SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON QUARTERLY

CHARLES ZINGARO, ARTIST

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STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

SENIOR DIVISION, NO. 265, THIRD QUARTER, 1961

THE BLESSING OF DAILY STUDY

"The beauty and riches of the word have a transforming influence on mind and character."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 132.

"There is nothing more calculated to strengthen the intellect than the study of the Scriptures. No other book is so potent to elevate the thoughts, to give vigor to the faculties, as the broad, ennobling truths of the Bible. If God's word were studied as it should be, men would have a breadth of mind, a nobility of character, and a stability of purpose rarely seen in these times."—*Steps to Christ,* page 90.

"The more you search the Scriptures with humble hearts, the greater will be your interest. . . . Every day you should learn something new from the Scriptures."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 266.

My Daily Lesson Study Pledge

As one who greatly desires to improve his knowledge of the Scriptures, I pledge myself to the careful and prayerful study of some portion of my Sabbath school lesson each day of the week.

Name .....

LESSON TITLES FOR THE QUARTER

1. Jesus—God-Man
2. Jesus and His First Miracles
3. Jesus and Nicodemus
4. Jesus and the Samaritan Woman
5. Jesus and the Impotent Man
6. Jesus, the Bread of Life
7. Jesus and the Blind Man
8. Jesus, the Good Shepherd
9. Jesus and Lazarus
10. Jesus and the Last Supper
11. Jesus and His Departure
12. Jesus and His Father
13. Jesus and the Cross
14. Jesus and the Resurrection

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Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Date and Authorship of the Gospel of John: "From every point of view it is safe to date the Gospel of John about the year A.D. 90, and thus within the lifetime of the apostle whose name it bears. Consequently it is reasonable, even on critical premises, to hold that the apostle John was its author. The majestic depth of understanding of the nature and purpose of the mission of Christ set forth in the Gospel of John makes it difficult to believe that another than John the Beloved could have been the penman."

"John is distinguished above the rest of the Twelve as 'the disciple whom Jesus loved' (ch. 21:20). In his heart the flame of personal loyalty and ardent devotion to his Master seemed to burn purer and brighter than in the hearts of his fellows. Between him and Jesus there developed a more intimate friendship than the others knew (DA 292). As Christ alone could perfectly reveal the Father, being the only One who knew Him perfectly, so John was eminently qualified to present, in his Gospel, the sublime truths concerning Christ." —*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, pp. 181, 891.

Lesson 1, for July 1, 1961

Jesus—God-Man

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 1:1-18.

MEMORY VERSE: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 19-26, 31-38 (chapters 1, 3); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," vol. 5, pp. 179-181, 891-894, and on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To help us to know Christ, the Word, as our personal Saviour.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-8; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-13.	☐
Wednesday: Read further from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Word and God

1. In the beginning. John 1:1, first part.
2. With God. John 1:1 (second part), 2.
3. The Creator. John 1:3.
4. The Life and Light. John 1:4.
5. Light in darkness. John 1:5.

II. The Word and the World

6. Witness to the Light. John 1:6-8.
7. The true Light. John 1:9.
8. Reception of the Light. John 1:10, 11.

III. The Word Made Flesh

9. Power to become sons. John 1:12.
10. Born of God. John 1:13.
11. The Incarnation. John 1:14.
12. Giver of grace and truth. John 1:16, 17.
13. Declarer of the unseen God. John 1:18.

THE LESSON

Introduction

One With the Father: "From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father; He was 'the image of God,' the image of His greatness and majesty, 'the outshining of His glory.' It was to manifest this glory that He came to our world. To this sin-darkened earth He came to reveal the light of God's love,—to be 'God with us.' Therefore it was prophesied of Him, 'His name shall be called Immanuel.'

"By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,—God's thought made audible."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 19.

The Word and God

1. What does John teach concerning the eternity of Christ, the Word? John 1:1, first part.

NOTE.—"The Word *was,* throughout all eternity; He never *became* such. But, in time, the Word 'was made [literally, "became" . . .] flesh' (v. 14). Thus, Christ has ever *been* God (John 1:1; Heb. 1:8); but, in contrast, He *became* man (John 1:14; cf. Phil. 2:7). Thus, both in the words and in their form, John stresses the continuous, timeless, unlimited existence of Christ prior to His Incarnation. In eternity past there was no point before which it could be said that the Word was not. The Son was 'with the Father from all eternity' (AA 39). 'There never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God' (Ev 615)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 1:1.

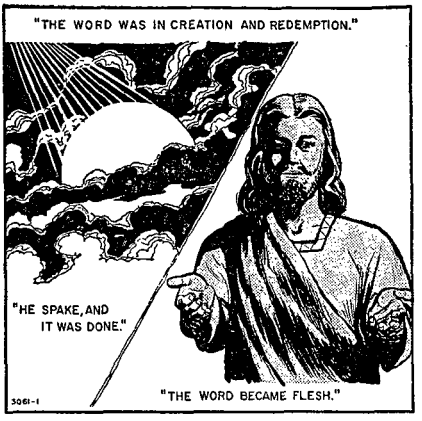
2. What was the relationship of the Word to God? John 1:1 (second part), 2.

NOTE.—"The fact that the Word was 'with God,' that is, with the Father, emphatically declares Him to be a being altogether distinct from the Father. As the context makes clear, the Word was associated with God in a unique and exclusive sense. The Word was 'with God' in the eternity past, but He became 'flesh' in order to be with 'us.' . . . It is impossible to understand the import of the Incarnation except against the background of the eternal pre-existence of Christ as God and as associated with God. . . .

"*Word was God.* . . . John means that the Word partook of the essence of Deity, that He was divine in the ultimate and absolute sense."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 1:1.

3. What was the scope of Christ's creative work? John 1:3.

NOTE.—"If Christ made all things, He existed before all things. The words spoken in regard to this are so decisive that no one need be left in doubt. Christ was God



essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore.

"The Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person, yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by Him as His right." —Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1126.

4. What primary attributes did the Word make available to man? John 1:4.

NOTE.—"It is not physical life that is here specified, but eternal life, the life which is exclusively the property of God. The Word, who was with God, and who was God, had this life. Physical life is something which each individual received. It is not eternal or immortal; for God, the Life-giver, takes it again. Man has no control over his life. But the life of Christ was unborrowed. No one can take this life from Him. 'I lay it down of Myself,' He said. In Him was life, original, unborrowed, underived. This life is not inherent in man. He can possess it only through Christ."—Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1130.

5. Where did the Light shine, and with what success? John 1:5.

The Word and the World

6. How did God prepare men for the coming of the Light? John 1:6-8.

7. How many may benefit from the coming of the Light? John 1:9.

NOTE.—This verse (John 1:9) may also be translated: "The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world." R.S.V.

"As through Christ every human being has life, so also through Him every soul receives some ray of divine light. Not only intellectual but spiritual power, a perception of right, a desire for goodness, exists in every heart. But against these principles there is struggling an antagonistic power. The result of the eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is manifest in every man's experience. There is in his nature a bent to evil, a force which, unaided, he cannot resist. To withstand this force, to attain that ideal which in his inmost soul he accepts as alone worthy, he can find help in but one power. That power is Christ. Co-operation with that power is man's greatest need."—*Education,* page 29.

8. Although the true Light came to bless all, how was He received? John 1:10, 11.

The Word Made Flesh

9. What did Christ, the Word and the Light, give to those who received Him and believed on Him? John 1:12.

NOTE.—"Not by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the

implanting of Christ's nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit. . . . Here is the only power that can work the uplifting of mankind. And the human agency for the accomplishment of this work is the teaching and practicing of the word of God."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 509, 510.

10. How only can children of God be born? John 1:13. Compare 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18.

11. In what sublime, perceptive words does the evangelist describe the way in which the Son of God became the Son of man? John 1:14.

NOTE.—"Christ could not have come to this earth with the glory that He had in the heavenly courts. Sinful human beings could not have borne the sight. He veiled His divinity with the garb of humanity, but He did not part with His divinity. A divine-human Saviour, He came to stand at the head of the fallen race, to share in their experience from childhood to manhood."—Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1128.

"Finite understanding halts at the threshold of infinite love, wisdom, and power—baffled and unable to go further. Paul speaks of the Incarnation as a great mystery (1 Tim. 3:16). To stray beyond the bounds of what Inspiration has made known is to delve into mysteries the human mind lacks capacity to comprehend."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 1:14.

