“Christ . . . is the ultimate savior of mankind and the personal savior of those who believe in Him. As His servants, we should place Him at the very center of our lives. And, every day that God gives us breath, we should share Christ’s love and His message with a world that needs both” (Promises and Prayers for Teachers [Grand Rapids, Mich.: Family Christian Press, 2002], p. 39).
A
Begin a memory verse file for the year. Write the unit memory verses on cards and include them in your file.

B
Complete the “Power of Words” activity.

C
Create a lineage chart for Jesus. See Matthew 1 or Luke 3. Which Bible characters were you already familiar with? Draw a picture or write a two- to three-sentence summary about the characters you already knew. Which two people were you surprised to see named as ancestors of Jesus? Why?

D
The Promise Shadow Drama

Working as a class or in teams, develop and perform a shadow drama.
For generations, God’s people had participated in the sanctuary services that pointed to a Redeemer. God waited until the world was ready for a Deliverer. “The nations were united under one government. One language was widely spoken, and was everywhere recognized as the language of literature. From all lands the Jews of the dispersion gathered to Jerusalem to the annual feasts. As these returned to the places of their sojourn, they could spread throughout the world the tidings of the Messiah’s coming” (The Desire of Ages, p. 32).

Memorize the verse from Isaiah 9:6: “A child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Sabbath would soon begin. Dan’s family had washed their clothes and cleaned their tent. Mother had already prepared the portion of manna to be eaten the next day. She would not have to cook or light a fire on the Sabbath. Dan stood at the opening of the tent watching the sun slide down the sky toward the Jordan River in the distance.

It had been a long day. Moses had gathered the entire Israelite nation and had spoken to them for hours, retelling the story of the Exodus and all the wilderness wanderings of the past forty years. Dan’s grandparents had been among the Hebrew slaves God miraculously delivered from Egypt. They were dead now, but Dan and his parents and sisters eagerly looked forward to entering the Promised Land.

“Father,” Dan said thoughtfully.
“Yes, Son?”
“Remember today when Moses said God would send us a prophet like himself? What did he mean?”
“That’s a good question, Dan. It’s time for our family prayers. Why don’t we talk about it after we pray?”

Mother and the girls came closer, and the family sat down on the rugs that made their tent floor comfortable. After prayer, Father said, “Do you remember the story of Adam and Eve?”

“Of course!” said Miriam, Dan’s youngest sister. “They were the first people God made. He created a perfect world where nothing ever died and everything was always beautiful. Then He planted a garden called Eden for Adam and Eve to live in. I think it must have been so wonderful to live in a garden like that!”

“And God gave them only one test,” added Anna, the older sister. “He told them they could eat from every tree in the Garden but one, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He warned them that Satan would tempt...
them, but they must stay together and never eat from that tree—or they would die.” Anna’s face grew sad. “But they didn’t obey Him, so they had to be sent from the Garden. Nothing has been the same since.”

“That’s right,” said Father. “It’s a very sad story, and yet there is hope. You see, God knows that we could never make things right ourselves. Once Adam and Eve sinned, we all became sinners. Now even when we try to do right, we can never be perfect, as God planned for us to be. Someone perfect, Someone with life in Himself must come and rescue us. So God told Adam and Eve that He would send a Deliverer. One of their descendants would fight
Satan and win once and for all” (Genesis 3:15).

“The Messiah!” Dan said eagerly. “I wish He would come!”

“We all look forward to that day,” agreed Mother. “As time goes on, we need Him more and more.”

“When we forget, or begin to fear that the Messiah will never come, God renews His promise,” Father continued. “He told our ancestor Abraham that all the families of earth would be blessed through his descendants [Genesis 12:3]. That means the Messiah will be one of Abraham’s descendants.”

“Like us?” asked Anna.

“Yes, but not just an ordinary person like us. An Anointed One sent by God will be the perfect Sacrifice for us, like the perfect lambs the priests sacrifice at the tabernacle. He will atone for our sins, as the high priest does every autumn on the Day of Atonement. Even the shewbread in the tabernacle speaks of God’s Bread of Life, His Anointed One, and the candlestick represents the light of God’s Spirit. That is what Moses was talking about today. God has once again reminded us of His promise—that the Messiah will come, that He will love us and lead us as Moses has, and that we must love and obey Him when He does come” (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18).

“Father, do you think the Promised Land will be like the Garden of Eden?” asked Miriam.

Father smiled at her. “Maybe a little. Perhaps in giving us the land He promised to Abraham, God is bringing us, in some ways, back to Eden.”

“He’s working toward the fulfillment of the promise,” said Mother. “If God’s plan is followed, Abraham’s descendants will live in the land forever. And someday, the Messiah will come!”

The family looked toward the last rays of the setting sun, and their faces seemed to shine with hope.

... ... ... ... ...

Centuries later, another family gathered to pray at the beginning of the Sabbath. They prayed one of the same prayers Dan’s family had prayed long years before. “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:4, 5).

The Messiah still had not come. Abraham’s descendants lived in their Promised Land now, but it was nothing like Eden. God’s people had split into
two kingdoms. Through the years, most of their kings had been evil. It was hard to keep hoping year after year for the Deliverer.

“Father, are you sure it’s true?” asked Mishael sadly. “Maybe there will be no Messiah.”

“God never breaks His promises,” declared Father, “even though His children often break theirs.” He lowered his voice. “I know it is terribly discouraging when our own King Ahaz is so wicked. He even sacrificed his own son to idols. But God has promised that when His time is right, the Messiah will come! And now He is renewing the promise.”

“Now? What do you mean, Father?” asked Jesse, Mishael’s older brother.

“We have several prophets of God preaching the truth—Isaiah, Hosea, and Micah, for example. I have heard Isaiah talking about the Messiah many times. He says that a virgin will conceive and bear a Son, and call His name Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us’ [Isaiah 7:14]. He also says this Holy Child will have other names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace [Isaiah 9:6]. This will be no ordinary child!”

“That’s right,” Jesse said. “I heard him one day, too. He said that the coming Prince should be from David’s royal family and that the Spirit of God would rest on Him. He would have the ‘Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord’ ” (Isaiah 11:1, 2).

“There is more,” said Father. “Just today I heard the prophet Micah speaking in the marketplace. He, too, spoke out against the evil and injustice in our society. Then he said a wonderful thing. ‘But you, O Bethlehem . . . , are only a small village in Judea. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past. . . . He will stand to lead his flock with the Lord’s strength, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. . . . And he will be the source of our peace’ ” (Micah 5:2–5).

“That sounds as if the Messiah will come from right here in Bethlehem!” exclaimed Mother. “Who else could Micah mean, leading ‘with the Lord’s strength’? . . . Oh, I hope it will be soon!”

“I do, too!” said Mishael. “I’m sorry I doubted.”

“The source of our peace,” murmured Jesse. He watched the flickering candle. “Send Him soon, Lord God.”
Journal

- Choose two of the royal titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. How do you think they apply to Him?

Activities

A. Use the Kid’s Life Application Bible, p. 609, to complete the chart “Finding Christ in the Psalms.”

B. Read chapter 3 of Messiah. Make a Venn diagram of the world before Jesus came and our world today. Use recent newspaper headlines for the “today” side.

C. Decorate or make a candle to use at a special Friday evening family worship. As the candle burns, read the prayer in Deuteronomy 6:4, 5 that was prayed by many Israelite families long years ago. Also, reflect on and share the Messiah’s importance to you.

D. Make a bulletin board or banner of the biblical names and titles for Jesus.

To Learn More

Isaiah 11:1–5
The Desire of Ages, pp. 27–38
Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 462–468

Dig a Little Deeper

1. Do a concordance search for prophecies of the coming Messiah. Find and list three examples of this prophecy.

2. Work in small groups to research the sanctuary furniture. Draw, describe, and explain the lessons taught by each of the sanctuary furnishings. References: Exodus 37; 38; The Book of Life, vol. 4.

3. Day of Atonement
   - How are the Old Testament Day of Atonement and the Jewish Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) alike? How are they different?
   - How is the Day of Atonement relevant to us today?

4. The scapegoat
   - Research the meaning of the word scapegoat.
   - How is the word used in everyday conservation?
   - What does the word scapegoat mean in relation to the Day of Atonement?
   - Do you think that the scapegoat was a good or bad thing? Defend your answer.
The long-awaited Messiah had arrived! Most of Israel was looking for a kingly leader to save them from the Romans. However, Jesus came as a baby to a poor Galilean family. At the age of twelve, He realized His mission to the world. Who is this Jesus, and what is His mission?

Memory Verse

“‘She will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All of this happened to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: ‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and he will be called Immanuel (meaning, God is with us)” (Matthew 1:21–23).
It was the evening of the sixth day, and the sun was setting over the rocky hills of Galilee and Judea. All over the land, Jewish families lit candles and bowed in prayer—just as they had always done during the time of Moses, during the times of David and Solomon, during the times of the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Even during the long captivity in Babylon, faithful Jews welcomed God’s Sabbath day. All the work of Friday, the Preparation Day, was finished, and houses and people shone in the candlelight.

Through the centuries these same prayers arose:

“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone” (Deuteronomy 6:4).

“It is good to give thanks to the Lord” (Psalm 92:1).

And always the cry, “Messiah! Oh, God of our fathers, when will Messiah come?” The Promised Land was now under harsh Roman rule, and the people longed more than ever for their Deliverer.

In a small home in Nazareth of Galilee, a family bowed together for Sabbath worship as they always did. But in this home, they did not pray for Messiah to come. Here, they knew He had arrived! The Son of God lived in their home!

In the house of Joseph the carpenter, there lived a boy named Jesus. He was the same as other boys in many ways. He wore hand-woven garments His mother made, and He sometimes got them dirty from work or play. Helping Joseph in the carpenter’s shop all day made Him tired enough to sleep soundly. And the bigger He grew, the more He ate!

