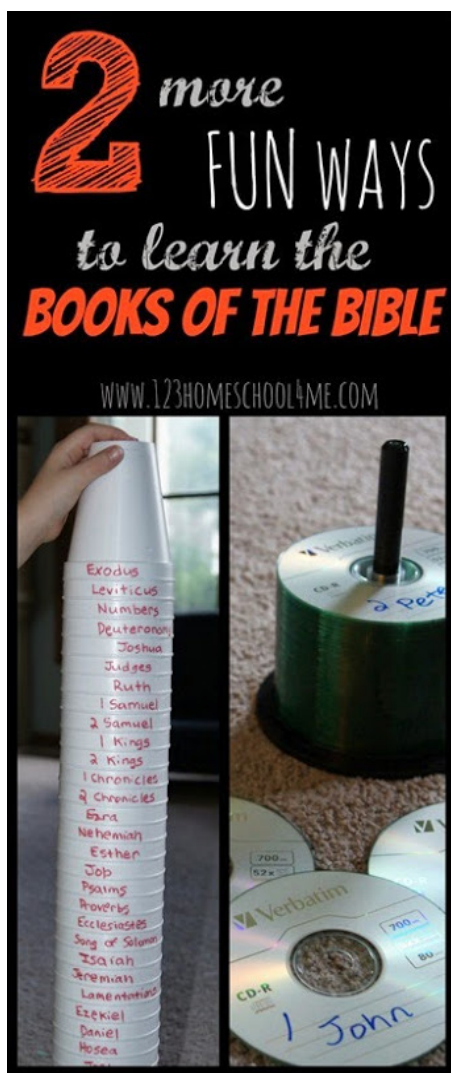
- Stories about the Bible from church members or from people around the world (exchanges within Unions/Conferences/Churches)
- Quizzes and questions about the Bible – to challenge other Unions/Conferences/Churches
- Videoclips



©Shutterstock.com

## More ideas

1. Ask children to illustrate his/hers favorite Bible story and put all illustrations according their order in the Bible.
2. Suggest children to find interesting ideas about the Bible (how it has been collected, what is the oldest book, what is the more recent, the biggest one, the smallest one, the heaviest one, ...)
3. Prepare a quiz, to give to Bible expo visitors, on some aspects of the Bible Expo they visit. Provide little gifts to give for correct answers.
4. Have a creative way to learn Bible books and put them in order (like on the images at the right).
5. Prepare a special corner to allow people visiting the Bible Expo to think and meditate on what means the Bible and the prayer for him/her. Provide paper, stickers, pens, markers, sticky tape, scissors, ... to allow create some crafts and hang them on a specific area (blackboard, branch of a tree, poster, ...)
6. Bible Scrabble – provide a box of Scrabble and ask visitors to add their own word to the chain (connected to Bible/Faith/prayer/...)
7. Use a Bible Timeline to decorate the walls. (Connect with us to receive the files prepared by GC CHM for printing.)



# Children to Children

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

What believing and praying do actually mean in today’s world? Is it different compared to Jesus’ times? Are we ready to enter the Kingdom of God? Such questions, perhaps being asked daily and forcing us to make our decisions, may have a capability to move us forward. What did Jesus want us to learn while He was here? We read that He was walking among people, preaching, healing, talking to them, performing miracles and sharing food with them. Why did He do all this? The answer is at hand, simple and clear: He loved us.

His love was exerted by helping others, by His kindness, mercies, by paying attention to the people. He understood all that worries us and all that gratifies us. He knows what we are looking for, what we are waiting for, and all we need.

We may listen to the stories from the Bible or learn Bible verses by heart, we may broaden our knowledge too, but all of that stays only as a mere information unless we begin to understand what the Lord wants to tell each of us.

Let’s use God’s word as a living word.

How? Try it in a practical everyday life. The following stories have truly happened. They aren’t old-fashioned stories, they are from our times. Just try to open your eyes and you may discover that most of us possess such stories too! Then, there is only one question left – what shall I do with them...?

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 25:40

## SUNDAY

# The Camp

“A person finds joy in giving an apt reply — and how good is a timely word!”

Proverbs 15:23

As every year, we prepared a summer camp for our children and also for children from neighboring churches. We invited children from the neighborhood too. We wanted to take advantage of a beautiful nature place where genuineness of God’s creation was uniting with the beauty of a virgin nature. Meeting at the train station, we had to walk to the campground. But first, we split into smaller groups and started heading towards our destination. The theme of the camp had been chosen according to our conditions in the campground – “On the Indian Trail”. Our program began covertly already when we were ascending the hills. Children could get acquainted to each other, and they had to think of their Indian nicknames according who they wanted to be in an Indian community.