12. For what spiritual gifts are we, as believers, indebted to Christ? John 1:16, 17.

13. What supreme revelation has Christ given to those who study His life? John 1:18.

NOTE.—"Christ, the Light of the world, veiled the dazzling splendor of His divinity and came to live as a man among men, that they might, without being consumed, become acquainted with their Creator. No man has seen God at any time except as He is revealed through Christ. . . .

"God saw that a clearer revelation than nature was needed to portray both His personality and His character. He sent His Son into the world to reveal, so far as could be endured by human sight, the nature and the attributes of the invisible God."—*Testimonies,* vol. 8, p. 265.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. How clear and firm is my belief in Christ's Creatorship? John 1:1-3.
2. Has a knowledge of Christ brought spiritual life and light into my daily life? John 1:4-9.
3. Have I actively received Christ into my life? John 1:10-13.
4. Do I behold the Father's glory in the earthly life of His Son? John 1:14-18.

Lesson 2, for July 8, 1961

Jesus and His First Miracles

LESSON SCRIPTURES: John 2:1-11; 4:46-54.

MEMORY VERSE: "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory; and His disciples believed on Him." John 2:11.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 144-153, 196-200 (chapters 15, 20); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," vol. 5, pp. 208-213, and on Lesson Scriptures; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To help us to gain a faith similar to that of Mary and the nobleman.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-3. ☐
Monday: Questions 4-6; begin reading Study Helps. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 7-9; read further from Study Helps. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-14. ☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Village Wedding

1. Marriage in Cana. John 2:1.
2. Jesus and disciples invited. John 2:2.
3. Embarrassing shortage of wine. John 2:3, first part.

II. Mother and Son

4. Mary's appeal to Jesus. John 2:3, last part.
5. Jesus' response to mother's appeal. John 2:4.
6. Mary's trust in her Son. John 2:5.

III. The First Miracle

7. Jesus and the servants. John 2:6-8.
8. Water into wine. John 2:9, 10.
9. Results of the miracle. John 2:11.

IV. Another Miracle in Cana

10. An urgent request. John 4:46, 47.
11. Jesus tests the suppliant. John 4:48.
12. Jesus' response to faith. John 4:49, 50.
13. Faith leads to an immediate miracle. John 4:51, 52.
14. The miracle leads to lasting belief. John 4:53, 54.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Effective Belief: "Not because we see or feel that God hears us are we to believe. We are to trust in His promises. When we come to Him in faith, every petition enters the heart of God. When we have asked for His blessing, we should believe that we receive it, and thank Him that we *have* received it. Then we are to go about our duties, assured that the blessing will be realized when we need it most. When we have learned to do this, we shall know that our prayers are answered."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 200.

The Village Wedding

1. What was the setting for Jesus' first miracle? John 2:1.

NOTE.—"Jesus did not begin His ministry by some great work before the Sanhedrin at Jerusalem. At a household gathering in a little Galilean village His power was put forth to add to the joy of a wedding feast. Thus He showed His sympathy with men, and His desire to minister to their happiness."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 144.

"In the festal hall where friends and kindred rejoiced together, Christ began His public ministry. Thus He sanctioned marriage, recognizing it as an institution that He Himself had established. He ordained that men and women should be united in holy wedlock, to rear families whose members, crowned with honor, should be recognized as members of the family above."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 356.

2. Who were included among the invited guests? John 2:2.

NOTE.—"From the Jordan, Jesus had returned to Galilee. There was to be a marriage at Cana, a little town not far from Nazareth; the parties were relatives of Joseph and Mary; and Jesus, knowing of this family gathering, went to Cana, and with His disciples was invited to the feast." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 144.

3. What distressing shortage occurred? John 2:3, first part.

NOTE.—"It was the custom of the times for marriage festivities to continue several days. On this occasion, before the feast ended it was found that the supply of wine had failed. This discovery caused much perplexity and regret. It was unusual to dispense with wine on festive occasions, and its absence would seem to indicate a want of hospitality."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 145, 146.

Mother and Son

4. To whom did Mary apply for help in this emergency? John 2:3, last part.

NOTE.—"As Mary had heard the disciples' testimony in regard to Jesus, she had been gladdened with the assurance that her long-cherished hopes were not in vain. Yet she would have been more than human if there had not mingled with this holy joy a trace of the fond mother's natural pride. As she saw the many glances bent upon Jesus, she longed to have Him prove to the company that He was really the Honored of God. She hoped there might be opportunity for Him to work a miracle before them. . . .

"As a relative of the parties, Mary had assisted in the arrangements for the feast, and she now spoke to Jesus, saying, 'They have no wine.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 145, 146.

5. What was Jesus' response to His mother's appeal? John 2:4.

NOTE.—"This answer, abrupt as it seems to us, expressed no coldness or discourtesy. The Saviour's form of address to His mother was in accordance with Oriental custom. It was used toward persons to whom it was desired to show respect."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 146.

6. How did Mary reveal her complete trust in her Son's power and authority? John 2:5.

The First Miracle

7. What simple commands did the Master give to the household servants? John 2:6-8.

NOTE.—"The 'firkin' is thought to have been the equivalent of the OT 'bath,' . . . and thus about 5.81 U.S. gal. Each of the six jars would then contain about 14.5 gal., and all six about 87 gal., an amount equal to nearly two 45-gal. oil drums. A large number of guests must have been present at this wedding feast."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 2:6.

8. What happy result followed the servants' obedience? John 2:9, 10.

NOTE.—"The wine which Christ provided for the feast, and that which He gave to the disciples as a symbol of His own blood, was the pure juice of the grape. . . .

"The unfermented wine which He provided for the wedding guests was a wholesome and refreshing drink. Its effect was to bring the taste into harmony with a healthful appetite."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 149.

9. What higher objectives did Jesus accomplish by this miracle? John 2:11.

NOTE.—It is encouraging to observe that the Master showed forth His glory by such a domestic miracle as meeting the shortage of wine at a humble wedding feast. If we allow Him, He will reveal His glory to us today by supplying our needs in times of emergency. Such miracles will help us, like the disciples, to believe on Him.

Another Miracle in Cana

10. When Jesus revisited Cana of Galilee, what urgent request was made of Him? John 4:46, 47.

11. How did Jesus test the suppliant's confidence in Him? John 4:48.

NOTE.—"Like a flash of light, the Saviour's words to the nobleman laid bare his heart. He saw that his motives in seeking Jesus were selfish. His vacillating faith appeared to him in its true character. In deep distress he realized that his doubt might cost the life of his son. He knew that he was in the presence of One who could read the thoughts, and to whom all things were possible."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 198.

12. When the distraught father revealed a simple faith, how did Jesus respond? John 4:49, 50.

NOTE.—"In an agony of supplication he cried, 'Sir, come down ere my child die.' His faith took hold upon Christ as did Jacob, when, wrestling with the Angel, he cried, 'I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.' Genesis 32:26.

"Like Jacob he prevailed. The Saviour cannot withdraw from the soul that clings to Him, pleading its great need. 'Go thy way,' He said; 'thy son liveth.' The nobleman left the Saviour's presence with a peace and joy he had never known before. Not only did he believe that his son would be restored, but with strong confidence he trusted in Christ as the Redeemer."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 198, 199.

13. What was the immediate result of the father's trustful action? John 4:51, 52.

14. What lasting spiritual benefit resulted from the nobleman's initial confidence in Jesus? John 4:53, 54.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. Can I invite Jesus to share my social pleasures? John 2:1, 2.
2. How does my faith affect my obedience? John 2:3-8.
3. Does my daily life permit Jesus to manifest forth His glory? John 2:11.
4. Do I demand signs before I believe? John 4:48-50.

Lesson 3, for July 15, 1961

Jesus and Nicodemus

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 2:23-25; 3:1-17.

MEMORY VERSE: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:5.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 167-177 (chapter 17); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To help us to understand the significance of the new birth and to enter into that experience through faith in Christ.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-10; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Growing Recognition of Jesus

1. Miracles encourage belief. John 2:23.
2. Jesus justifiably cautious of popularity. John 2:24, 25.
3. Nicodemus visits Jesus by night. John 3:1, 2.

II. The New Birth

4. New birth essential to eternal life. John 3:3.
5. The redeemed must be born of water and the Spirit. John 3:4, 5.
6. Distinction between flesh and spirit. John 3:6.
7. The Spirit's mysterious operations. John 3:7, 8.