In other ways, Jesus was very different from other children. He was always kind, patient, and honest. He loved to learn about God from the Old Testament scrolls or from nature. Jesus spent as much time as He could in the woods and fields, praying to His heavenly Father and learning about life.

Jesus cheerfully helped His mother in their simple home and worked side
by side with Joseph in the carpenter’s shop. He always did the best He could in everything. As He worked, He would sing praises to God, and everyone who heard Him felt happier.

Imagine what it would have been like to have Jesus as a playmate! He was always gentle, helpful, and cheerful as they played together. He was a protector of God’s tiny creatures. When other children laughed and teased Him, Jesus responded with a gentle spirit, reflecting His Father’s love.

At twelve years of age, Jesus went to the temple in Jerusalem with His parents for the first time. As He worshiped with the others and watched the sacrifices and the rituals, He saw more clearly the sacrifice that He would make for humanity. New thoughts and feelings overwhelmed Jesus as He began to understand the mystery of His mission.

When the Passover Feast came to an end, Jesus felt a need to be alone, and He stayed in the temple courts. He heard the rabbis teaching and went to join the discussion. Soon He began to ask questions about the prophecies of the coming Messiah. The rabbis started asking Jesus questions and were amazed at His answers. Jesus’ words touched the hearts of the teachers, but their pride would not allow them to be taught by a child or admit that they had misunderstood the Scriptures.

On the third day, Jesus was startled by His mother’s distraught voice. “Son! There You are! We’ve been searching for You for three days! How could You do this to us?”

Jesus turned, surprised that even His own family did not understand Him better. “Why were you looking for Me? Didn’t you know I would be doing My Father’s work?”

Joseph and Mary were so accustomed to thinking of Jesus as their own Son that they sometimes forgot that He was also God’s Son. Through this experience they were reminded of their sacred responsibility in raising the Son of God.
“Jesus’ answer to His mother showed for the first time that He understood His relationship to God. But for now, nothing changed between Jesus and His earthly parents. He returned home with them and worked for them as He had before” (Messiah, p. 52).

Jesus stayed home for another eighteen years, remaining obedient to His parents and true to His convictions. His family, His friends, and the rabbis pressured Him to keep the many rules and rituals handed down from generation to generation, but He always obeyed Scripture over the rules of men. He spent much time alone with God in the hills and meadows, meditating and praying. He was loving and respectful to His mother.

A few short weeks after He began His earthly ministry, a relative was to be married in Cana. Mary was helping with the wedding feast. Jesus and His disciples also attended. Mary was happy to see Jesus again. Like most Jews, she believed the Messiah was to be a king who would deliver Israel from Roman rule. She hoped her Son would perform a miracle at this feast to publicly show that He was that Messiah. When the wine ran out, Mary turned to Jesus.

“‘They have no more wine,’ she told him.

“‘How does that concern you and me?’ Jesus asked. ‘My time has not yet come.’” Jesus knew His mother misunderstood His mission. He wanted her to see that His work was to do God’s will, but it was not time for Him to be a mighty king. His ministry would show itself in a different way from what she expected.

“His mother told the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’”

Six stone water pots stood nearby. “Jesus told the servants, ‘Fill the jars with water.’ When the jars had been filled to the brim, he said, ‘Dip some out and take it to the master of ceremonies,’ So they followed his instructions” (John 2:3–8).

The master of ceremonies hadn’t heard that they were out of wine. When he tasted his newly filled glass of wine, he was delighted. He found the bridegroom and said, “Everybody else serves the best wine first, and when everyone has had their fill, then he brings out the poorer wine. You’ve saved the best until now!”

Soon the guests were asking about the excellent wine, but Jesus had quietly left the wedding feast. The disciples were given an opportunity to witness for Jesus and to tell others of their belief in Jesus.

“This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was Jesus’ first display of his glory. And his disciples believed in him” (John 2:11).
Journal

- Have you ever been in charge of a younger brother or sister and lost track of the child? Or have you lost a beloved pet? How did you feel? What did you do?
- OR
- Have you ever been lost from your parents? How did you feel? How did they feel? What happened when you were reunited?

Activities

A. Jesus began His ministry at age thirty, when Levite men began their work as priests. Research the duties of priests in the *SDA Bible Dictionary* and read Hebrews 10:1–4. Complete the chart to compare and contrast the duties of a priest with the ministry of Jesus.

B. Keep track of how you spend your time for a day. Remember to keep track of the time you spend doing homework, chores, Bible study, and leisure activities. Graph your results. Then make a graph describing how you think Jesus would spend His time if He were a boy today.

C. Draw a picture or write a poem about Jesus as a child.

D. Read “As a Child,” “The Passover Visit,” or “Days of Conflict” in *Messiah*, OR Read “Heroes and Villains,” p. 1085 in *Kid’s Life Application Bible*. What advice would you write about obeying parents?
To Learn More

Luke 2  
John 1 and 2  
The Desire of Ages, pp. 68–92  
Messiah, pp. 43–60

Dig a Little Deeper

1. How Jesus Studied
   - Explain the following statement in your own words. “Jesus learned the same way we do. His deep understanding of the Scripture shows how much time He spent studying God’s Word. He also spent long hours in the library of God’s creation” (Messiah, p. 44).
   - Read Messiah, pages 44, 45. List five benefits people receive when they study as Jesus did.

2. The Passover
   - Research the Passover to learn how it was celebrated and what it meant.
   - How does it apply to us today?

3. Create a timeline of Christ’s life. Include on the timeline political, military, cultural, and other events that occurred in the Roman Empire.

4. Human and Divine
   - Develop a T-chart containing Bible references that show Jesus’ humanity and His divinity.
   - Design a brochure, using your Bible references, that can be used as a witnessing tool to explain how Jesus was both human and divine.
“‘My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness’” (2 Corinthians 12:9).
While You’re Studying
LIFE THROUGH CHRIST:

A Write your memory verses for the unit on cards and add them to your file.

B Select a text on God’s grace, such as 2 Corinthians 12:9 or Hebrews 4:16. Cut a large piece of sturdy cardboard into a heart shape and write the text on it. Cut it into jigsaw puzzle pieces. In addition to the Bible verse, you may add another saying (for example: “God loves you 2 pieces”) and/or an illustration. Trade puzzles with another student and assemble the puzzle. Puzzles can be displayed on a bulletin board for the unit.

C Name someone to whom you could give each of the following gifts:
   • A letter telling how much you appreciate them or something they have done
   • A compliment
   • A telephone call expressing appreciation
   • An hour of your time reading, playing an instrument, completing a chore, etc. for someone.

Try to give away as many of your gifts as you can while you study Unit 2.

D What gifts mentioned in C were you able to give away?
Prepare an oral or written report that answers the following:
   • To whom did you present the gift?
   • What was the person’s reaction to your gift?
   • What has your gift-giving done for your relationship with the individual who received it?
   • How do you feel about the experience?
Sometimes we don’t realize when our bodies need water just as we often don’t realize when we need spiritual refreshment. The woman came to the well to get water, not realizing her greater need—Jesus’ love in her life.
A Drink of New Life

The woman raised the clay pitcher to her shoulder and walked down the dusty streets of Sychar without looking to the right or left. She had waited until midday to replenish her water supply at Jacob’s well, which was outside the city. This way, she could avoid the gossip and sneers of the other women in Sychar who went for their water in the morning. Still, she had to walk past the houses and know that the whispering she heard was probably about her.

The woman shifted the pitcher and kept her face emotionless. Her bare feet strode through the dust: left, right, left, right, one foot after the other. Nearing the edge of town, she breathed a sigh of relief when she passed the last stone house. A shutter slammed on the upper window as if someone thought she could pollute the air.

Approaching the well, the woman noticed someone sitting there. She would ignore him, and he would ignore her. As she came closer, she realized the man sitting at the well was a Jew who would certainly look down his nose at her. He would probably get up and walk away.

Keeping her gaze averted, the woman used a rope to let down the pitcher and fill it. Then she pulled it back up, hand over hand, trying to keep it from swinging against the sides of the well.

She nearly dropped the pitcher when the silent Man on the other side of the well spoke. In a quiet voice He asked, “May I have a drink of water?”

Why, do you think, did Jesus asked her for a drink?

For the first time, the woman raised her eyes and stared at the Man. She couldn’t refuse Him outright. In a desert country, a request for water was
sacred. No one would think of refusing. Yet never in her life had a Jewish man spoken to her. “You’re asking me, a Samaritan woman, for water?”

“If you knew who I am, and understood the gift God has for you, you would have asked Me, and I would have given you living water.”

The woman was confused. This Man had just asked for water! Why was He saying He could give water to her?

The kindness in His eyes made her feel calm. More respectfully, she said, “Sir, the well is deep! You don’t have a pitcher or a rope. How can You get the water? Surely You are not greater than our father, Jacob, who gave us this well! Are You?”

A gentle smile grew on the Man’s face. “People who drink this water get thirsty again. I can give them water that will end their thirst forever. The water I give becomes a living spring, welling up in their hearts for eternal life.”

The woman’s eyes grew wide. Was it possible never to have to make that endless journey down the streets of Sychar again? “Sir, give me some of this water! I would like to never thirst again and never have to come here for water!”

“Go, get your husband and come back,” He said.

“I have no husband,” the woman whispered.

“You’ve told the truth,” He responded. “You’ve had five husbands, and the one you live with now isn’t even your husband.” The Man nodded. “You’ve spoken truly.”

“Sir,” the woman said breathlessly, “You must be a prophet!” What else did He know about her? “Our fathers worship here on Mount Gerizim. Why do the Jews insist people should worship in Jerusalem?”

Believe Me,” the Man said gently, “the time is coming when people won’t worship in either of these places. God is searching for people who will worship Him as their Father, in spirit and in truth.” He looked intently at her, and the woman wondered if He could possibly mean that God was searching for her! Father? He had called God “Father.” The woman had never heard that before. Most priests and teachers acted as if God were some distant, angry
deity, certainly not a Father—and especially not to her!