Eventually, we climbed up a bit under the hilltop and there the beautiful sight of a mountain plain with a log cabin opened to us. Our adventure had begun. To pitch a teepee was necessary, so we

threw our backpacks to the ground and started. Some were bringing the poles, others were checking the ropes, canvas, and some were carving little tent pegs to tighten canvases together. Still others were bringing firewood, greens from the forest and some hay to fill up Indian “mattresses”. Girls were fixing meals and everyone was busy with plenty of fun and laughing. An Indian settlement was up all of a sudden. Time came to settle down in your own. So children were getting their stuff and moved to their teepee stepwise.

Then I noticed boys arguing: “... I will not sleep next to him!” Well, I really had to enter the dialogue: “Do you have any problems?” “I will not sleep next to him!” repeated one boy. “Why?”... a logical question of me followed. “Because he sways at the night!” the answer came. “What do you mean, he sways?” I didn’t understand. Then his little brother explained to me that Mark used to be in a foster care type of family, because his real mother

was an alcoholic. When she was leaving to the pub she would leave little Mark home alone! He was often left without food, proper care and in the dark room all alone. Because of all of that, he used to sit crooked in a ball on the edge of the bed and swayed in fear. When the other guys learned what had Mark gone through, they stopped having problems setting beds next to each other.

### Let’s Pray

Pray for an abused child. Just try to imagine what they need in particular. Is it love, or acceptance? Let us use God’s word as a living word. How? Through a **practical help**, for instance. You may prepare for friends from your neighborhood, who are possibly shy and trying to avoid contact with others, some games in which you’ll get better acquainted with each other.

# Tom

“Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.”

Psalm 54:4

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Tom. When he was born, his parents were told by a physician that this was not going to be easy. Tom was born prematurely, therefore he had to be in a special unit for the first three weeks of his life, and then always under medical control. Later it turned out that he would never be able to walk. Even so, Tom was a smiley and cheerful kid and he liked companionship of others. But...

He had always just a few friends. When he entered a private school at the age of seven, his classmates mocked him for what he was. He was sad because of that. Tom and his mom made a decision at the end of the second grade that Tom would change school and attend the state elementary school.

So they did and one time, when he was in the eighth grade already, boys from the other class came and started purposely

calling him names and spitting on him!

Tom was accustomed waiting for his mom at the end of each school day. On that very day his mom found him crying at the school hallway and she asked him: “What happened to you?” Tom replied: “The boys from the other class came and viciously called me names and were spitting on me!” Right after that mom went to see Tom’s teacher describing this problem to her. It was a hard task to make the teacher willing to solve the problem...

Tom’s mom suggested to invite a psychologist in order to help with this whole issue.

So the psychologist started visiting this class on a regular basis, playing special games with the children, through which they tried to find a solution for particular life situations. In one of these games, they sat in a circle. The psychologist commanded: “Everyone with blue eyes exchanges his

chair with other blue-eyed kid now!” Rushing around, the children exchanged a place. Then he continued: “Who thinks that we should help each other, he exchanges a place now!” Everybody got up and moved. The next instruction followed: “Who thinks we should help Tom?” Nobody moved, not one ...

Due to his disability, Tom wasn’t able to run, ride the bicycle, play football and do other activities, that kids of his age usually do. But none of those was never such a disappointment as when he found out that none of his classmates were bold enough to help him.

### Let's Pray

Pray for the disadvantaged children. What do these children need? Friends, experiences and adventures they cannot experience by themselves? We really shouldn't only talk about helping, we should help! Help in a **practical way**... if it is possible take such kids out, go with them to the cinema, to the cake shop or to the ZOO, go with them swimming and just grant your afternoon to them.

# Ola

“But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.”

Psalm 10:4

On one ordinary springtime day, when it wasn't raining and wind didn't blow, an amazing miracle had happened. A beautiful little girl with big chocolate brown eyes was born to mom and dad in a big city. But mom didn't choose any name for her so this little girl was given a name after the midwife, who helped her to come to this world. Mom didn't take this little baby home because she admitted she wasn't able to take care of the little one. And that is why a weepy baby was there since that, instead of a happy and smiley tittle girl. No home for her..., only the Infant Care Centre.

As the little girl grew it became clear that she wasn't doing well there. She had to go to the hospital three times during her first year of life and she had allergies to milk and soy. She didn't want to drink much, nor to eat or move. Her belly was hurting often but, above all, she sensed that nobody loved her. So the social workers decided to quickly find a new family who would like having her.

There was a Seventh Day Adventist family in a town at a distance of an hour and a half by car driving, to which a boy was born first. Then they got a girl from the Infant Care Centre. Still a little later, another boy was born to them and a girl eventually too. And because their hearts were full of love, they prayed for another baby for the long-term foster care. They were praying, being not aware of the fact that their baby was already there! They didn't know when the little girl first smiled and how she was doing. Until one day when the phone rang and the family learned, that there was a girl, 5 months old, and they could take her home.

