



EVANGELISM NURTURE
DISCIPLESHIP STEWARDSHIP

Seventh Day Baptist BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, INC.

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*THE HELPING HAND IN
BIBLE STUDY*

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THE SABBATH VISITOR

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord:

19 July 2013

Christian Education Sabbath is a time to focus on the education ministries *in your local church*. Set aside a Sabbath; Encourage people to participate in the ways your church helps people grow.

The recommended date for Christian Education Sabbath this year is September 7. It is the first Sabbath after Labor Day. If the 7th doesn't work for your church, consider using the materials at another time.

The focus of this year's material is discipleship—setting the heart to study, do, and teach the will and way of Jesus. The materials are gathered around complementary themes. First, disciples respond to the call of God by following, being changed, and joining His mission. Second, for His disciples, His love becomes obvious in life.

We have included a bulletin cover, a responsive reading, a bulletin insert (thought starter), a children's message, a Sabbath Visitor, a skit, and an empty tri-fold that could be used to list ways your church encourages Christian Education. This packet of information can be downloaded at <7db.info/ces>.

May God continue to make His presence and power known in His church through the ministry He has given to you.

In Christ,

Andrew J. Camenga

P.S.

Seventh Day Baptists encourage unhindered study and open discussion of Scripture. One way we can do this is by providing tools that help make Bible reading a part of every-day life.

If your church isn't already doing something to promote Bible reading, consider promoting <YouVersion.com> or the Discipleship Journal Bible Reading programs. We provide information about these programs on our website <EducatingChristians.org>.



***Discipleship is setting your heart on studying, doing,
and teaching Christ's word and way.***

Disciples of Christ choose to follow Him knowing that He will change their lives and call them to His work.

A disciple works to know the words and way of Jesus, to value that which He declared valuable, to develop the attitudes He commended, to do that which He commanded, and to teach others to do the same.

God works through His disciples to transform humans by renewing their minds, correcting their attitudes, and changing their behaviors.

Discipleship is a direct result of the Spirit of God working in humans "to open their eyes so that they turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in" Jesus (Acts 26:18).

Christians rely on the love of God, the grace of Jesus, and the fellowship of the Spirit for discipleship. Even though it is hard work, it is not the Christian's own work that makes the transformation occur. Just as the Christian walk does not begin with "picking yourself up by the bootstraps," it does not become the Christian's effort to make oneself right with God. God cause the growth.



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<http://EducatingChristians.org>

LOVE
THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND
AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

MARK 12:30

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SABBATH

HEARING THE CALL, CHOOSING TO FOLLOW

As he walked, Jesus invited those who gathered around him:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”¹

To the disciples who remained in the upper room after Judas had fled into the night:

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.”

Peter said to Him, “Lord, why can I not follow You right now? I will lay down my life for You.”

Jesus answered, “Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.”²

After Peter had denied knowing Jesus, Jesus invited him again:

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”

He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.”

He said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”³

After gathering on the mountain, before He had ascended on high, Jesus said to the disciples:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”⁴

EVERYONE: Today, we choose to love Him, to be His disciples.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SABBATH

DISCIPLES FOLLOW, CHANGE, WORK & LOVE

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets.

And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

Mark 1:16-20, ESV

When Jesus issued his call to Peter, Andrew, James, and John alongside the Sea of Galilee, He set in motion things that would change their lives forever.

This wasn’t accidental.

Jesus called these men to be disciples. And His call made at least three things clear: Disciples follow Him, disciples change, and disciples work for His mission.¹

Disciples Follow Him. Jesus said, “Follow me ...” Had the four stayed with their families, boats, and nets, they could not have become disciples.

Disciples change. Jesus said, “... and I will make you become ...” In order to become something, they would have to be changed into something they weren’t. Jesus caused the change. Good change in a disciple’s life is directed by Jesus.

Disciples work for His mission. Jesus said, “... make you become fishers of men.” Jesus gave them a new mission—His mission—people. Instead of focusing on ways to catch more fish, they would “go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15).

As disciples, the four followed, changed, and joined the mission of Christ. They learned to know the love of God, to love God, and to love those God loves.

How about you? As a disciple are you following, changing, and working for His mission? Can others see that you are a disciple because of His love in you?

¹ This idea is developed in *Real-Life Discipleship* by Jim Putman.

FROM: OBJECT LESSONS FROM AFRICAN LIFE

BY BETTIE B. PEARSON

2 ~ Showing Love

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 6:1—*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

LESSON: Our parents love us very much; God wants us to show our love to them by obedience.

OBJECTS: Doll and cloth for tying it on a child's back. (See instructions.)

How do you know your parents love you? (Allow time for a few answers.) Yes, they show their love in many ways. Today we are going to see a way that boys and girls in Africa learn their mothers love for them.