The woman had been studying the Scriptures when she could and dared to say, “I know Messiah is coming. He’ll explain everything.”

The light that had glimmered in the Man’s eyes through the whole conversation broke forth like sunshine. “I am the Messiah,” He declared.

For a moment, the woman could hardly breathe. The Messiah! Here? Talking to her? She hadn’t even noticed a group of men nearing them, but suddenly the well was surrounded by the Prophet’s disciples. Clutching her robes around her, tears streaming down her face, the woman fled.

She reached Sychar much faster than she had left it. This time she didn’t keep to herself. “Come!” she shouted to the men in the gate. “Come see a Man!” She pounded on nearby doors. A small crowd gathered in moments. They stared as the woman laughed through her tears and told them what had happened. Hardly able to speak, she begged them to come and see the Prophet who was sitting by Jacob’s well and had “told her everything she’d ever done.”

The woman had never acted like this, and there was something about her face—a joy they had never seen before. Then she said the unbelievable. “Could this be the Messiah?”

Shocked, the villagers stared at each other. Was it possible? As one, they turned and surged out of town toward the well.

What did Jesus say that day? We will never know until we can go to heaven and ask. The amazing fact is that the people of Sychar, unlike most of the Jews, eagerly listened to everything Jesus said and begged Him to stay with them. He stayed two days, and at the end, they accepted Him fully as the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Some years after Jesus died, rose, and ascended to heaven, when the disciple Philip went into the area to preach, he found a thriving community of believers. The drink of “Living Water” Jesus had given the Samaritan woman had indeed become a living spring that flowed on and on, bringing salvation to all who drank of it.
Journal

- Make an acrostic using the term “God’s Grace.”

Activities

A. Use a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia, or conduct an Internet search to find additional information about Jacob’s Well at Sychar. Write three paragraphs summarizing your findings. Remember to follow the writing process steps (prewriting, writing, revising, editing, and publishing) as you complete the activity.

B. Make a series of pictures that tells the story of the woman at the well. Put the memory verse for this lesson on the last page. Join the pages accordion fashion. Stand the folded paper on its edge along a windowsill, or give it to a younger child.

C. Compare and contrast the woman of Samaria before and after meeting Jesus. (Messiah, pp. 120, 121)

D. Find a song, poem, picture, or anecdote (short story or illustration) that illustrates God’s grace. Share with the class why you chose this selection and how it portrays God’s grace.

To Learn More

John 4:1–42
The Desire of Ages, “At Jacob’s Well,” pp. 183–195
Dig a Little Deeper

1. Prejudice
   • Define the word *prejudice*. How is prejudice a lack of grace?

   • When Jesus was on earth, what was the relationship between the Jews and Samaritans? See *The Desire of Ages*, p. 183, Luke 10:33, and John 4:9.

2. Thoughts on Grace
   • Read the following quotations:

     “The dew and rain and sunshine of God's grace had been given to refresh and nourish the seed of truth” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 192).

     “Even so will the life of God unfold in every human soul that will yield itself to the ministry of His [God’s] grace, which, free as the rain and the sunshine, comes with its benediction to all” (*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 97).

   • How is God's grace like the dew, the rain, and the sunshine?

3. Use a Bible concordance to find a text about grace. Paraphrase the text using your own words and design a logo that is a pictorial representation of grace.

4. In what ways can you display grace in your life?
“The grace of God is sufficient for all our needs, for every problem and every difficulty, for every broken heart, and for every human sorrow” (Peter Marshall, Promises and Prayers for Teachers, p. 67).
John Newton ran his finger over the shelf of books in the captain’s cabin. He was bored. He had already been at sea for two months on his way back home to England. In his twenty-two years, this was the first time he had been on a ship as a passenger instead of as a sailor. Since he had little work to do, Newton usually passed the time by drinking and fighting. There had been so many life-threatening incidents that the captain thought he had a Jonah on board. Newton admitted that many of the problems had been caused by his own actions, but he didn’t care. He liked to read, though, so maybe he could find something better to do this evening.

A thin book caught his eye. Newton pulled it out and read the title, *Of the Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis. He had read this book once before and had thought it amusing. Why would anyone want to imitate Christ? In his youth, Newton had tried many times to be just like he thought Jesus would be. Once, he’d actually timed himself as he read the Bible and prayed for hours every day. He went without food and even tried not to speak, in case he would say something that would offend God. He lived this way for two years, and it didn’t make him any happier. If this was what Jesus was like, Newton decided he didn’t want to be like Jesus.

Even so, he took the little book to his own bunk in the captain’s quarters. At first Newton still thought it was ludicrous. However, as he reread the book, he began to see that the author was writing of a real friendship with a living God who cared, One who wanted to walk with His child all the time. The question came to Newton’s mind, *What if these things are true?*

Newton shut the book. He didn’t want to think about it and so decided to go to bed.

A roar awakened him, and he leaped off his bunk. The ship was pitching violently. Newton heard shouts and confusion on deck. “We’re sinking!” someone shouted. With water pouring down the companionway, Newton
raced for the ladder.

He met the captain coming down. “Get a knife and bring it up!” shouted the captain above the storm. Newton turned back and ran for a knife.

When he got on deck, someone else had already brought a knife to the captain, but the man had been instantly washed overboard. Newton shivered. He could have been the one who drowned. The men struggled with the pumps, but the sea was gaining on them rapidly. The ship had been in serious need of repairs even before they started this voyage. Now the damage was becoming greater.

As gray dawn began to lighten the sky, the wind let up. Perhaps they would survive. They wrapped clothes, bedding, any cloth they could find, around wooden chocks to stuff into the leaks in the hull. Newton muttered to himself, “If this will not do, the Lord have mercy on us!” Suddenly he felt a stab of fear. He had been speaking without meaning, without even thinking. *What if God really did exist? What if His mercy was the only thing they could depend upon? Could there be any mercy for John Newton?*

The ship wallowed on toward England. Days and weeks passed; the ship stayed afloat. There were twelve men left, and the only food was half a large salted codfish. Everyone was cold and wet, now that all their spare clothes were holding out the sea. Newton was not sleeping well. The words he had read, as well as the Bible texts his mother had taught him, kept coming back to his mind.

His life kept replaying before his eyes—images of his early childhood, next to his mother’s knees, learning to read the Bible and sing hymns; images of himself as a youth, veering between doing exactly what he pleased and trying desperately to be good enough to please God. Most of all, images of recent years, when he had totally given up on serving God and set out to live the worst life he could. All these images floated through his head until he felt sick. He had done his best to make others believe God did not exist, religion did not matter, and the Bible was just a collection of myths. If God did exist, Newton had argued, He didn’t care what anyone did.

Young though he was, Newton had lived through enough adventures to fill six lives. He had nearly died many times. He had traveled the world. He had been a sailor, a servant, and a slaver. He had even been an abused slave himself for a while, yet he continued to transport shiploads of human beings as cargo to be sold.
One night Newton was called to the helm to steer the ship. He had to do some work, even though he was a passenger. As he steered through the darkness, wondering if the ship would hold up, Bible verses came to him. At first, he thought of verses that rebuked his way of life. Many places in the Bible speak strongly against sin, and Newton knew they all applied to him. *What if the Bible were true after all? If it were, was he too evil for God to forgive?*

Just then, he received the news that the men had finally succeeded in pumping out all the water that had flooded the ship. It had been twelve days since the great storm. *Maybe God is going to save us,* thought Newton. At last he did what he knew he should have done all along; he started to pray. With tears in his eyes, he begged God for help, feeling as if his prayer was like the useless squawk of a raven. But perhaps God, who cared even for sparrows, still cared for John Newton.

As he prayed, passages of Scripture continued to come to mind. Newton began to think of Jesus, and a light began to dawn in the darkness of his despair.

When he was off duty, Newton read the Bible in the captain’s quarters. Two verses especially struck him. Luke 11:13 read, “If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.” In John 7:17 Newton read, “Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether my teaching is from God or is merely my own.”

Here was his answer. If Newton asked sincerely for God to show him the light and then studied with honesty, God would show him whether the Bible was true. For the rest of the trip, fighting a contrary wind, surviving on rations of the salt fish and a small amount of fresh water, Newton studied and prayed.

Why would thinking of Jesus make a difference?

Why, do you think, are all these memories bothering Newton now?

What is the difference between Newton’s prayer and study after the storm and the Bible study in his youth?
The rest of the sailors continued to curse God and began to ridicule Newton for his newly budding faith. The captain accused Newton of being the “Jonah” who had caused the calamity. “If I threw you overboard, we’d all survive!” he threatened. Newton thought the captain was possibly right. His own sinful attitudes had affected the attitudes of all. Perhaps many of the dangers they had gone through had been directly his fault. There was nothing he could do now except to trust God.

Slowly his eyes were opening. The dangers he had lived through now seemed like calls from God, calls he had ignored. Four weeks after the storm, when the wind changed and took them safely to Ireland, Newton saw the rescuing hand of God. He realized it was God who had saved their lives, who had saved his life, the one who deserved it least of all. He felt as if he had been miserable and lost, but now was saved. He had been blind, but now he could see.

It took years for Newton to understand some of the things God wanted to teach him. For a long time he continued to be involved in the slave trade, still thinking it was a respectable way to earn a living. Gradually, he liked it less and less, not realizing it was the Holy Spirit opening his eyes. Newton began holding Sunday services for the slaves in his ships. Finally, God showed him that he must stop his involvement with slave trading altogether.

John Newton went on to become a beloved minister in the Church of England, serving two parishes for a combined total of forty-three years. During this time he wrote hundreds of hymns, including his best-loved one, “Amazing Grace.” His testimony to King George III of the horrors of the slave trade was instrumental in beginning the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. Today, on a marble tablet at the last church where he preached, St. Mary Woolnoth, London, visitors can read an inscription Newton wrote before his death:

“John Newton, Clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy.”