The little girl first only wanted to be held in mother's arms and was afraid of new things and of the grass that shimmered on her feet. So she was with the animals whom she was meeting while riding in the stroller. But later she learned walking, playing, eating and drinking, laughing and sim-

ply everything that the little children have to learn. The only problem was her speech, so until today she has to visit a speech therapist and some other doctors occasionally. She has grown into a beautiful, dark haired and dark eyed young lady. Currently she is at the third grade, she likes attending SDA church where she goes to the summer camps with the Pathfinders and she also likes singing and playing a recorder.

### Let's Pray

Pray for the children who have to grow without parents. Try to imagine their needs..., is it a family comfort for instance? Let us use God's word as a living word. How? **In a practical way** - if it is possible for your local church you may visit children in a Foster Home facility and prepare for and with them a sport, musical, or art event. New friendships will broaden your points of view also...

## Petr

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.”

1 Timothy 6:17

Petr was nine years old and he really wasn't the favorite person in class. He didn't own a mobile phone, he wasn't the best in learning either, he didn't bring his lunch with him sometimes and he got in touch with a computer at the regular lesson only. I don't know how that happened but just back then my son started having a friendship with him. Perhaps because he noticed Petr's loneliness.

The two really got into the IT ever since. They were always discussing computer games, the graphics, the ratings, which one was better than another, which ones can be played online, etc. One day my son asked me if he might bring Petr to our home. It was no problem for me; the only thing I wanted was his parents knowing where he was going to be. My son told me that Petr lives with his mom only and they didn't have a mobile

phone to call. But because they lived nearby I was ok about that. D-day came, and the boys were here. My son was so excited showing Pete his room, all the stuff he had there, and at last, they ended up at the computer. So I brought them some biscuits and drink and I went to work to the garden. The afternoon was flying by quickly and eventually we've got to say goodbye to Petr and he ran home.

The next day my youngest daughter wanted to practice math on the computer but it didn't come up. So I told her it didn't matter, daddy would take care of it when he got home from work. We played Ludo instead. In the evening dad sat down to the computer and in a little while he asked: “What have you done with the system settings?!” I had no clue what he was talking about, but our son knew right away. He

slowly walked to the father telling him that yesterday he and Petr wanted to download a new game. And the computer was always asking them questions and they faithfully pressed “Yes” each time. But downloading didn't succeed anyway. “No wonder!”, daddy blew up, “you guys have uninstalled the entire computer operating system!”

Well, the next day I had to ask Petr to meet his parents. And I found out that Petr with his mom and his sister have lived in an Asylum Shelter House for a long time. I realized that all the stuff and care so common for our kids may not be available for every kid... This whole “computer story” didn't end their friendship but it made it even stronger instead!

### Let's Pray

Pray for the children from Asylum Shelter Houses. What are their needs? Clothes? Or school stuff? Let us use God's word as a living word. How?

In a **practical way** - if it is possible for your local church ask your local charity organization what you can possibly obtain for the children to bring some joy to their lives. It may be clothes, toys or things for school.

## Meet Ramah and her daughter

“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts.”

Psalms 96:8

Ramah has lived in Lebanon a little over two years. She holds her little daughter tight and she has a coarse voice due to the circumstances she has to live in. Her speech is silent and tame. Ramah was born in the village named Homs in Syria, where she used to live with her husband and their little daughter in a humble but cozy home, among their family members and friends.

When she looks around now, she frowns because her current life really does not remind her of those better old times before. Ramah is a widow and she lives in an unofficial refugee camp in Taraye, Bika region. Together with another twenty families, she sleeps on a thin mattress under the plastic rain sheet made out of poky plastic. The creaky tent offers only a weak refuge and life is hard out there. The temperature rises crazy in summer time and in winter it drops deep below zero. The rain sheet collapses often under the weight of the snow and the floor is flooded with water sometimes. No wonder Ramah's daughter suffers with respiratory problems. Desperate lack of health

care and hygiene aids does not help either.

Sometimes, Ramah and her husband were talking theoretically about escaping Syria, but they never thought they would have to. But when the war started raging in their town too, shooting and bombarding made them to leave all they had. Their family tried to stay in Homs at first, searching for a refuge in various shelters and empty houses. The war got more furious though, and it became clear that they couldn't stay in Syria anymore. Fortunately, Ramah's husband had an uncle and a brother who had lived in the refugee camp in Lebanon already, so the family left to join them. Living out in a small tent with very limited means wasn't easy at all. On the top of that Ramah's husband suffered with a hereditary heart defect. This wouldn't have been a big problem back in Syria where there was free medical care. Sadly, because of the total deficiency of the medical means, due to depressing circumstances and the lack of the medical care, his health went down rapidly. He had tried to get back to Syria for a period of

a time in 2016, to seek for a medical help, but he never returned to his wife and daughter.