III. The Divine Explanation

8. "How can these things be?" John 3:9.
9. Jesus' testimony reliable but unbelieved. John 3:10-12.
10. Jesus qualified to tell of heavenly things. John 3:13.

IV. God's Son Sent to Save

11. Son of man to be lifted up. John 3:14.
12. Believe and live. John 3:15.
13. God gave to save. John 3:16, 17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Exalted Themes for Meditation: "We are finite, but we are to have a sense of the infinite. . . . The thought that we are in God's world, in the presence of the great Creator of the universe, who made man after His own likeness, will lead the mind into broad, exalted fields for meditation. The thought that God's eye is watching over us, that He loves us, and cared so much for us as to give His dearly beloved Son to redeem us, that we might not miserably perish, is a great one; and he who opens his heart to the acceptance and contemplation of themes like these, will never be satisfied with trivial, sensational subjects."—*Fundamentals of Christian Education,* pages 164, 165.

Growing Recognition of Jesus

1. What effect did Christ's miracles have on many in Jerusalem? John 2:23.

2. Why did Jesus not trust Himself to those who so readily appeared to believe on Him? John 2:24, 25.

3. How did a Jewish ruler express the general awareness of Jesus' unusual powers? John 3:1, 2.

NOTE.—"He [Nicodemus] greatly desired an interview with Jesus, but shrank from seeking Him openly. It would be too humiliating for a ruler of the Jews to acknowledge himself in sympathy with a teacher as yet so little known. And should his visit come to the knowledge of the Sanhedrin, it would draw upon him their scorn and denunciation. He resolved upon a secret interview, excusing this on the ground that if he were to go openly, others might follow his example. Learning by special inquiry the Saviour's place of retirement in

the Mount of Olives, he waited until the city was hushed in slumber, and then sought Him."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 168.

The New Birth

4. Instead of acknowledging the faint praise given by Nicodemus, what basic requisite for salvation did Jesus enunciate? John 3:3.

NOTE.—"It is impossible for us, of ourselves, to escape from the pit of sin in which we are sunken. Our hearts are evil, and we cannot change them. . . . Education, culture, the exercise of the will, human effort, all have their proper sphere, but here they are powerless. They may produce an outward correctness of behavior, but they cannot change the heart; they cannot purify the springs of life. There must be a power working from within, a new life from above, before men can be changed from sin to holiness. That power is Christ. His grace alone can quicken the lifeless faculties of the soul, and attract it to God, to holiness."—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 18.

5. How did the divine Teacher correct the literalistic thinking of the questioner? John 3:4, 5.

NOTE.—"Jesus virtually says to Nicodemus: It is not controversy that will help your case: it is not arguments that will bring light to the soul. You must have a new heart, or you cannot discern the kingdom of heaven. It is not greater evidence that will bring you into a right position, but new purposes, new springs of action. You must be born again. Until this change takes place, making all things new, the strongest evidences that could be presented would be useless. The want is in your own heart; everything must be changed, or you cannot see the kingdom of God."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 368.

6. What clear distinction between the physical and the spiritual did Jesus indicate? John 3:6.

7. How did the Master illustrate the mysterious nature of the Holy Spirit's operations? John 3:7, 8.

NOTE.—"Like the wind, which is invisible, yet the effects of which are plainly seen and felt, is the Spirit of God in its work upon the human heart. That regenerating power, which no human eye can see, begets a new life in the soul; it creates a new being in the image of God. While the work of the Spirit is silent and imperceptible, its effects are manifest. If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact."—*Steps to Christ,* page 57.

The Divine Explanation

8. With what question did Nicodemus reveal both his ignorance and his interest? John 3:9.

9. After expressing surprise at His visitor's question, with what declaration and query did Jesus confront him? John 3:10-12.

NOTE.—"If Nicodemus could not receive Christ's teaching, illustrating the work of grace upon the heart, how could he comprehend the nature of His glorious heavenly kingdom? Not discerning the nature of Christ's work on earth, he could not understand His work in heaven."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 173.

10. What unique qualification did Jesus have for making His pronouncement? John 3:13.

God's Son Sent to Save

11. With what illustration did Jesus refer to His own intended sacrifice? John 3:14.

NOTE.—"Here was ground with which Nicodemus was familiar. The symbol of the uplifted serpent made plain to him the Saviour's mission. . . . It was a symbol of Christ. . . .

"There are thousands today who need to learn the same truth that was taught to Nicodemus by the uplifted serpent. . . .

"Like Nicodemus, we must be willing to enter into life in the same way as the chief of sinners. Than Christ, 'there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.' Acts 4:12."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 174, 175.

12. What reason did Jesus give for His being lifted up? John 3:15.

NOTE.—"All who have ever lived upon the earth have felt the deadly sting of 'that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan.' Revelation 12:9. The fatal effects of sin can be removed only by the provision that God has made. The Israelites saved their lives by looking upon the uplifted serpent. That look implied faith. They lived because they believed God's word, and trusted in the means provided for their recovery. So the sinner may look to Christ, and live. He receives pardon through faith in the atoning sacrifice. Unlike the inert and lifeless symbol, Christ has power and virtue in Himself to heal the repenting sinner."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 431.

13. In what immortal words does the evangelist record the story of divine love and its purpose for the world? John 3:16, 17.

NOTE.—"To believe in Christ merely as the Saviour of the world can never bring healing to the soul. The faith that is unto

salvation is not a mere assent to the truth of the gospel. True faith is that which receives Christ as a personal Saviour. God gave His only-begotten Son, that *I,* by believing in Him, 'should not perish, but have everlasting life.' John 3:16. When I come to Christ, according to His word, I am to believe that I receive His saving grace. The life that I now live, I am to 'live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved *me,* and gave Himself for *me.*' Galatians 2:20."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 62.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. How bold am I in my confession of Christ? John 3:1, 2.
2. Have I truly been born from above? John 3:3-8.
3. Have I looked, and do I now live? John 3:14, 15.

Lesson 4, for July 22, 1961

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 4:1-30, 39-42.

MEMORY VERSE: "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." John 4:14.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 183-195 (chapter 19); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To deepen our belief in Christ, the Giver of living water.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-12.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 13, 14; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. At Jacob's Well

1. Jesus passes through Samaria. John 4:1-4.
2. Jesus meets a Samaritan woman. John 4:5-8.
3. Samaritan suspicion of the Jew. John 4:9.

II. The Giver of Living Water

4. Jesus arouses interest and desire. John 4:10.
5. The woman's questions. John 4:11, 12.
6. Jesus' answers. John 4:13, 14.
7. The woman's response. John 4:15.

III. The Messiah Revealed

8. A sinful life unveiled. John 4:16-18.
9. A prophet revealed. John 4:19.
10. True worship defined. John 4:20-24.
11. Interest in Messiah awakened. John 4:25.
12. Messiah identified. John 4:26.

IV. Effective Witness

13. Effective personal testimony. John 4:28-30.
14. The efficacy of personal acquaintance with Jesus. John 4:39-42.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Christ's Personal Ministry Continues: "The Saviour is still carrying forward the same work as when He proffered the water of life to the woman of Samaria. Those who call themselves His followers may despise and shun the outcast ones; but no circumstance of birth or nationality, no condition of life, can turn away His love from the children of men. To every soul, however sinful, Jesus says, If thou hadst asked of Me, I would have given thee living water." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 194.

At Jacob's Well

1. For what reasons did Jesus pass through Samaria? John 4:1-4.

NOTE.—"The reason for this temporary withdrawal from Judea was to avoid useless conflict with the Pharisees on the one hand, and with . . . [John's] disciples on the other. The decision to leave Judea was prompted, not by fear, but by prudence (cf. Matt. 10:23)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 4:3.

2. Under what circumstances did Jesus ask water of a Samaritan woman? John 4:5-8.

NOTE.—"The hatred between Jews and Samaritans prevented the woman from offering a kindness to Jesus; but the Saviour was seeking to find the key to this heart, and with the tact born of divine love, He asked, not offered, a favor. The offer of a kindness might have been rejected; but trust awakens trust. The King of heaven came to this outcast soul, asking a service at her hands."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 184.

3. How did the woman respond to the unusual request? John 4:9.

BELOW THE OUTWARD SIN JESUS ALWAYS SAW THE SOUL TO BE SAVED.