Amazing!
Journal

• List some of the ways God has shown grace to you.

Activities

A. After reading the story about John Newton, list some ways God showed grace to him. How did Newton pass that on to others?

B. Play “Amazing Grace” on a musical instrument or make an instrument on which to play it such as glasses of water or rubber-band instruments.

C. Write another verse to “Amazing Grace” that reflects how God has shown grace to you.

D. Slavery was abolished many years ago. What inequalities exist today? Find news articles that reveal inequalities.

To Learn More


Dig a Little Deeper

1. Looking back through the narrative, answer this question: How did God’s grace cause Newton to change his thinking and his actions?

2. Look up “John Newton” in the Index to the Writings of Ellen G. White. How did she describe the impact of God’s grace on his life?

3. Always . . . Never
   • Read and summarize the following texts:
     \[
     \begin{align*}
     \text{Always} & \quad \text{Never} \\
     \text{Matthew 28:20, last part} & \quad \text{John 6:35} \\
     \text{John 6:37} & \quad \text{Hebrews 13:5}
     \end{align*}
     \]
   • Develop a statement about grace including the words always and never.

4. Think about a time in your life when you believed that God saved you from harm. Select a text from a concordance or from the lesson that emphasizes your experience. Plan a way to share your experience.
It is by having a personal relationship with Jesus that we can reflect His grace to those around us. We can thus enrich the lives of others.

Memory Verse

“Since you excel in so many ways—you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us—now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7).
Erin, guess what?” Tina skidded her bike to a stop beside Erin on the sidewalk. “I’m getting my driver’s license today! I mean I’m taking the driving test. I hope I pass and get my license today!”

“Oh, I know you’ll do fine,” Erin assured her friend. “You’ve practiced a lot. It’s not that hard as long as you can park well. Just try to be calm and concentrate. Pretend it’s your mom, not the examiner, in the car with you.”

“My mom! She’s so nervous when I drive she’d make me nervous. I think I’ll pretend it’s you. You are always so encouraging.”

Erin grinned. “Thanks! Here’s a better idea. Take Jesus with you. He’ll help you to do your best. Listen, when you get your license, they’ll ask you if you want to be an organ donor. You do, don’t you?”

Two more girls walked up. “Tina’s getting her license? Look out, world!” teased one.

“What’s an organ donor?” asked the other.

“You know, if you die, they can use your heart or other organs to give to someone else who’s sick,” explained Erin.

“That’s creepy!” said the other girl with a shiver.

“I don’t think so; I think it’s cool,” said Erin. “Of course none of us wants to die, but if we did, just think, somebody else’s life could be saved because of us. Besides, some part of us would go on living.”

“Maybe. But how would you know if the person deserved to have his life saved? What if someone bad got your heart and then they robbed a bank or killed somebody?”

“I don’t think that part of it is our business. We should just give life, without asking any questions. Don’t you think it’s what Jesus would do?”

The other girls were silent for a minute. “It’s what He did do, when you think about it,” said Tina. “I think I will sign up to be a donor when I get my license. I know Ted and Jared did. Come to think of it, they said you talked...
them into it.” Her thoughtful mood slipped away in a squeal. “Ooh, I can’t wait till one o’clock!”

**What did Tina mean when she said, “It’s what He did do”?**

Summer was slipping away too quickly. Erin would be transferring from Spencerville Junior Academy to Takoma Academy to complete her junior and senior years. Classes would soon begin, and she wanted to spend as much time as possible with her family before they all got caught up with activities.

When a friend invited her to go to an amusement park the next day, Erin replied, “No thanks. I’m going to spend tomorrow night with my older sister in her dorm room.”

“That sounds like fun,” her friend responded. “How about the mall?”

“No thanks. This evening I’m going miniature golfing with Mom and Dad. Do you want to come with us?”

They all played together and had a great time. Erin got two holes-in-one!

Erin’s dad would be leaving early in the morning for a trip to Nebraska. She went down to the basement to tell him goodbye and watch TV with him for a while. It was too bad he had to go away right then, with the summer practically history.

The next day she enjoyed her time with Raenelle. Monday morning came all too soon, and Mom came to the dorm to get Erin and take her to her physical exam for school. She passed with flying colors. “Perfect!” The doctor smiled.

Erin and Mom went out to lunch and then home. Mom was going shopping for supplies for her classroom. “Come on, Erin, come shopping with me. We can have fun.”

“I’d rather not. Can we do something special this evening instead?” suggested Erin.

“OK,” Mom agreed and left to run her errands.

Later in the afternoon Erin was playing on her computer when Merle Poirer, her mom’s friend, called. She joked with Erin for a few minutes before hanging up.

Suddenly Erin put her head in her hands. It was aching terribly. The pain grew worse and worse. After only a few minutes it was so bad, Erin started to cry. She called Mrs. Poirer back. “My head hurts so bad! I don’t know what to do!” she sobbed. “Mom’s not here right now.”
“Hang on! I’ll be right there!” Mom’s friend sounded alarmed.

Erin tried to hang up the phone, but she dropped it and fell to the floor.

Erin’s mother, Bev Boyer, never saw Erin conscious again. When she came home she found a note on the door saying Erin had been taken to the hospital emergency room. The note was signed by her friend. That night at the hospital, surrounded by friends, her husband more than a thousand miles away and desperately trying to find a flight home, Mrs. Boyer faced every parent’s nightmare. Her daughter, the doctors told her gently, was brain-dead. Despite her perfect physical that morning, there had been an aneurysm, a bubble in the wall of an artery in her brain. When it burst, it killed Erin quickly. They were keeping her on life support. Machines were forcing air into her lungs and circulating her blood, but her mind was dead. Doctors assured Mrs. Boyer that there was nothing she or anyone could have done to prevent this tragedy.

As Mrs. Boyer stood by Erin’s bed, holding her limp hand, trying not to look at the tubes and machines, trying not to listen to the hissing and beeping that took the place of Erin’s own breathing and heartbeat, Mrs. Boyer could do nothing but pray.

“Please, God,” she pleaded aloud, “if there’s any chance at all that Erin is here, that she can hear us, or knows anything, please let her know You are with her. Let her feel Your presence.”

The two smallest fingers of Erin’s hand curled around her mother’s hand. Holding her breath, Mrs. Boyer opened her eyes to see if it was imagination. No, there were the two fingers clutching her own.

She later asked Dr. Ben Carson, a pediatric neurosurgeon, “Could that have been Erin? Did she hear me?”

“No,” Dr. Carson said kindly. “She was brain-dead before she ever got to the hospital. There is no medical possibility that she knew anything at all.”

“What was it?”

“That was God, holding your hand, telling you He was there with you and with her.”

How do you think Mrs. Boyer felt when she learned that?

Erin was gone. She wasn’t coming back, not until the day Jesus comes to call all His beloved ones to go home with Him. Mrs. Boyer had a decision to make. The doctors wanted to know, would she be willing to donate any of Erin’s organs to others who could die without them?
The Boyers felt numb with horror and shock. It couldn’t be possible! Their beautiful Erin, so full of energy, so creative, so intelligent, so loving, could not be dead! And now the doctors wanted to take her heart, her lungs, whatever they could, and give them to others? Erin’s parents had never really thought about organ donation, but they thought about it now. She had been so healthy. Her strong, perfect organs would give the gift of life to others. Perhaps right now some parents stood by a bedside in a hospital, praying not to lose their child. Erin’s organs might answer that other mother’s prayers. It seemed the right thing to do.

It wasn’t until several days after they made the decision that Erin’s parents found out what an advocate for organ donation Erin had been. Several of her friends had become organ donors at her urging. She had even read books on the subject.

Little did Erin know that her decision to donate organs would help more than seventy people, many of whom would have died without her gift of life.
Journal

• If you had been Erin’s parents, what decision would you have made?
• How does Romans 8:28 apply to this situation?

Activities

A. Write about a time when you were not as kind as you might have been, or when you retaliated and gave someone what you felt he or she deserved. Write another ending showing what might have happened if you had extended grace instead. Illustrate both stories. Make a construction-paper folder with the illustrations and title on the cover and the two versions of the story inside.

B. Make a card thanking someone for a kindness he or she did for you.
D. Find stories of organ donors. Be prepared to share your findings.

To Learn More


Dig a Little Deeper

1. Where is grace found in the story?
2. How did Erin reflect Jesus’ example as a life-giver?
3. What does Ephesians 2:8, 9 say about God’s grace? What does it mean to you personally?
4. After reading these three quotations, contemplate how you can reflect His grace to others. Design a method for sharing your light with others.

“By the power of His grace manifested in the transformation of character the world is to be convinced that God has sent His Son as its Redeemer. No other influence that can surround the human soul has such power as the influence of an unselfish life. The strongest argument in favor of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian” (The Ministry of Healing, p. 470).

“The acceptance of the Saviour brings a glow of perfect peace, perfect love, perfect assurance. . . . He says, Let your light shine. If you have received the grace of God, the light is in you” (Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 420).

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see. Don’t hide your light under a basket! Instead, put it on a stand and let it shine for all. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father” (Matthew 5:14–16).
Memory Verse

“You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony” (Colossians 3:13, 14).

When we accept God’s gift of forgiveness and ask for His leading in our lives, extending grace to others becomes important to us because it is a way of sharing God’s love. That grace may be forgiving others, as written in the memory verse for this week. It may be doing something that helps bring someone back to Christ. In this story, God reaches through four of His servants to touch the lives of some very discouraged people. It is a story of forgiveness, faith, and grace.
It was a difficult life for early Adventist preachers. Most of the time they were tired, poor, hungry, and homeless. There was no organized help to support their efforts. They depended on the kindness and goodwill of people for help if they were to have any food or shelter at all. Some believers gave almost all they had to advance the cause of the church and support its workers, while others gave little. Under such circumstances some of those early leaders became discouraged and lost sight of their mission. For them the going had become too hard.