Ramah was devastated by her husband's death. But, as she admitted, she couldn't afford grieving. She has to be strong and take care of her daughter. Ramah still hopes for the better future for her lovely girl. They survive in the refugee camp thanks to the generosity of their relatives and also because of the occasional help of the humanitarian organizations. But the lack of food, medical care, and bad hygiene presses hard on their every day life.

### Let's Pray

Pray for the children who have lost their homes, families and friends. Think on what they need - you can also invite an ADRA's representative to discuss this topic. And again, let's use God's word as a living word! How?

In a **practical way** - you may organize a meeting with an ADRA's representative if possible, and then you may begin with a financial gathering to support some of ADRA's project on the regular basis. Remember, Jesus is able to bless even small amounts, when they are being given whole-heartily...

# Just one of the pupils

“In you, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness, rescue me and deliver me; turn your ear to me and save me. Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go; give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of those who are evil and cruel. For you have been my hope, Sovereign LORD, my confidence since my youth.”

Psalm 54:4

One may say to himself that there is everything ok with life and nothing bad could happen. I was a normal school student until the fourth grade. I wasn't the favorite person of the class but I wasn't the outsider either. Just another pupil who doesn't think about the future yet.

That event happened one afternoon and I have to admit that I don't remember it very well. I was walking down to the school clothes room after lunch. These school clothes rooms used to be basically wire-woven cages, into which approximately 27 children have to put their clothes. Being there one felt often like tinned... I wasn't there by myself at that particular afternoon, a few boys from our

class were there too. We didn't talk to each other, though, but they had no reason to bully someone either. I was ready to leave when they circled me from all sides. They began mocking and offending me. It was getting worse and worse. It was worst when a classmate showed up. This girl pretended to be a rough-girl, but more than that, she was a spoiled princess who loved herself only. What do you think she did when she came? Yeah, of course, she joined the group! I couldn't withstand that anymore and I grabbed my satchel. The fastest I could and with all my strength, I hit and pushed one of the boys. Before they were able to get over, I disappeared through the door of the school.

## Let's Pray

Pray for the children who are bullied. Think what these children need. Could it possibly be sharing this bad experience with someone trustworthy? And again, let's use God's word as a living word! How?

In a **practical way** - if it is possible invite a children psychologist to debate this difficult theme with. Ask him what to do when you see someone being bullied, or if even you are the victim of such acting, what you should understand by the term "bullying", etc.

# Sabbath

“Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.”

Deuteronomy 4:2

When you say that you've got a problem with your faith at the school, that usually means other children ridicule you. Well, that is not my case.

We have a special teacher at our grammar school. He dictates notes to us so fast. When he writes on the blackboard (which is difficult to read anyway because of his

something like czech-russian handwriting...) we can hardly keep up with him. Fortunately, the relationship among us (kids) is very special, so we can finish our notes during the school breaks. One day, when we learned about a religion in the Civics, there was a test coming in afterwards.

One of the questions was: "Which day is

a blessed one?" I raised my hand and this teacher - let's call him Mr. P (I don't want to say his real name) - called on me. "It is Saturday," I replied. "No, it is Sunday, because people go to the church on Sunday!", said Mr. P. getting a little irritated. But I couldn't agree and told him: "According to the Bible it is Saturday." "No! It is Sunday and it always used to be that way!", Mr. P. raised his voice.

Well, I didn't want to get to the argument with him so I said nothing more. In this case the wiser was the one who didn't follow in such a communication.

## Let's Pray

Pray for the children who believe in God and His commandments. Just think what they need. Let's use God's word as a living word. How? In a **practical way** - if it is possible for your local church organize an afternoon potluck meeting where you can discuss the ways, how to fulfill the needs of our believing children.

For example:

1. Put together one adult with one child. This couple then will draw on the paper

their needs. The adult his former needs when he/she was a child, the child his/her current needs. (1 paper - 1 need, use the smaller paper-cards).

2. Then all together will sort out those drawings to the obvious categories and according to the number of the drawings in each category they will create a "pyramid of the needs". Next step would be to glue this pyramid on the big paper sheet to find out, which needs are the most common and

whether they change by the time or not.

3. A family or a mixed group of adults and children will find a story in the Bible, which describes precise needs and will read the story together.
4. Then everybody may suggest how, where, with whom, when... and what to do to fulfill the Christian children's needs.
5. Prayer for believing children, praises to the Lord God.