The Giver of Living Water

4. What advantage did Jesus take of the opportunity given Him to teach a spiritual truth? John 4:10.

NOTE.—"It is of little use to try to reform others by attacking what we may regard as wrong habits. Such effort often results in more harm than good. In His talk with the Samaritan woman, instead of disparaging Jacob's well, Christ presented something better. . . .

"This is an illustration of the way in which we are to work. We must offer men something better than that which they possess, even the peace of Christ, which passeth all understanding."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 156, 157.

5. With what questions did the woman reveal her newly aroused interest? John 4:11, 12.

6. With what spiritual revelation did Jesus meet this interest? John 4:13, 14.

NOTE.—"The water that Christ referred to was the revelation of His grace in His word; His Spirit, His teaching, is as a satisfying fountain to every soul. Every other source to which they shall resort will prove unsatisfying. But the word of truth is as cool streams, represented as the waters of Lebanon, which are always satisfying. In Christ is fullness of joy forevermore."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 390.

7. What desire was expressed by the woman? John 4:15.

The Messiah Revealed

8. At this juncture, how did Jesus reveal to the woman His knowledge of her condition? John 4:16-18.

9. Of what did this disclosure convince the woman? John 4:19.

NOTE.—"The listener trembled. A mysterious hand was turning the pages of her life history, bringing to view that which she had hoped to keep forever hidden. Who was He that could read the secrets of her life? There came to her thoughts of eternity, of the future judgment, when all that is now hidden shall be revealed. In its light, conscience was awakened."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 187, 188.

10. In response to the woman's acknowledgment, what guidance did Jesus give concerning genuine worship? John 4:20-24.

NOTE.—"Religion is not to be confined to external forms and ceremonies. The religion that comes from God is the only religion that will lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 189.

11. What train of thought did this arouse in the woman's mind? John 4:25.

12. What declaration did Jesus make in response to her thoughts? John 4:26.

NOTE.—"The plain statement made by Christ to this woman could not have been made to the self-righteous Jews. Christ was far more reserved when He spoke to them. That which had been withheld from the Jews, and which the disciples were afterward enjoined to keep secret, was revealed to her. Jesus saw that she would make use of her knowledge in bringing others to share His grace."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 190.

Effective Witness

13. What did Christ's disclosures and His claim lead the woman to do, and with what result? John 4:28-30.

NOTE.—"This woman represents the working of a practical faith in Christ. Every true disciple is born into the kingdom of God as a missionary. No sooner does he come to know the Saviour than he desires to make others acquainted with Him. The saving and sanctifying truth cannot be shut up in his heart. He who drinks of the living water becomes a fountain of life. The receiver becomes a giver."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 102.

14. For what two reasons did many of the Samaritans believe in Jesus? John 4:39-42.

NOTE.—"In the words spoken to the woman at the well, good seed had been sown, and how quickly the harvest was received. The Samaritans came and heard Jesus, and believed on Him. Crowding about Him at the well, they plied Him with questions, and eagerly received His explanations of many things that had been obscure to them. As they listened, their perplexity began to clear away. They were like a people in great darkness tracing up a sudden ray of light till they had found the day. But they were not satisfied with this short conference. They were anxious to hear more, and to have their friends also listen to this wonderful teacher. They invited Him to their city, and begged Him to remain with them. For two days He tarried in Samaria, and many more believed on Him."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 192.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. How genuine is my thirst for the living water? John 4:13-15.
2. What is the quality of the worship I offer God? John 4:21-24.
3. What personal witness to Christ do I bear? John 4:27-30.

Lesson 5, for July 29, 1961

Jesus and the Impotent Man

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 5:1-29.

MEMORY VERSE: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 201-213 (chapter 21); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To help us to know more fully the healing power and the life-giving power of Jesus.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-6.	☐
Monday: Questions 7-10.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Wednesday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Miracle at Bethesda

1. Reputed curative powers of Bethesda pool. John 5:1-4.
2. A pitiful case. John 5:5.
3. Jesus' willingness to heal. John 5:6.
4. The sick man's impotence. John 5:7.
5. Jesus' enabling command. John 5:8.
6. The immediate cure. John 5:9, first part.

II. The Sabbath Controversy

7. Cured on a Sabbath. John 5:9, last part.
8. The Jews' reaction. John 5:10-12.
9. The healed man identifies his Healer. John 5:13-15.
10. Reasons for Jewish persecution of Jesus. John 5:16, 18.

III. The Father Works Through the Son

11. Co-operation between Father and Son. John 5:17, 19, 20.
12. Power to resurrect and judge delegated to the Son. John 5:21-23, 25-29.
13. Assurance to him who hears and believes. John 5:24.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Christ the Healer: "The Saviour is bending over the purchase of His blood, saying with inexpressible tenderness and pity, 'Wilt thou be made whole?' He bids you arise in health and peace. Do not wait to feel that you are made whole. Believe His word, and it will be fulfilled. Put your will on the side of Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His word you will receive strength." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 203.

The Miracle at Bethesda

1. Why did many sick people visit the pool of Bethesda? John 5:1-4.

NOTE.—"At certain seasons the waters of this pool were agitated, and it was commonly believed that this was the result of supernatural power, and that whoever first after the troubling of the pool stepped into the waters, would be healed of whatever disease he had. Hundreds of sufferers visited the place; but so great was the crowd when the water was troubled that they rushed forward, trampling underfoot men, women, and children, weaker than themselves. Many could not get near the pool. Many who had succeeded in reaching it died upon its brink."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 201.

2. For how long had one waiting invalid been ill? John 5:5.

3. When Jesus saw this sad case, what question did He ask the cripple? John 5:6.

NOTE.—"The sick man was lying on his mat, and occasionally lifting his head to gaze at the pool, when a tender, compassionate face bent over him, and the words,

'Wilt thou be made whole?' arrested his attention. Hope came to his heart. He felt that in some way he was to have help."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 202.

4. How did the invalid reply? John 5:7.

5. With what inspiring command did Jesus lead the man to exercise faith in being healed? John 5:8.

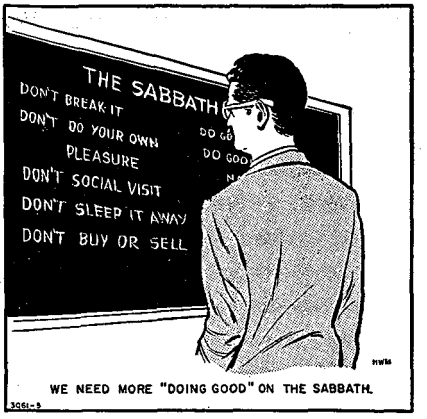
NOTE.—"Jesus does not ask this sufferer to exercise faith in Him. He simply says, 'Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.' . . .

"Jesus had given him no assurance of divine help. The man might have stopped to doubt, and lost his one chance of healing. But he believed Christ's word, and in acting upon it he received strength."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 202, 203.

6. How quick and complete was the man's cure? John 5:9, first part.

NOTE.—Here was no gradual restoration to normal health. "Every nerve and muscle thrills with new life, and healthful action comes to his crippled limbs. Without question he sets his will to obey the command of Christ, and all his muscles respond to his will. Springing to his feet, he finds himself an active man."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 203.

"In like manner you are a sinner. You cannot atone for your past sins; you cannot change your heart and make yourself holy. But God promises to do all this for you through Christ. You *believe* that promise. You confess your sins and give yourself to God. You *will* to serve Him. Just as surely as you do this, God will fulfill His word to you. If you believe the promise,—believe that you are forgiven and cleansed,—God supplies the fact; you are made whole, just as Christ gave the paralytic power to walk when the man believed that he was healed. It *is* so if you believe it."—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 51.



The Sabbath Controversy

7. On which day of the week was the miracle performed? John 5:9, last part.

NOTE.—"This is the first of seven recorded Sabbath miracles. . . . [For the others, see Mark 1:21-28, 29-31; 3:1-6; John 9:1-41; Luke 13:10-17; 14:1-4.] Now for the first time Jesus openly challenged the rabbinical Sabbath regulations. . . . That He did so when the city was filled with visitors for the feast, and that He dramatized His rejection of such traditions by performing a miracle and publicizing it by having the man carry his bed, demonstrate the importance He attached to the question."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 5:9.

8. What was the Jews' reaction to this miraculous cure? John 5:10-12.

NOTE.—"These rulers knew well that only One had shown Himself able to perform this miracle; but they wished for direct proof that it was Jesus, that they might condemn Him as a Sabbathbreaker. In their judgment He had not only broken the law in healing the sick man on the Sabbath, but had committed sacrilege in bidding him bear away his bed."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 204.