Word reached New England that vast areas of good cheap land were available. Western land agents painted glowing pictures of property and easy riches, with little work involved. In Iowa, just across the Mississippi River, the rich land was a special temptation to some. A family of Adventists left Paris, Maine, in 1855 for Iowa. By 1856 they were settled on 160 acres of fertile soil. Log cabins were built, and barns were raised. More Adventists came, so that by the winter of 1856 there was a small group of about thirty pioneer Adventists in that part of Iowa. Some names among the group were Stevens, Butler, Lindsey, Mead, and Lamson. But in the midst of them all were J. N. Andrews and John Loughborough.

It had been very difficult for John Loughborough to support his family, but help had come from the group in Waukon, Iowa. Here was a way to support his family. John was a carpenter, and by joining the group, he had real opportunity to make some money. He told himself that he had not given up preaching. He only postponed it for a while until he could earn enough money to support himself when he returned to the ministry.

On December 9, 1856, Ellen White was in vision. She saw the group in Waukon, Iowa, and was shown that selfishness had taken the place of brotherly love. They neglected reading their Bibles. And neighbors around them knew little or nothing of their religious beliefs. Their spiritual condition was such
that they were about to rebel against the church itself. They were even overlapping their work into the Sabbath. In vision Ellen saw it all and became deeply distressed.

**Why, do you think, did Ellen White receive this vision?**

She and James were in Illinois attending meetings when the vision came. The trip to Iowa had been in their minds before the vision; but now, because of it, and regardless of an extremely harsh winter, she was determined to go. Satan, alerted to the situation, determined if possible to stop her. The trip to Waukon would mean a drive of two hundred miles in the middle of a hard winter in an open sleigh. Crossing the Mississippi was a hazard in itself, but cross it they must, if they were to finish the trip. Could they do it?

Ellen asked two men, Hart and Everts, to make the journey with them. As the little group began to discuss plans for the venture, it started to rain. And it continued to rain for twenty-four hours straight. Because they were riding in a sleigh, snow was essential for the trip—and it was fast disappearing, leaving sticky mud in its place. Then as night came and they were getting ready for bed, the question arose that none dared ask until now. Should they cancel the trip? James White decided it was off. They must forget their plans. Ellen White tells what happened next.

Then “Brother Hart said to me, ‘Sister White, what about Waukon?’ ”
She answered, “We shall go.”
He replied, “Yes, if the Lord works a miracle.”
“About daybreak there was a change, and it commenced snowing. The next evening about five o’clock, we started on our way.”

With ever-deepening snow beneath them, they started across the countryside. It was slow progress, however, and they had to stop often to wait for the roads to be cleared.

Then near the place where three states come together at Dubuque, Iowa, they put up for the night still on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River. They planned to cross in the morning. A sickening sound woke them at four o’clock in the morning. Their hearts sank. They heard rain.

They sprang out of bed, gathered their things, and raced to hitch the horses to the sleigh. They were dependent on low temperatures and hard ice to make the crossing. Rain poured into the open sleigh, soaking them. With every step the horses broke through a crust of ice. They stopped people, ask-
ing the condition of the ice on the river ahead. It isn’t safe, they were told. The advice was to turn back. Others had tried to cross, but their teams had broken through, the drivers barely escaping with their lives. Many told them that no amount of money could tempt them to cross. But on they went until they saw the mighty Mississippi stretching out in front of them.

The four travelers expected ice, but found water. As far as they could see up and down the river, it flowed in a wide steady current. What should they do now? Was there ice beneath the flow? They hoped so. And if there was, would it be strong enough to hold them?

As they sat staring at the water, wondering what to do, Mr. Hart stood to his feet in the sleigh, raised his arm, and shouted, “Is it Iowa, or back to Illinois? We have come to the Red Sea; shall we cross?”

They answered, “Go forward, trusting in Israel’s God.”

People on the Iowa shore saw them move forward. They gathered to watch the tiny sleigh with two horses and four people that slowly and steadily grew larger as it came nearer. The sleigh sank into a foot of icy water, but on it came. “Praying as we went, [we] were carried safely across,” reported Ellen White. Ascending the bank on the Iowa side of the river, the travelers united in praising the Lord.

God was winning the battle. But with the river crossing behind them, the travelers had come only halfway on their journey.

When they continued the trip the following morning, temperatures had dropped so low that it was dangerously cold. Ellen wrote: “I never witnessed such cold weather.” As they watched each others’ faces, they would give each other warnings such as, “Brother, your face is freezing, you had better rub the frost out as soon as possible;’ ‘Your ear is freezing,’ or, ‘Your nose is freezing.’” One of the four seemed always to be rubbing a frostbitten portion somewhere.

On they went, for two more days until they stopped in Volney, Iowa, only fourteen miles from Waukon. It was the day before Christmas. Ellen thought of her children at home and wrote to her boys, Henry, Edson, and Willie:

“Children, be thankful for your comfortable home. . . . Last night we slept in an unfinished chamber where there was an opening for the stovepipe, running through the top of the house—a large space, big enough for a couple of
cats to jump through.”

About five o’clock the next evening, the sleigh pulled up beside a building in Waukon, Iowa. John Loughborough describes the scene.

“As Brother Hosea Mead and I were working on a store building in Waukon, a man looking up saw me, and inquired, ‘Do you know a carpenter around here by the name of Hosea Mead?’

“I replied, ‘Yes, sir, he is up here working with me.’

“Brother Mead said, ‘That is Elon Everts’s voice.’

“Then he came and looked down, and Brother Everts said, ‘Come down; Brother and Sister White and Brother Hart are out here in the sleigh.’

“As I reached the sleigh, Sister White greeted me with the question, ‘What doest thou here, Elijah?’

“Astonished at such a question, I replied. ‘I am working with Brother Mead at carpenter work.’

“The second time she repeated, ‘What doest thou here, Elijah?’

“Now I was so embarrassed at such a question, and the connecting of my case with Elijah, that I did not know what to say. It was evident that there was something back of this which I should hear more about.

“The third time she repeated the question. ‘What doest thou hear, Elijah?’

“I was brought by these bare questions to very seriously consider the case of Elijah, away from the direct work of the Lord, hid in a cave.”

The travelers’ reception in Waukon was as cold as the hardships of winter they had just passed through. Yet Ellen knew the Lord had sent them, and she waited for Him to lead the way. They were there now, and it was up to Him.

Ellen wrote that they had “found nearly all of the Sabbath-keepers sorry that we had come.”

During an evening meeting Ellen had a vision, during which the angel repeated these words several times: “Return unto me [said the Lord] and I will return unto thee, and heal all your backslidings.” People were praying together, and there was a degree of unity. Mrs. Loughborough was so strongly affected that she broke down and cried bitterly, confessing the resentment that had built up so strongly inside her. She had been partly to blame for her husband’s leaving the ministry. She had complained that he was gone preaching too much, and that she was left alone for long periods of time and didn’t like
it. Now she urged her husband to return to his work as a minister. That meeting lasted until midnight. And not many of the people slept when they went to bed, for the Lord was working on their hearts.

They met again the next morning at ten, and the meeting lasted, without interruption, until five in the afternoon. John Loughborough found his Lord again. He confessed along with others, removing all alienation, and he re-consecrated his life to God and His work. One by one the people began to see things in a different light. There were bitter tears as they prayed, and hearts melted under the love of God. They asked the Whites to forgive their former hostility and resentment, adding that they were thankful that God loved them so much that He sent special messengers to them.

Ellen wrote, “It seemed that angels from heaven were passing from one to the other in the room.”

Through this experience the Lord had changed John Loughborough’s heart. He said, “I have laid up my hammer and have driven my last nail.” He now realized the grace and felt the love that God had extended to him.

John Loughborough went on to become one of the great pioneers of the Adventist movement. He never looked back.*

*Adapted from Ellen by Paul Ricchiuti (Pacific Press, 1977).
Journal

• Suppose you had been asked to make the journey to visit the Loughboroughs. What would you have done? Bringing things closer to home, how have you extended grace to others today?

Activities

A. Think of a situation in your home or school where one act of kindness or grace could produce several effects. Use the “Cause and Effect” chart to tell your story.

B. Create postcards with a quote or Bible verse about grace. Decorate them and mail them to parents or to someone in the community or church.

C. Select stories (Bible, literature, Internet, or write your own) of people who extended grace to others. Make a classroom book of your compilations.

D. Look up synonyms for grace in a thesaurus, or use some of the words listed here: kindness, kindliness, favor, mercy, mercifulness, charity, benevolence, leniency, or clemency. Write the definitions. Display your findings on a poster titled “Grace means . . .”
To Learn More


Dig a Little Deeper

1. Faith or Presumption?
   - Use a dictionary to define the words *faith* and *presumption*.
   - Some people might question whether or not the Whites and their friends used good judgment in their efforts to extend grace to others. Did they show faith in traveling to visit the Loughborough and the Andrews families, or was it presumption to make such a long journey in inclement weather? Explain.
   - The Whites chose to travel on ice that was potentially unsafe. Do you feel their choice was faith or presumption? Explain.


3. In this story, where do you see the grace of God as illustrated in the story of the lost sheep (Luke 15:3–7)?

4. Think about the stories in this unit and especially the narrative for this week. What are the effects of grace in the stories?
It is only because of Christ and His incredible and eternal love for us that we can have the assurance of salvation. King David expressed his experience like this: “I wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress where I will not be shaken” (Psalm 62:5, 6).
Write your memory verses for the unit on cards and add them to your file.

Look at some instruction manuals (computer, camera, refrigerator, etc.). Create an instruction manual for someone seeking the gift of salvation.

As you study Unit 3, add new ideas you learn about salvation to the Salvation Spider Map.

Salvation is a gift that Jesus Christ offers to all. Create an acrostic with the word SALVATION that tells about your acceptance of this wonderful gift.
Jesus gives each of us the opportunity to take up our cross and follow Him. What will your answer be today?