When a mother has a new baby, she carries the baby wherever she goes. Do you know how she carries it? Let's see. (Ask a girl to help. Place the doll on her back and wrap the cloth around. Turn the doll's head to one side so it looks toward the children.)

Do you think a baby enjoys riding on her mother's back? When a mother goes to visit her friends, or goes to church, the baby goes along like this. Even when a mother goes to the market to buy food, the little one rides along. When mothers go to hoe the corn in their gardens, babies go along this way. The baby sleeps right there on her mother's back.

When the infant wakes up and cries, the mother can easily comfort her or feed her. (Remove doll and cloth.)

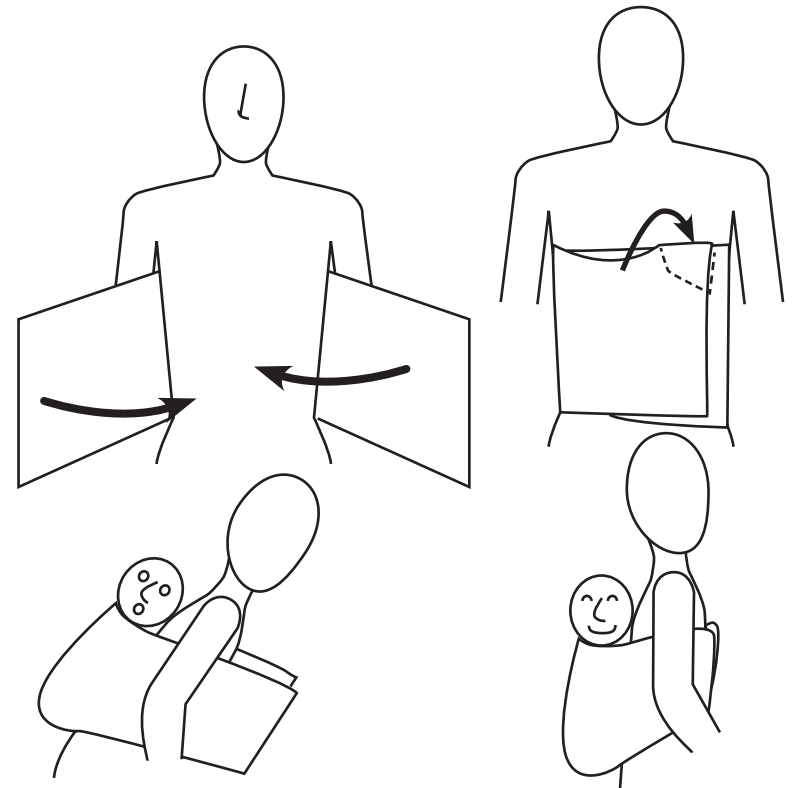
Those babies know their mothers love them. Your mother and your father have shown their love to you also, for they have cared for you since you were born. What are some things your mother has done for you? (Encourage and suggest specific points, like cooking food, helping if one is hurt, and such. Repeat for fathers.) How wonderful to know our parents love us. How do we show our love to them? (Pause for answers.) Another very important way is by obeying our parents. God wants us to be obedient to them.

Have your parents made rules for you to follow? They make rules because they know what is best for you. Do they sometimes ask you to help them? Surely there are many things that your parents tell you to do. God has told us to obey our parents. It is one of the very best ways to show that we love them. When we obey them, we are also obeying God, because that is what He has told us to do.

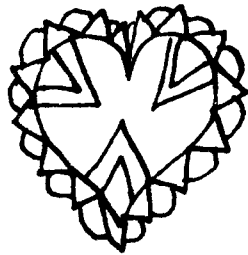
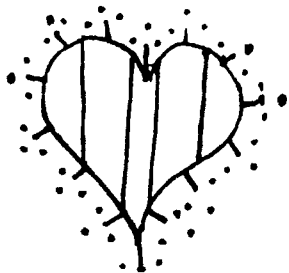
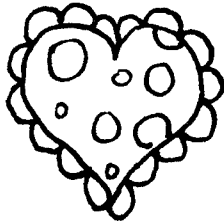
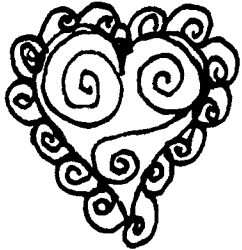
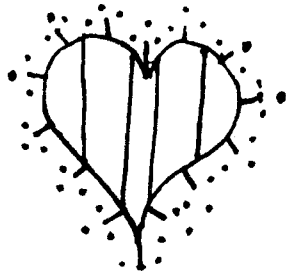
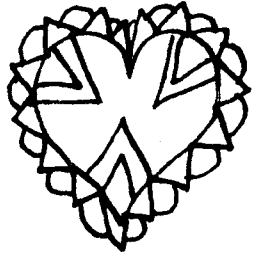
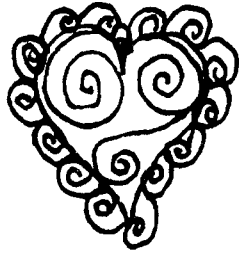
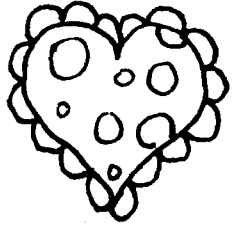
MAKING THE BABY-CARRIER WRAP:

The cloth for holding the doll on the back should be about one and a half yards in length, with width about half that. Before giving the lesson, practice tying the cloth around a child or yourself. The cloth is held with the center across the back, the ends brought around to the front under the arms and lapped over. The right side of the cloth should come over the left and the top corner pulled up to be tucked under the left top edge. The tension should hold it in place. Pull the bottom edge up and tuck it in tightly also, to make a firm seat or swing for the doll.

A large towel can be used with a child.



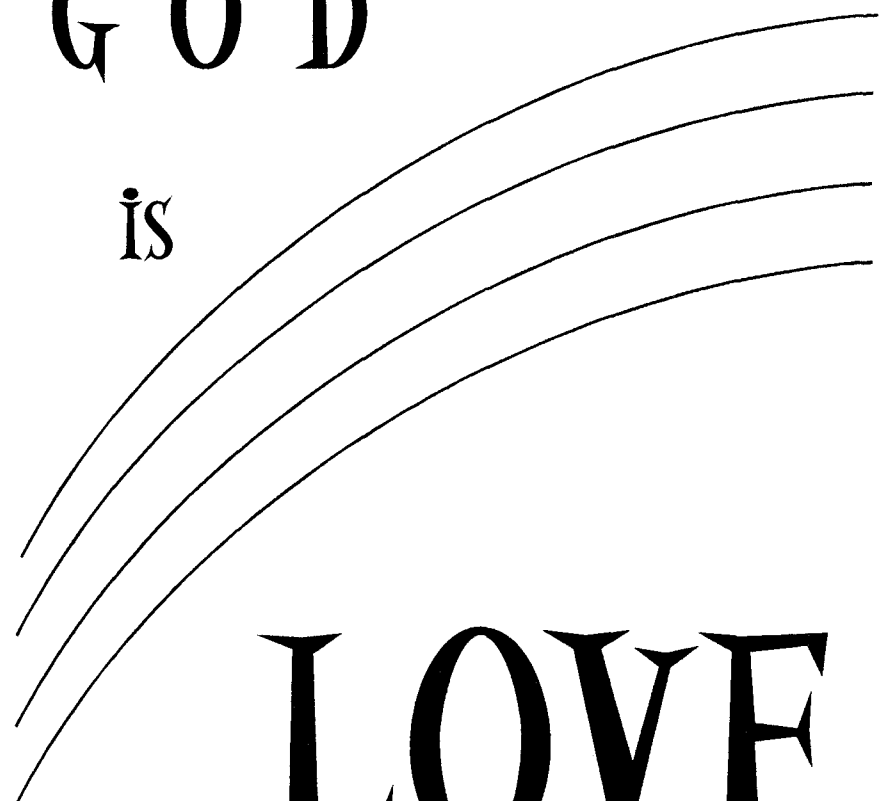
Draw a line between the matching hearts.



The SABBATH VISITOR

G O D

is



LOVE

Trace the letters to complete the verse:

As the **FATHER** loved

me, I also have

LOVED you.

abide in my **LOVE.**

John 15:9

Christian Education Skit / Discipleship

Title	Answer Man
Point	Sabbath School helps us to learn more about God (Purpose of Church...Practice of Common Convictions)
Actors Needed	2-6
Props Needed	A Bible board game, such as "Bible Trivia." You can also provide a table and chairs for people to sit on or the actors can just sit on the floor.
Setting	anywhere people might play board games
Scene Opens	Scene opens with several people playing a Bible trivia game.
Dialogue	<p>(The actual dialogue is not provided. Giving the outline of what is to be said allows those participating to not worry about memorizing lines and also encourages ad-libbing if desired.)</p> <p>As the game unfolds, one of the people playing gets the answer right every time, no matter how difficult or obscure the question.</p> <p>After four or five minutes of play with question after question correctly answered, another player expresses amazement.</p> <p>The "answer man" explains that after years of attending Sabbath School he has learned a lot about the Bible and is surprised him/herself at how much weekly study of Scripture in a small group has expanded his or her knowledge. He or she emphasizes the value of Sabbath School not just for learning details, but for understanding more deeply the Word of God so it can be used to guide us through life.</p>



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