9. How did the restored man learn the identity of his Healer? John 5: 13-15.

NOTE.—"*Sin no more.* Or, 'do not go on sinning.' Jesus directed the man's mind from his physical well-being to his need of spiritual hygiene. His response at Bethesda to Jesus' injunction, 'Rise, take up thy bed, and walk,' had been one of faith, the beginning of spiritual as well as physical health. Now Jesus' further admonition, 'Sin no more,' implied both that his former life had been one of sin (see DA 202) and that those sins were forgiven."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 5:14.

10. For what reasons did the Jews then persecute Jesus? John 5:16, 18.

NOTE.—"A wise purpose underlay every act of Christ's life on earth. Everything He did was important in itself and in its teaching. Among the afflicted ones at the pool He selected the worst case upon whom to exercise His healing power, and bade the man carry his bed through the city in order to publish the great work that had been wrought upon him. This would raise the question of what it was lawful to do on the Sabbath, and would open the way for Him to denounce the restrictions of the Jews in regard to the Lord's day, and to declare their traditions void."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 206.

The Father Works Through the Son

11. What defense of His actions did Jesus offer? John 5:17, 19, 20.

NOTE.—"Jesus claimed equal rights with God in doing a work equally sacred, and of the same character with that which engaged the Father in heaven. But the Pharisees were still more incensed. He had not only broken the law, according to their understanding, but in calling God 'His own Father' had declared Himself equal with God. John 5:18, R.V. . . .

"Jesus repelled the charge of blasphemy. My authority, He said, for doing the work of which you accuse Me, is that I am the Son of God, one with Him in nature, in will, and in purpose."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 207, 208.

12. To what two great powers did Jesus then lay claim? John 5:21-23, 25-29.

NOTE.—By virtue of His Sonship, Jesus has the power to quicken the dead, and the authority to judge all men. "The Father has given into the hands of the Son the successful accomplishment of the work of redemption. The Father has not become man, He has not given His life to save man; but the Son, who did become man and gave His life for the human race, is the rightful One to judge those who have rejected Him. He alone knows the full power of temptation, He alone has borne the sins of the world."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 5:22.

13. What vital promise does Jesus give to him who believingly hears His word? John 5:24.

NOTE.—"With the rich promises of the Bible before you, can you give place to doubt? Can you believe that when the poor sinner longs to return, longs to forsake his sins, the Lord sternly withholds him from coming to His feet in repentance? Away with such thoughts! Nothing can hurt your own soul more than to entertain such a conception of our heavenly Father. He hates sin, but He loves the sinner, and He gave Himself in the person of Christ, that all who would might be saved and have eternal blessedness in the kingdom of glory."—*Steps to Christ,* page 54.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. How ardently do I desire deliverance from my sins? John 5:5-9.
2. Do my ideas of Sabbathkeeping harmonize with Christ's? John 5:10-16.
3. In which resurrection shall I have part? John 5:25-29.
4. How effectively do I hear and believe Christ's word? John 5:24.

Jesus, the Bread of Life

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 6.

MEMORY VERSE: "And Jesus said unto them, I am the Bread of Life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." John 6:35.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 364-394 (chapters 39-41); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To lead us to Christ, the Bread of Life and the Supplier of all our needs.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

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Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
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Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Jesus Feeds a Hungry Multitude

1. A multitude follows Jesus. John 6:1-4.
2. Jesus miraculously feeds the multitude. John 6:5-13.
3. The people believe Jesus to be a prophet. John 6:14.

II. Jesus Sought From False Motives

4. Jesus avoids the kingmakers. John 6:15.
5. Jesus analyzes the motives of those who seek Him. John 6:22-26.
6. Jesus' counsel to the materially minded. John 6:27.

III. Sincere and Skeptical Questions

7. A practical question. John 6:28.
8. Jesus' reply. John 6:29.
9. Skeptical questions. John 6:30, 31.
10. Jesus turns His questioners' minds to spiritual food. John 6:32, 33.

IV. The Living Bread From Heaven

11. Desire aroused. John 6:34.
12. Jesus, the Bread of Life, satisfies the hungry. John 6:35, 48-51, 58.
13. The Jews reject this Bread of Life. John 6:41, 43, 52, 60, 66.
14. The Twelve, except Judas, remain loyal. John 6:67-71.

THE LESSON

Introduction

John's Methods: The sixth chapter of John's Gospel provides an excellent illustration of the evangelist's approach to his Master's ministry. Although he records concrete events, he does not concentrate upon their material details, but rather turns to dwell upon their theological and spiritual significance. In this chapter, for instance, he uses nine verses (5-13) to tell of the feeding of about five thousand men, then devotes fifty verses (22-71) to the crisis which arose from Christ's insistence that

He was the living Bread of whom all must eat. Those who study the fourth Gospel should take special note of this unique approach, and be guided by the theological conclusions John draws from the historical events that he records.

Jesus Feeds a Hungry Multitude

1. Why did a great multitude follow the Master? John 6:1-4.

2. To meet the company's immediate physical need, what miracle did Jesus perform? John 6:5-13.

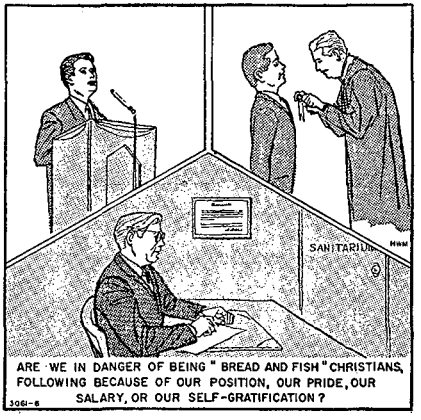
NOTE.—"In Christ's act of supplying the temporal necessities of a hungry multitude is wrapped up a deep spiritual lesson for all His workers. Christ received from the Father; He imparted to the disciples; they imparted to the multitude; and the people to one another. So all who are united to Christ will receive from Him the bread of life, the heavenly food, and impart it to others."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 369.

3. To what conclusion did the people come when they saw this miracle take place? John 6:14.

NOTE.—"The readiness with which the common people of Galilee were willing to accept Jesus as the Messiah indicates both how general was the expectation of a Saviour and how great the popularity of Jesus had now become. He had already shown Himself to be a leader of men; they knew He could heal any who might be wounded in battle; now they saw that He could furnish an army with food! Surely such a leader would be invincible in battle against the Roman oppressor. He must be the Messiah!"—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 6:14.

Jesus Sought From False Motives

4. When Jesus saw the people's intentions, what did He do? John 6:15.



5. When the people pursued Jesus, what analysis of their motives did the Master make? John 6:22-26.

NOTE.—"When Christ forbade the people to declare Him king, He knew that a turning point in His history was reached. Multitudes who desired to exalt Him to the throne today would turn from Him tomorrow. The disappointment of their selfish ambition would turn their love to hatred, and their praise to curses. Yet knowing this, He took no measures to avert the crisis. . . . The deep spiritual teaching in the miracle of the loaves had not been comprehended. This was to be made plain. And this new revelation would bring with it a closer test."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 383.

6. What spiritual counsel did Jesus give to those who sought Him? John 6:27.

Sincere and Skeptical Questions

7. What apparently earnest question did the inquirers then ask? John 6:28.

8. How did Jesus reveal their most urgent need? John 6:29.

NOTE.—"The words of Jesus here present the basic truth of salvation by faith. To believe . . . is the primary act of the Christian life; no other act can truly be a 'work of God,' a deed desired by God and therefore pleasing to Him, unless faith precedes it, because only by faith does a man come into true relationship to God (see Heb. 11:6)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 6:29.

9. What skeptical questions did the people then ask? John 6:30, 31.

NOTE.—On the previous day the Saviour had fed over 5,000 souls, using only "five barley loaves, and two small fishes." To demand a sign, "that we may see, and believe Thee," showed a hardened skepticism that no sign would remove.

10. How did Jesus turn the minds of His audience to the Source of all spiritual food? John 6:32, 33.

The Living Bread From Heaven

11. What desire did Christ's words arouse in the minds of some of His hearers? John 6:34.

NOTE.—"Still thinking that it was temporal food to which Jesus referred, some of His hearers exclaimed, 'Lord, evermore give us this bread.' Jesus then spoke plainly: 'I am the Bread of Life.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* page 386.