Memory Verse

“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).
A murmur ran through the crowd. Jesus had just reproved the disciples for trying to turn the children away. Now little ones were clustered around Jesus, leaning on Him, climbing on His lap, telling Him their troubles, or laughing with Him. In the crowd was a rich young man watching the scene with interest. He was moved by the love Jesus showed toward the little ones. When Jesus set the children down and turned to go on His way toward Jerusalem, the young man ran out into the road and fell to his knees in front of Jesus.

Everyone stared. They had never seen a rich man willing to get his fine robe dirty, let alone humble himself as if he were a child wanting a blessing from the Teacher. Most of them knew this man was a ruler among the Jews, and while he was kind and godly, they thought he was proud—and had a right to be.

“Good Teacher!” The man’s voice was earnest. “What should I do to get eternal life?”

Jesus looked at him thoughtfully. “Why are you calling Me good? Only God is good.” Jesus loved this young man, and as He gazed on the earnest face turned up to His, compassion stirred in His heart. He knew the man had depended on his own accomplishments throughout his life. Now he had come to Jesus with his heart full of good deeds and good behavior, thinking this could earn the favor of God. How could Jesus teach him that there was nothing he could do to get eternal life? It was the free gift of God that Jesus had come to give to all who would accept it.

_Are you depending on what you can do to earn God’s love? Do you know His gift is free?_

Jesus decided to start with what the man already knew. “You know the commandments. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do
not testify falsely. Do not cheat. Honor your father and mother.”

The young man nodded earnestly. “Teacher, I’ve always done these things, ever since I was a child!” He had done his best to keep the commandments all his life, and he believed he had done well. Why, then, did he still feel dissatisfied? What was he missing? He didn’t know, but as he watched Jesus with the children, he had felt that Jesus might know the answers to his needs.

Jesus did know. More than anything else, He longed to give the man the peace and assurance he was lacking. That peace would fill the man’s heart and life and crowd out all the dependence on his possessions and on the “good things” he could do—if he would accept it. Would he let go of his own self-righteousness and take hold of Jesus?

The look of love on Jesus’ face was just like the one He had shown the children. “You lack only one thing,” He said.

The man felt Jesus’ love and must have thought, Anything. I’ll do anything he asks! Then Jesus spoke again, and the rich man couldn’t believe his ears.

“Sell all you have and give the money to the poor,” said Jesus. He saw the hope and joy fade from the man’s face. Jesus leaned forward, pleading, “You will have treasure in heaven. Come and follow Me.” Jesus knew that what He was asking would not be possible for the man in his own strength. He would have to walk with Jesus to accomplish it. He would have to accept by faith that the treasure Jesus offered was infinitely greater than his own. Would he be willing?

Slowly, the young man’s gaze fell until he was looking at the ground instead of at Jesus. He got up, brushed the dust from his robe, and without saying a word, turned and walked away.

Jesus looked longingly down the road as the young man disappeared from sight. He knew His heavenly Father would continue to work with this young man.

Jesus turned to continue His last trip to Jerusalem.

On the way, Jesus and His followers passed through Jericho. Part way through the town, Jesus stopped and looked up. Those near Him followed His gaze and saw an amazing thing. Another man wanted to see Jesus badly enough to be undignified. This man had actually climbed a tree! It was Zacchaeus, the despised chief of the tax collectors in the region.

“Zacchaeus! Quick, come down! I want to stay at your house today.”

People in the crowd nudged each other and frowned. Jesus was going to
stay with Zacchaeus, of all people! Why hadn’t He told any of them He needed a place to stay? They did not like tax collectors at all. Tax collectors lied and cheated and acted as puppets to the Romans. The crowd watched jealously as Zacchaeus scrambled down the tree and led Jesus to his house.

“He’s going to be the guest of a notorious sinner!” the rabbis complained.

Zacchaeus was overwhelmed with Jesus’ love and kindness. He knew what the people were grumbling about, and he knew that they were right. He didn’t deserve to have Jesus stay with him, but he longed to have Jesus as a guest.

Zacchaeus had heard John the Baptist preaching. John had told tax collectors it was wrong to collect more than the required taxes. Zacchaeus knew John was right. He decided he wanted to be different. As the Holy Spirit worked in his life, Zacchaeus began to make changes in his business practices. Soon he could feel peace and the assurance of God’s love growing in his heart. Then he heard of Jesus and wanted to meet him. Now he had not only met the Teacher, but was going to welcome Him into his own home! He decided it was time to share the changes God had already been working in him.

Zacchaeus declared, “Lord, I will give half my wealth to the poor. And I will pay back four times as much to anyone I have cheated!”

A buzz of astonishment swept through the crowd.

Jesus, His face alight with joy, declared, “Salvation has come to this home today!” His gaze moved from Zacchaeus to the proud Jews among His followers as He added, “He is a son of Abraham, too. It is sinners like him that I have come to find and to save.”

Jesus stayed in Zacchaeus’s home only a short while, but He lived in Zacchaeus’s heart forever.

Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your life, too?
Journal

• What might you give up in your life in order to spend more time with Jesus? What will your answer be?

Activities

A. Write a modern-day version of the story of the rich young ruler, telling what God might ask him to give up.

B. Draw a series of pictures to illustrate the Zacchaeus story.

C. Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the rich young ruler and Zacchaeus.

D. Prepare a shuttered window by pasting half sheets of paper on the margins of a full sheet. Behind the shutters draw a scene that a person looking out on the street may have seen as Jesus and His disciples met Zacchaeus. Give your page a title.

To Learn More

Mark 10:17–31
Luke 19:1–10

*Christ’s Object Lessons*, pp. 390–396
*Messiah*, pp. 287–289; 302–304
Dig a Little Deeper

1. Read the story of the rich young ruler in *The Desire of Ages* (pp. 518–523). Christ longed to make the rich young ruler like Himself. The young man chose earthly gain rather than heavenly riches. What are three things that God wanted for the rich young ruler?

2. Read the following passage from *The Desire of Ages* and answer the following questions:

   “The ruler’s possessions were entrusted to him that he might prove himself a faithful steward; he was to dispense these goods for the blessing of those in need. So God now entrusts men with means, with talents and opportunities, that they may be His agents in helping the poor and the suffering. He who uses his entrusted gifts as God designs becomes a co-worker with the Saviour. He wins souls to Christ, because he is a representative of His character” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 523).

   • Why did God give riches to the young ruler?
   • How could he have used his goods for a blessing to others?
   • Can you think of any talents or opportunities that God has entrusted to you that you may be able to use for a blessing to others?

3. Psalm 37:4 says, “Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.” How would the life of the rich young ruler have been different if he had taken this text to heart?

4. “Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 556). Explain how this statement applies to the way Zacchaeus responded to Jesus’ invitation to follow Him.
“‘If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me. I will be found by you,’ says the Lord” (Jeremiah 29:13, 14).

Memory Verse

“He has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and he has brought us into the Kingdom of his dear Son. God has purchased our freedom with his blood and has forgiven all our sins” (Colossians 1:13, 14).
It was a long, hot summer afternoon in the slums of Coney Island, New York. Ron Halvorsen and his friends were hanging out in front of a candy store, joking around, shoving each other, and getting in the way of paying customers.

“This is boring! Let’s do something more exciting!”

“Like what? There’s nothing to do around here.”

“Dare you to go in and steal something!” someone whispered.

It started with “little things,” such as candy or bread from a bakery. Then Ron and his friends started stealing hubcaps to sell, vandalizing their school building, and even “borrowing” cars for joyrides. By the age of thirteen, Ron ran wild with a group of boys who fought, stole, and generally made trouble. But he longed to belong to a real gang.

New York gangs were highly organized. Many boys looked up to these gangs and thought it would be wonderful to belong to one. Since their lives were a constant struggle for survival, they thought belonging to a gang would give them security.

Ron was so excited when he was invited to be a gang member that he didn’t even mind the painful initiation he had to endure. He thought it proved how strong and courageous he was. Now he was living!

Over time, he was amazed and disappointed to learn that belonging to a gang did not give him security. Rather, gang life was entirely based on fear: fear of other gangs, fear of the police, even fear of one another.

At times Ron went alone into a dark alley at night and sat where he could look up to a small slice of sky with a few stars peering through the smog and ever-present halo of city lights. There he would ask himself questions. “Where is God? Why did He let me be born into this place? Doesn’t He care?”

Why else might the boys have been attracted to gangs?
“Why don’t you give your heart to Christ, Ron?”

Ron stared at his friend, Jim. If a fish had walked by whistling a song, Ron wouldn’t have been more amazed. His friends never talked about God! Jim Londis and Ron Halvorsen had grown up near each other and were now in eighth grade. Ron knew that Jim had gotten into his share of trouble. What could have happened to Jim? Surely it was just a joke. Jim couldn’t have gotten religion!

He laughed off Jim’s question, but Jim persisted. “I really have found the Lord. I’m inviting you to get to know Him too.”

Jim meant it! His grandparents were taking Bible lessons, and Jim had listened in. Now he was talking about things like prophecies, the second coming of Jesus, and what it meant to have Jesus in your heart. He kept at it until finally, when he asked Ron to come to a Bible study, Ron said Yes.

Ron was almost as amazed that he accepted as he had been at Jim’s invitation. Why had he said Yes? He couldn’t think of a way to get out of the Bible study, so he went. Sitting in a corner by himself, he tried not to listen. He was afraid those religious people would “catch” him as they had his friend. So after one study, he refused to go back.

About that time Ron and Jim both graduated from elementary school. Ron went on to a rather rough high school. There were fights every day in spite of the police patrolling in the hallways. However, Jim went to Greater New York Academy.

Ron kept getting deeper and deeper into trouble, but even that one Bible study had made an impression on him. He even prayed once when he was in danger. Ron promised God if He would keep him safe, he would be “good.” God kept him safe, but Ron forgot his promise. Nothing changed.

Then one hot day Ron and another friend, Rich, decided to skip school. They did this so often that they knew the police would know where to look for them. Rich had already been sent to reform school and didn’t dare get caught again.