12. What did Jesus plainly declare Himself to be? John 6:35, 48-51, 58.

NOTE.—"To eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ is to receive Him as a personal Saviour, believing that He forgives our sins, and that we are complete in Him. It is by beholding His love, by dwelling upon it, by drinking it in, that we are to become partakers of His nature. What food is to the body, Christ must be to the soul. Food cannot benefit us unless we eat it, unless it becomes a part of our being. So Christ is of no value to us if we do not know Him as a personal Saviour. A theoretical knowledge will do us no good. We must feed upon Him, receive Him into the heart, so that His life becomes our life: His love, His grace, must be assimilated." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 389.

13. How were Jesus' claims received by the Jews? John 6:41, 43, 52, 60, 66.

NOTE.—"Because they were too vain and self-righteous to receive reproof, too world-loving to accept a life of humility, many turned away from Jesus. Many are still doing the same thing. Souls are tested today as were those disciples in the synagogue at Capernaum."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 392.

14. What magnificent response did Peter make on behalf of the Twelve? Whom did Jesus exclude from such loyalty? John 6:67-71.

NOTE.—"Although Peter doubtless did not yet comprehend fully the spiritual nature of Christ's kingdom, nevertheless his declaration here shows that he had begun to have insight into the fact that the words Jesus had spoken were indeed the key to eternal spiritual life."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 6:68.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. Do I believe Jesus can supply all my needs, and do I live by the light of this belief? John 6:5-13.
2. Am I laboring "for the meat which perisheth," or for that which gives everlasting life? John 6:27.
3. Am I feeding on the living Bread, on Christ the Word? John 6:35, 51, 63.
4. How loyal am I to Christ in my daily life? John 6:66-69.

Jesus and the Blind Man

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 9.

MEMORY VERSE: "I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world." John 9:4, 5.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 463-475 (chapter 51); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To know personally Jesus as the Light of the world.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Tuesday: Questions 7-10.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-3.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 11-13.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-6; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐	Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
		Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Jesus Gives Sight to a Blind Man

1. A man blind from birth. John 9:1-3.
2. Jesus, the Light of the world. John 9:4, 5.
3. Blind man's sight restored. John 9:6, 7.

II. Official Opposition

4. Pharisees criticize Jesus' healing act. John 9:13-16.
5. The healed man's conviction. John 9:17.
6. The parents' timid testimony. John 9:18-23.

III. Stanch Under Interrogation

7. The healed man refuses to be intimidated. John 9:24-27.
8. The Jews' ignorance of Jesus. John 9:28, 29.
9. The restored man's right estimate of Jesus. John 9:30-33.
10. The Jews excommunicate the man. John 9:34.

IV. Jesus and His New Convert

11. Jesus questions the healed man. John 9:35.
12. Jesus identifies Himself to the man. John 9:36, 37.
13. The man believes and worships. John 9:38.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In John 8 Jesus has revealed Himself to the critical Jews and Pharisees as the Light of the world (verse 12), as the Son of God (verse 19), as the Sinless One (verse 46), and as being before Abraham (verse 58). These claims so anger the Jews that they prepare to stone Him (verse 59). But Jesus escapes from their midst and continues His beneficent ministry. We now meet Him some time later, in chapter 9, demonstrating, by giving sight to a man who had never before possessed it, that He is the Light of the world. The way in which John recounts the incident reveals his con-

viction that the Master will still more readily enlighten those who are spiritually blind.

Jesus Gives Sight to a Blind Man

1. What reason did Jesus give for a certain man's blindness from birth? John 9:1-3.

NOTE.—"It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing, either of the sufferer himself or of his parents. It is true that all suffering results from the transgression of God's law, but this truth had become perverted. Satan, the author of sin and all its results, had led men to look upon disease and death as proceeding from God,—as punishment arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin. . . .

"The belief of the Jews in regard to the relation of sin and suffering was held by Christ's disciples. While Jesus corrected their error, He did not explain the cause of the man's affliction, but told them what would be the result. Because of it the works of God would be made manifest."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 471.

2. How did Jesus relate Himself to the challenge of the man's blindness? John 9:4, 5.

3. How did Jesus restore the man's sight? John 9:6, 7.

NOTE.—"The cure could be wrought only by the power of the Great Healer, yet Christ made use of the simple agencies of nature. While He did not give countenance to drug medication, He sanctioned the use of simple and natural remedies."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 233.

"It was evident that there was no healing virtue in the clay, or in the pool wherein the blind man was sent to wash, but that the virtue was in Christ."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 471.

Official Opposition

4. What was the central point of the Pharisees' criticism of the miracle? John 9:13-16.

NOTE.—"The Pharisees hoped to make Jesus out to be a sinner, and therefore not the Messiah. They knew not that it was He who had made the Sabbath and knew all its obligation, who had healed the blind man. They appeared wonderfully zealous for the observance of the Sabbath, yet were planning murder on that very day."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 471, 472.

5. What conviction did the man have concerning his Healer? John 9:17.

6. When the parents were questioned, why did they not answer for their son? John 9:18-23.

NOTE.—"The parents feared to compromise themselves; for it had been declared that whoever should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ should be 'put out of the synagogue;' that is, should be excluded from the synagogue for thirty days. . . . The

great work wrought for their son had brought conviction to the parents, yet they answered, 'We know that this is our son: . . . ask him: he shall speak for himself.' Thus they shifted all responsibility from themselves to their son; for they dared not confess Christ."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 472, 473.

Stanch Under Interrogation

7. How did the man respond to the Jews' stern questioning? John 9:24-27.

NOTE.—The healed man refused to be drawn into dangerous discussion, but was ready to give the strongest of all possible testimonies, that based upon personal experience. He knew the genuineness of the miracle better than did anyone else, for it was he who had spent his life in darkness, and it was he who, thanks to the Great Physician, could now see. Blessed are we when we can give a similarly ringing testimony concerning our spiritual sight. "One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."

8. What did the Jews rightly judge concerning the man and ignorantly misjudge concerning Jesus? John 9: 28, 29.

9. With what bold declaration did the man analyze the Healer's relationship to God? John 9:30-33.

NOTE.—"The Lord Jesus knew the ordeal through which the man was passing, and He gave him grace and utterance, so that he became a witness for Christ. He answered the Pharisees in words that were a cutting rebuke to his questioners. They claimed to be the expositors of Scripture, the religious guides of the nation; and yet here was One performing miracles, and they were confessedly ignorant as to the source of His power, and as to His character and claims."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 474.

10. In what way did the Jews then discipline the man? John 9:34.

NOTE.—When the man was cast out of the synagogue (compare verse 22) he was virtually cast into the arms of Christ, so he lost little and gained much by his excommunication. Compare Psalm 27:10.

Jesus and His New Convert

11. What probing question did the Master ask of the excommunicated man? John 9:35.

NOTE.—The critical question for every man is: Dost thou believe on the Son of God? The whole of John's Gospel is written to help men reply in the affirmative. John 20:31. Those who truly believe will be saved. John 3:16; Acts 16:31. Those who refuse to believe will be lost. Mark 16:16.

12. How did Jesus identify Himself to the receptive man? John 9:36, 37.

13. What satisfying response did the man make to this astounding revelation? John 9:38.

NOTE.—"As a dramatic sequel to the narrative the man whose physical sight was restored now sees Jesus, the true Light of the world. He not only rejoices in the light of the body but sees also with the eyes of his soul."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 9:38.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. Do I bring glory to God by allowing Christ to work miracles in my life? John 9:1-7.
2. Am I intimidated by opposition and public questioning of my faith? John 9: 18-23.
3. Am I personally able to testify to Christ's miracle-working power in my life? John 9:24-34.

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 10.

MEMORY VERSE: "I am the Good Shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine." John 10:14.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 476-484 (chapter 52); "Gospel Workers," pages 181-191; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To encourage us to follow the Good Shepherd.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1, 2; begin reading from Study Helps. ☐
Monday: Questions 3-8. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11; read further from Study Helps. ☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-14; read from Study Helps. ☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps. ☐
Friday: Review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Parable

1. The sheepfold, the shepherd, and the sheep. John 10:1-5.
2. The parable not understood. John 10:6.

II. Jesus Explains the Parable

3. Jesus the Door. John 10:7-9.
4. Jesus brings the abundant life. John 10:10.
5. Jesus, the Good Shepherd. John 10:11, first part.
6. The Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. John 10:11 (last part), 15, 17, 18.
7. Differences between the hireling and the Good Shepherd. John 10:12-14.
8. The Good Shepherd's purpose. John 10:16.

III. Mixed Reactions to the Teaching

9. Jews divided concerning the teaching. John 10:19-21.
10. Jews appeal for a plain declaration. John 10:24.
11. Jesus unmasks their skepticism. John 10:25, 26.

IV. Skepticism and Belief

12. Assurance to those who hear and follow. John 10:27, 28.
13. Father and Son unitedly protect the sheep. John 10:29, 30.
14. Extreme reactions to Jesus' teachings. John 10:31, 39-42.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Shepherd and Sheep: "The shepherd's life of diligence and caretaking, and his tender compassion for the helpless creatures entrusted to his charge, have been employed by the inspired writers to illustrate some of the most precious truths of the gospel. Christ, in His relation to His people, is compared to a shepherd. After the Fall He saw His sheep doomed to perish in the dark ways of sin. To save

these wandering ones He left the honors and glories of His Father's house. . . . His care for the flock is unwearied. He strengthens the weak, relieves the suffering, gathers the lambs in His arms, and carries them in His bosom. His sheep love Him."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pages 190, 191.

The Parable

1. What facts concerning shepherds and sheepfolds did Jesus use to make clear His relationship to His people? John 10:1-5.

NOTE.—"The Pharisees had just driven one from the fold, because he dared to bear witness to the power of Christ. They had cut off a soul whom the True Shepherd was drawing to Himself. In this they had shown themselves ignorant of the work committed to them, and unworthy of their trust as shepherds of the flock. Jesus now set before them the contrast between them and the Good Shepherd, and He pointed to Himself as the real keeper of the Lord's flock."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 477.

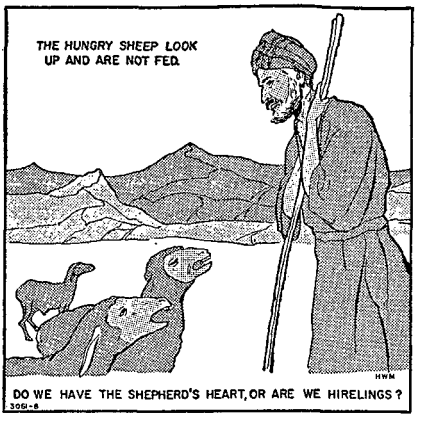
2. How much of this teaching did the Master's hearers understand? John 10:6.

NOTE.—Christ's audience—Pharisees in particular (John 9:40) and Jews in general (John 10:19)—understood the material allusions in the parable, but were unable or unwilling to grasp the spiritual implications of His words. Jesus, therefore, in verses 7-18, interprets the main features of His teaching.

Jesus Explains the Parable

3. In the first point of His explanation, what does Jesus declare Himself to be? John 10:7-9.

NOTE.—"Christ is the door to the fold of God. Through this door all His children, from the earliest times, have found entrance. In Jesus, as shown in types, as shadowed in symbols, as manifested in the revelation of the prophets, as unveiled in the lessons given to His disciples, and in the miracles wrought for the sons of men, they have beheld 'the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world' (John 1:29), and through Him they are brought within the fold of His grace."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 477.



4. What further explanation reveals the life-and-death nature of the Saviour's mission? John 10:10.

NOTE.—"Jesus' miracles of physical healing gave an abundant physical life to those whose life forces were ebbing. But physical restoration was by no means the complete fulfillment of Jesus' mission. Man also has intellectual and spiritual life, which must also be made alive and abundant, for 'man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord' (Deut. 8:3). Important as the physical and the intellectual aspects of a well-rounded life are, no life is fully complete unless the spiritual nature is nurtured."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 10:10.

5. What beautiful description does Jesus give of Himself? John 10:11, first part.

6. What is the Good Shepherd willingly prepared to do? John 10:11 (last part), 15, 17, 18.

NOTE.—"While as a member of the human family He [Jesus] was mortal, as God He was the fountain of life for the world. He could have withstood the advances of death, and refused to come under its dominion; but voluntarily He laid down His life, that He might bring life and immortality to light. He bore the sin of the world, endured its curse, yielded up His life as a sacrifice, that men might not eternally die." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 484.

7. How does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, differ from hirelings? John 10: 12-14.

8. How does the Shepherd reveal the universal nature of His mission? John 10:16.

NOTE.—This verse underlines the breadth of Christ's compassion. He gave His life for all men, irrespective of their race or creed (1 John 2:2), and intends that all shall be gathered into one common family—for "there shall be one flock [rather than "fold" (see R.S.V.)], one shepherd."

Mixed Reactions to the Teaching

9. What two reactions did Jesus' discourse arouse among the Jews? John 10:19-21.

10. What later request shows that His hearers, though skeptical, understood the claims that Jesus made? John 10:24.

11. In what plain language does Jesus unmask His questioners' unbelief? John 10:25, 26.

NOTE.—The Master did not directly reply to the Jews' request, "If Thou be the Christ, tell us plainly," for He had already told them enough while explaining the parable of the Good Shepherd. If they did not believe from what they had already seen and heard, He knew they would not be convinced by any further declaration He might add. He also knew they were not His sheep, since they refused to follow Him as their Shepherd.

Skepticism and Belief

12. With what firm assurance does the Good Shepherd encourage His trustful sheep? John 10:27, 28.

NOTE.—"The soul that has given himself to Christ is more precious in His sight than the whole world. The Saviour would have passed through the agony of Calvary that one might be saved in His kingdom. He will never abandon one for whom He has died. Unless His followers choose to leave Him, He will hold them fast."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 483.

13. On what basis does the Shepherd give such a positive assurance to His sheep? John 10:29, 30.

NOTE.—"Jesus asserted His unity with the Father in will, purpose, and objectives. The Father was behind the words and actions of Jesus. Beyond that the words ["I and My Father are one"] carried the implication of Jesus' close relationship with the Father."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 10:30.

14. What mixed reception was accorded the Saviour's words and ministry? John 10:31, 39-42.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. Does my conduct show that I belong to the Good Shepherd? John 10:1-6.
2. Am I enjoying the abundant life that Christ's sacrifice has made available to me? John 10:7-18.
3. What am I doing to help the "other sheep" to hear the Shepherd's voice? John 10:16.

Jesus and Lazarus

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 11:1-46.

MEMORY VERSE: "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 524-542 (chapters 58, 59); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To reveal Jesus as the only Life-giver.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-5.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-8; begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 9-11; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12-15; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps; review questions 1-5.	☐
Friday: Review questions 6-15.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Jesus and the Illness of Lazarus

1. News of Lazarus's illness. John 11:1-3.
2. Jesus perceives a spiritual opportunity. John 11:4.
3. Jesus' response to the news concerning Lazarus. John 11:5, 6, 11.
4. The disciples' failure to understand the Master's intention. John 11:12, 13.
5. Jesus removes the misunderstanding. John 11:14, 15.

II. Jesus and Martha

6. Martha's confidence in Jesus' power. John 11:20-22.
7. Jesus encourages and guides Martha's faith and understanding. John 11:23-26.
8. Martha's confession of faith. John 11:27.

III. Jesus and the Two Sisters

9. Mary meets Jesus. John 11:28, 29, 32.
10. Jesus shares in the common sorrow. John 11:33-37.
11. Jesus prepares Martha for the miracle. John 11:38-40.

IV. The Resurrection of Lazarus and Its Results

12. Jesus' purposeful public prayer. John 11:41, 42.
13. Lazarus is raised. John 11:43, 44.
14. Effects of the miracle. John 11:45, 46, 53; 12:9-11, 17, 18.
15. Proof of the resurrection of the just. John 5:25.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The Resurrection and the Life: "To the believer, Christ is the resurrection and the life. In our Saviour the life that was lost through sin is restored; for He has life in Himself to quicken whom He will. He is invested with the right to give immortality. The life that He laid down in humanity, He takes up again, and gives to humanity. 'I

am come,' He said, 'that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 786, 787.

Jesus and the Illness of Lazarus

1. How did Jesus learn that one of His special friends was seriously ill? John 11:1-3.

NOTE.—"At the home of Lazarus, Jesus had often found rest. . . . Here He found a sincere welcome, and pure, holy friendship. Here He could speak with simplicity and perfect freedom, knowing that His words would be understood and treasured. . . .