“I know!” exclaimed Ron. “I remember the name of the school Jim attends. Let’s go visit him at his school! They’ll never look for us there.”

So they got on a subway and spent a couple of hours looking for Greater New York Academy. They finally found it and went inside, swaggering down
the hallway in their black leather jackets. “This can’t be a school; it’s too quiet,” they told each other. The only schools they knew were full of chaos and fighting.

A woman came out into the hall and looked at them nervously. “May I help you?”

“Yeah, does Jim Londis go to school here?”

“Yes, he’s in chapel.” The woman had to explain what chapel was. When they found the room and realized it was a meeting of some kind, Ron and Rich went in and sat down in the back. Jim spotted them and came eagerly to greet them and sit with them.

Ron was dismayed to discover he was in a religious meeting. The minister, Charles Keymer, was quoting the Bible and using words such as love, God, Christ, and sacrifice. Ron tried to keep from listening, as he had in the Bible study. But something began stirring within his heart. The next day he and Rich played hooky again and came back.

They learned it was week of prayer and Elder Keymer would be speaking each day. To this day, Ron Halvorsen remembers the second meeting. “Elder Keymer talked about the gentle hands of Jesus. He told how those hands touched the lame man, and the lame man bounded to his feet praising God. He told how those same loving hands touched the eyes of a blind man who had never seen the beauty of an open flower, and how the scales fell away from his eyes.” What kind of Man was this Jesus Christ?

But that very night Ron got into trouble. He escaped the police by a means
he would have ordinarily considered very clever. However, he wasn’t as proud of himself as he thought he would be. Why should he feel uncomfortable about his wrongdoing?

**What do you think was happening to Ron?**

He continued to skip school so he could attend the week of prayer meetings. When some friends tried to get him to come with them to steal a car, he just didn’t feel like it, so they went without him. They were arrested and put behind bars.

**What might have happened if Ron had said Yes?**

At the last meeting, Elder Keymer talked about the two thieves who were crucified with Jesus. One had made his decision for Christ in the last moments of his life. When Elder Keymer asked if anyone wanted to accept the salvation Jesus offered, Ron stood up.

Belonging to Jesus was different from belonging to a gang. Ron learned a new way of life. He dressed differently. He talked differently. He even walked differently. He enrolled in the academy and there learned to study. Ron was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and decided to become a pastor.

Ron’s new life as a Christian gave him the security and the sense of belonging that he had been searching for. Shortly after his baptism, he and his friend, Jim, began giving Bible studies. Soon there were more people to study with than they had time for. Their Bible teacher gave them a challenge, “Why don’t you study with them all at once? You could give an evangelistic series.”

This shook Ron and Jim up. Give an evangelistic series? *Them?* Why not? They rented a storefront and started preaching. Throughout the winter they continued preaching. Many people attended week by week. Rival gang members also showed up and tried to disrupt the meetings, but the young men faithfully continued their work.

Ron Halvorsen has served God as a pastor, a traveling evangelist, and as an evangelist for Metro Evangelism in New York City. There he was able to work for people living in the same conditions in which he had grown up. Elder Halvorsen says he can never thank God enough for rescuing him from a path of fear and self-destruction, and he intends to continue telling about God’s goodness as long as he has breath.
Journal

- List some things that you are tempted to fear. Using a concordance, find Bible verses to write in your journal to help you overcome these fears.

Activities

A. Read the words to the song “The Love of God.” The author uses many powerful word pictures to describe God’s love. Identify and illustrate some of these images.

B. Compare and contrast what was appealing to Ron Halvorsen about gangs and what was appealing about God’s love.

C. Work with a partner to complete the K-W-L chart about accepting Jesus’ offer of salvation.

D. A-maze-ing!
   - Create a maze that you have to navigate to reach salvation. Add appropriate graphics to the beginning and ending points. For help creating your maze go to <http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/AdvMazeSetupForm.html>.
   - How is accepting salvation like navigating your maze?

To Learn More

Hawley, Don. From Gangs to God: Evangelist Ron Halvorsen’s Story (Review and Herald, 1973).

Dig a Little Deeper

1. Read Acts 26:17, 18 and 2 Corinthians 6:16, 18. What does God say will happen to those who receive His message?

2. Looking back on the story, what kept Ron Halvorsen from giving his heart to the Lord? What did or what is keeping you from giving your heart to the Lord?

3. Read Colossians 2:6, 7; 3:12–15; Jeremiah 9:3–6; and Galatians 5:19–21. List the results of giving your life to God as opposed to letting Satan control you.

4. Ron Halvorsen’s story is truly a miraculous story about God’s love, faithfulness, and deliverance. Is it necessary to have such a dynamic story to be truly converted? Explain your position.
The grace of God is sufficient for all our needs, for every problem, and for every difficulty, for every broken heart, and for every human sorrow. —Peter Marshall
Ben Carson’s dad left for good when Ben was eight years old. For months Ben cried, begged his mother, and pleaded with God to send his dad back. Reluctantly, Ben and his brother Curtis came to the sad realization that, as much as they loved Dad, life was better without him around. Better, but very hard. Mother worked long hours. Ben had an extremely difficult time in school. Later, after his mother’s faith and persistent help turned his academic life around, he fell into trouble with peer pressure. He began to criticize others in order to fit in with the “in crowd.” Having the right clothes became the most important thing to him.

Have you or someone you know faced similar difficulties?

Ben didn’t realize it, but the most deadly problem he faced was his simmering anger. He was happy most of the time, and it took a lot to make him angry. However, when something set him off, it became clear that underneath his cheerful exterior, rage hid silently inside. Ben would completely lose control and reach for the nearest stone, brick, or stick to hurt the person he felt was the immediate cause of his anger. One day he put a three-inch gash in a student’s head with a combination lock. Another time, he threw a rock and smashed a boy’s nose. He even came close to hitting his own mother, whom he loved dearly, over nothing more important than having the “right” kind of pants to wear to school. Although Ben felt guilty when he lost his temper, he thought he could control himself if he tried hard enough.

Then came the day he almost murdered his friend.

Ben and his friend, Bob, were listening to music when Bob changed the station. An argument erupted.

“You call that music?”

“It’s better than what you like!”
“Come on, Carson, you always . . .”

Ben lost control again. He pulled a camping knife from his back pocket and lunged for Bob with all his strength. The knife hit Bob’s large belt buckle with such force that the blade broke and fell to the floor.

Cold shock froze both boys. Staring at the knife blade on the floor and the handle in Ben’s hand, both realized that Bob would be dead if it weren’t for the big buckle. Bob couldn’t speak.

“I’m—I’m sorry,” stammered Ben and, dropping the knife handle, he fled home. All the way, one thought pounded in his mind. I almost killed him! I could have killed my friend! If not for one piece of metal, Bob would be dead, and Ben would be on his way to jail, a murderer.

At home, Ben raced into the bathroom and locked the door behind him. His heart pounded, and sweat ran down his body. Staring in the mirror, he didn’t recognize the person he saw. Was this Ben Carson, son of a loving mother? Was this Ben Carson, a Christian? Or was this an unknown person, Ben Carson, the murderer? In that moment, self-hatred swept over him. There was not a single thing he could do to change himself.

One word flooded his mind. Pray. His mother and the teachers at school and church had all taught him to pray when he was in trouble. Well, he was in trouble—and much worse would come if he couldn’t learn to control his anger. Another time there might be no belt buckle.

“Oh, Lord,” gasped Ben, “You have to take this temper from me. If You don’t, I’ll never be free from it. I’ll end up doing things a lot worse than trying to stab one of my best friends.” He covered his face with his hands, tears streaming between his fingers. “I believe You can change me, Lord. You’re the only One who can.”

Pictures of other times he had lost control filled Ben’s mind. What would it do to his mother if he couldn’t change? She believed in him—always, no matter what. Perhaps there was something in the Bible that would help. Ben went to get a Bible then locked himself in the bathroom again. He opened the Book to Proverbs. Immediately his eyes fell on many verses about uncon-
trolled anger and the trouble it causes. The one that touched him the most was Proverbs 16:32: “It is better to be patient than powerful; it is better to have self-control than to conquer a city.” Ben whispered the words to himself. He felt as if God had come into the bathroom and written those verses right then, just for him.

Hours passed as Ben prayed and read. Slowly, the despair began to fade, and hope replaced it. His hands stopped shaking. The tears stopped flowing. God could change him. He had changed. Ben knew it. He knew his life would never be the same. He decided then and there to read the Bible every day. From that day forward, God empowered Ben Carson to control his temper. Proverbs is still one of his favorite books in the Bible.

**How will reading his Bible each day help Ben?**
The desire of Ben’s heart was to be a doctor. Eventually this desire crystal-lized into the dream of becoming a neurosurgeon. He worked as hard as he could throughout high school and, because of his grades, was awarded a scholarship to Yale. At Yale the premed course was extremely difficult, and Ben faltered a bit during his first year and almost failed an essential course. By the grace of God he was able to complete the course. Then, determined never to allow such a thing to happen again, he threw himself back into his studies with new fervor.
As he began his internship, one of the final steps to becoming a fully qualified doctor, Dr. Carson sometimes faced problems and difficulties. He saw them as chances to practice the patience God gave him daily. One of the chief residents was arrogant and abrasive. He did not respect Dr. Carson, speaking rudely to him, cutting him off when he was speaking, or just ignoring him entirely. If Dr. Carson asked a question about an order, the resident would bark, “Because I said so!”

One day when the resident was angry with someone else, he took it out on Dr. Carson and lost his temper. He ranted and raged, accusing Dr. Carson of thinking he was “really something” but shouting that he thought Carson was “lousy.” He threatened to have Dr. Carson kicked out of neurosurgery.

Dr. Carson stood calmly, listening but not speaking. When the resident paused, he asked quietly, “Are you finished?”

“Yeah!”

“Fine,” said Dr. Carson. And that was the end of the incident. He had learned during his hours in the bathroom that letting someone else “make” him angry gave that person control over him. Dr. Carson was determined to allow only God to have control over him.

Dr. Ben Carson is one of the most famous neurosurgeons in the world. He became chief of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University and Hospital at the unusually young age of thirty-three. He and his team have saved thousands of lives, taking on surgeries others consider impossible. He is most known for his gentleness, patience, and quiet voice.

**Questions:**

Can someone “make” you angry?
Journal

- Is there a problem that you struggle with? Write about it. Use a concordance to find a Bible verse that will help you when you are tempted.

Activities

A. List situations that might arise throughout the day that could cause a person to be angry. Beside each, brainstorm some gentle solutions.

B. Make a flow chart to illustrate the steps Ben Carson went through as he moved from anger to trusting God.

C. Decorate a box and label it “Instead of Getting Angry” or “When the Pressure Builds.” On 3 x 5 cards, write suggestions for keeping one’s cool, relaxation exercises, or thoughts and texts for meditation. Place cards in the box. Pull out a card and read it the next time you become angry.

D. Use a concordance to find Bible texts on anger. Make a matching game with passages written on some cards and references where they are found on other cards.

To Learn More

Carson, Ben. Gifted Hands (Zondervan, 1996)
Carson, Ben. Think Big (Zondervan, 1996)
Hannaford, Carla. Smart Moves: Why Learning Is Not All in Your Head (Great River Books, 1995)
Dig a Little Deeper

1. Read Proverbs 16:32 and Ephesians 4:25–27 and answer the following questions.
   - What characteristic is better than being powerful?
   - What is better than conquering a city?
   - What two pieces of advice are given in Ephesians 4:26, 27?

2. Ben Carson is an amazing person. Looking back at the story in your book and reading more information from <http://www.drbencarson.com/>, examine his life and construct seven questions that you would ask him if you had the chance to interview him personally.

3. The Psalms contain a beautiful poem written by David that tells of his continual struggle with anger and sin.

   Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;  
   wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. . . .

   Create in me a clean heart, O God.
   Renew a right spirit within me.
   Do not banish me from your presence,  
   and don’t take Your Holy Spirit from me.
   Restore to me again the joy of your salvation,  
   and make me willing to obey You  
   (Psalm 51:7, 10–12).

   Write a poem or song that is a prayer from your heart, asking God to change you to be more like Him. Include at least eight lines.

4. Many texts in the Bible tell of God’s anger. Two are listed below.

   “You must not worship any of the gods of neighboring nations, for the Lord your God, who lives among you, is a jealous God. His anger will flare up against you and wipe you from the face of the earth”  
   (Deuteronomy 6:14, 15).

   “You neglected the Rock who had fathered you; you forgot the God who had given you birth. The Lord saw this and was filled with loathing. He was provoked to anger by his own sons and daughters. He said, ‘I will abandon them; I will see to their end! For they are a twisted generation, children without integrity’ ”  
   (Deuteronomy 32:18–20).

   Contrast God’s righteous anger and your own daily struggle with anger.  
   Is there a place for anger? Is there a time that anger is not a sin?  
   Defend your position in a two- to three-paragraph response.
Fear not little flock,
For Christ is our Rock;
The promise stands sure.
The kingdom He’ll give,
to the same that endure.

—A. R. Smith (The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, September 16, 1851).

Memory Verse

“With joy you will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation! In that wonderful day you will sing: ‘Thank the LORD! Praise his name! Tell the world what he has done. Oh, how mighty he is! Sing to the LORD, for he has done wonderful things. Make known his praise around the world’ ” (Isaiah 12:3–5).
Annie, the older sister of Uriah Smith, was born in West Wilton, New Hampshire, on March 16, 1828. As a girl, she and her family belonged to the Millerite movement and were known as Millerite Adventists. Along with William Miller and other believers, they anxiously awaited the coming of Jesus on October 22, 1844. After that day and night, now known as the Great Disappointment, came and went without Jesus returning to earth, Annie lost hope and turned her energies to school. She attended Charlestown Female Seminary in Massachusetts, where she studied to be a teacher.

Annie was a very talented young woman. She was a poet, as were her mother and brother. She had several poems published in the *The Ladies' Wreath*, a literary magazine printed in New York. Annie was also a painter. One day, while sketching the Boston skyline from Prospect Hill, Annie strained her eyes. The damage was so severe that she could hardly use her eyes for nearly eight months.

Annie’s mother, Rebekah, embraced “present truth”* and desired that her children accept the truth as well. Mrs. Smith shared her concern with Joseph Bates, and the children’s conversion was made a subject of prayer. In 1851, when Mrs. Smith learned that Elder Bates was going to hold meetings in Somerville, Massachusetts, she invited Annie to attend. Wanting to please her mother, Annie agreed to attend.

The night before the meetings began, Annie had a remarkable dream. She dreamed she attended the meeting, but arrived late only to discover that there were no seats left except one in the last row. In her dream the minister was pointing to a chart as he said, “Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed” (Daniel 8:14, KJV). She also dreamed that what he said was true.
Annie wasn’t the only one who dreamed about the meeting that night. Joseph Bates had a similar dream. In this dream he saw a young girl arrive late and sit in the very last row of the meeting hall. He felt impressed to change his planned topic and preach a sermon titled “The Sanctuary and the Passing of the Time in 1844; the Sabbath, and the Third Angel’s Message.”

Much to her surprise, Annie found herself fulfilling the dream. Even though she left early for the meeting, she became lost and arrived late. The first hymn had been sung, prayer had been offered, the second hymn was ending—and the only empty seat was in the last row. Annie listened attentively as Elder Bates spoke. Just as in her dream, she knew she was hearing truth.

When the meeting was over, Annie Smith and Joseph Bates had much to talk about as they compared dreams. Impressed by this providential event, Annie accepted the Sabbath and once again became excited about the Advent message. Within days she penned the poem “Fear Not, Little Flock” as an expression of her newfound faith and sent it off to the Review and Herald.

James White invited Annie to join the Adventist publishing venture, but she declined because of her poor eyesight. He asked her to come even though
her vision was poor. She accepted the second invitation. When she arrived, prayer was offered for her recovery. Those prayers were answered, and Annie’s eyes were healed. For the next three years Annie assisted James as copy editor and often served, in his place, as editor of the *Review* when he traveled with his wife, Ellen.

Annie wrote numerous poems and hymns. Many of her poems appeared in both the *Review and Herald* and *Youth’s Instructor*. Though not the first hymn writer among the Sabbath keepers, she was one of the most prolific. Annie used her talent to inspire faith in the advent message and to give the assurance of salvation.

One of her hymns, “How Far From Home,” expresses the intensity of her belief in Jesus’ soon return:

How far from home? Ah, then, I cried
   To God, who marks each plaintive sigh:
      A still, small voice, within replied,
         Not far from home am I!

Then weep no more, though round thy way
   Afflictions rise, and doubt and fear,
      While myriad voices secretly say,
         The pilgrim’s home is near.

Unfortunately, this talented woman became ill with tuberculosis. She returned home in hopes of regaining her health. It was there that she edited a book of her poems that was published after her death. She died at the age of twenty-seven. The day before her death Annie penned her own epitaph:

I long now to rest in the lone quiet tomb;
   For the footsteps of Jesus have lightened its gloom;
      I die in the hope of soon meeting again.
         The friends that I love with Him ever to reign.

* “Present truth” refers to the sanctuary in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus (see *Early Writings*, p. 63).
Journal

- How could you encourage someone who has experienced a tough situation?

Activities

A. Look back through this unit and compile a list of traits found in people who have accepted God’s gift of salvation. Expand your list to include other Bible characters as well.

B. Use the card provided by your teacher to record your acceptance of salvation or to ask any further questions you may have. If you have made the decision to accept Jesus into your life, talk to your teacher about being enrolled in a baptismal class.

C. There has been a tremendous amount of change in society from the time of the Adventist pioneers to how we live today. Identify some differences between methods that the early pioneers might have used to spread the Word of God and what we use today.

D. Look at a Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal. At the front of the book, under Contents, is a section of Early Advent Hymns. Select a hymn written by Annie Smith or another early Adventist hymn writer. Carefully read the words; then paraphrase them or tell what they mean to you.
To Learn More

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
“How to Bring Others to Jesus,” Kid’s Life Application Bible, p. 1129

Dig a Little Deeper

1. Annie Smith used her talents to spread the good news of salvation. Read Matthew 10:2–4. These are the people that Jesus chose to spread the good news of salvation while He lived on earth. Choose two of the disciples and tell about the talents that they used to tell others about the good news.

2. Read the story of the three servants (Matthew 25:14–30) in the King James Version.
   - What were the three servants given? What did they do with what they were given? How did the master respond to their activities?
   - Matthew 25:19 says that the “master” will return to receive an accounting. Annie was called a “five talent” person. Just as Annie used her talents for Jesus, you, too, have been given talents to spread God’s love. Name some of the talents that you have been given and how you can use them to witness to others.

3. God spoke to both Annie Smith and Joseph Bates through dreams that led to Annie’s conversion. Many times God spoke through dreams to people who lived in Bible times. Read the following texts: Genesis 28:10–15, Matthew 2:13, 1 Kings 3:5.
   - Choose one of the texts. Tell who had the dream, what the dream was about, and what God wanted the person to learn from the dream.
   - Before Jesus comes back, God will continue to send visions and dreams to His people, including young people! Read Acts 2:17, 18 and tell at least four things that will happen at the end of time.

4. Read the poem “Fear Not, Little Flock” written by Annie Smith.
   - What idea/moral/value/lesson is the poet trying to get across?
   - From whose point of view is the poem told?
   - Give two examples of figurative language (metaphors, similes, personification, etc.) used in the poem.
   - Give four inferences/conclusions that can be drawn from the poem.
   - Create a series of symbols to illustrate the major point of each stanza.