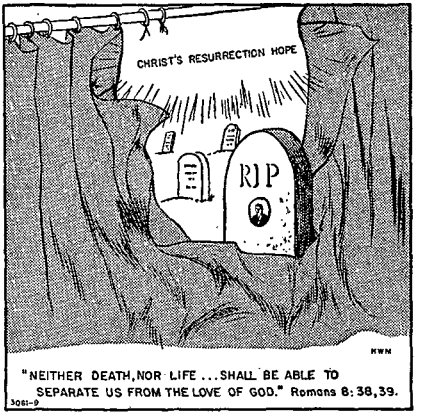
"Lazarus was stricken with sudden illness, and his sisters sent to the Saviour, saying, 'Lord, behold, he whom Thou lovest is sick.' . . . They thought that He would immediately respond to their message, and be with them as soon as He could reach Bethany."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 524-526.

2. What spiritual opportunity did Jesus perceive in this situation? John 11:4.

NOTE.—"That is, glory would accrue to the name of God as a *result* of the sickness and death of Lazarus. God delights to take the devices of the enemy and overrule them for purposes of mercy in behalf of 'them that love' Him (Rom. 8:28; DA 471)."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 11:4.

3. How did Jesus respond to the news that was sent Him? John 11:5, 6, 11.

NOTE.—"The delay was for a purpose known to Jesus but unknown to the anxious family in Bethany. If Jesus permitted Lazarus to fall under the dominion of death, it would be possible for Him to demonstrate His divinity and to give irrefutable evidence that He was indeed the resurrection and the



life. By the miracle of raising Lazarus to life Jesus aimed to give crowning evidence to the disbelieving Jews that He was the Messiah, the Saviour of the world."—*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* on John 11:6.

4. When the disciples heard their Master's comments, to what mistaken conclusion did they come? John 11: 12, 13.

5. How did Jesus remove their misunderstanding? John 11:14, 15.

Jesus and Martha

6. When the dead man's sister, Martha, met the Master, how did she express her confidence in His supernatural power? John 11:20-22.

NOTE.—"Martha hastened to meet Jesus, her heart agitated by conflicting emotions. In His expressive face she read the same tenderness and love that had always been there. Her confidence in Him was unbroken, but she thought of her dearly loved brother, whom Jesus also had loved. With grief surging in her heart because Christ

had not come before, yet with hope that even now He would do something to comfort them, she said, 'Lord, if Thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.' . . .

"But looking into that face of love, she added, 'I know, that even now, whatsoever Thou wilt ask of God, God will give it Thee.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 529, 530.

7. How did Jesus use the opportunity thus opened to Him? John 11: 23-26.

NOTE.—"Christ is life itself. He who passed through death to destroy him that had the power of death is the Source of all vitality. There is balm in Gilead, and a Physician there. Christ endured an agonizing death under the most humiliating circumstances that we might have life. He gave up His precious life that He might vanquish death. But He rose from the tomb, and the myriads of angels who came to behold Him take up the life He had laid down heard His words of triumphant joy as He stood above Joseph's rent sepulcher proclaiming: 'I am the resurrection, and the life.' "—*Testimonies,* vol. 6, p. 230.

8. What glorious confession of faith then fell from Martha's lips? John 11:27.

NOTE.—"She did not comprehend in all their significance the words spoken by Christ, but she confessed her faith in His divinity, and her confidence that He was able to perform whatever it pleased Him to do."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 530.

Jesus and the Two Sisters

9. What did Mary do on hearing of the Master's arrival? John 11:28, 29, 32.

10. What effect did the common sorrow have on Jesus? John 11:33-37.

NOTE.—"It was not only because of the scene before Him that Christ wept. The weight of the grief of ages was upon Him. He saw the terrible effects of the transgression of God's law. He saw that in the history of the world, beginning with the death of Abel, the conflict between good and evil had been unceasing. Looking down the years to come, He saw the suffering and sorrow, tears and death, that were to be the lot of men. His heart was pierced with the pain of the human family of all ages and in all lands. The woes of the sinful race were heavy upon His soul, and the fountain of His tears was broken up as He longed to relieve all their distress."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 534.

11. How did Jesus seek to prepare the sisters for the miracle He was about to perform? John 11:38-40.

The Resurrection of Lazarus and Its Results

12. Why did Jesus publicly pray before performing the miracle? John 11:41, 42.

NOTE.—"In all that He did, Christ was co-operating with His Father. Ever He had been careful to make it evident that He did not work independently; it was by faith and prayer that He wrought His miracles. Christ desired all to know His relationship with His Father."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 536.

13. How did the dead man respond to the Life-giver's command? John 11:43, 44.

NOTE.—"His voice, clear and penetrating, pierces the ear of the dead. As He speaks, divinity flashes through humanity. In His face, which is lighted up by the glory of God, the people see the assurance of His power. . . .

"There is a stir in the silent tomb, and he who was dead stands at the door of the sepulcher. . . . Lazarus is set free, and stands before the company, not as one ema-

ciated from disease, and with feeble, tottering limbs, but as a man in the prime of life, and in the vigor of a noble manhood. His eyes beam with intelligence and with love for his Saviour. He casts himself in adoration at the feet of Jesus."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 536.

14. What varied effects did the raising of Lazarus have on those who witnessed it or heard of it? John 11: 45, 46, 53; 12:9-11, 17, 18.

NOTE.—"Many who witnessed the resurrection of Lazarus were led to believe on Jesus. But the hatred of the priests against Him was intensified. They had rejected all lesser evidence of His divinity, and they were only enraged at this new miracle. The dead had been raised in the full light of day, and before a crowd of witnesses. No artifice could explain away such evidence. For this very reason the enmity of the priests grew deadlier. They were more than ever determined to put a stop to Christ's work."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 537.

15. Of what fact was the resurrection of Lazarus proof? John 5:25.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. Does Jesus love to visit my home as He did the one in Bethany? John 11:1-5.
2. Can I sincerely repeat Martha's confession? John 11:27.
3. If I die, shall I be among those who will respond to Christ's first resurrecting call? John 11:43, 44.
4. Has this study of the resurrection of Lazarus deepened my understanding of my Lord's divinity? John 11:45, 46.

Lesson 10, for September 2, 1961

Jesus and the Last Supper

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 13:1-35.

MEMORY VERSE: "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34, 35.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 642-661 (chapters 71, 72); "Evangelism," pages 273-278; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," vol. 5, pp. 532-537, and on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To help us to perceive and to respond to the spirit of humility and service revealed by Jesus during the Last Supper.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-11.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 12, 13; read from Study Helps.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Master as Servant

1. Jesus loves His own. John 13:1.
2. Judas decides to betray his Master. John 13:2.
3. The Master serves His disciples. John 13:3-5.

II. Jesus and Peter

4. Peter protests Jesus' humble service. John 13:6, 8, first part.
5. Jesus instructs Peter. John 13:7, 8, last part.
6. Peter impulsively surrenders. John 13:9, 10.
7. Jesus applies the lesson. John 13:12-17.

III. Jesus and His Betrayer

8. Jesus reveals knowledge of betrayal. John 13:11, 18, 19, 21.
9. The disciples seek to share in that knowledge. John 13:22-25.
10. Jesus identifies the betrayer. John 13:26.
11. Judas embarks on the betrayal. John 13:27-30.

IV. Jesus' Concern for His Own

12. The Father is glorified in the Son. John 13:31, 32.
13. Jesus gives a new commandment. John 13:33-35.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Impending Climax: After the raising of Lazarus (John 11), events moved swiftly to their appointed end. The rulers were resolutely determined to take Christ's life (John 11:53), but the people welcomed Him into Jerusalem as King (John 12:12-18); Jesus foresaw the nearness of His crucifixion (John 12:31-33), and before the Passover prepared His disciples for His approaching sacrifice (John 13).

"The whole life of Christ had been a life of unselfish service. 'Not to be ministered unto, but to minister' (Matt. 20:28), had been the lesson of His every act. But not yet had the disciples learned the lesson. At this last Passover supper, Jesus repeated His teaching by an illustration that impressed it forever on their minds and hearts."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 642.

The Master as Servant

1. When Jesus knew that the time was near for His return to heaven, what was the tenor of His feeling toward His followers? John 13:1.

NOTE.—"Knowing all that was before Him, He might naturally have been overwhelmed with the thought of His own humiliation and suffering. But He looked upon the Twelve, who had been with Him as His own, and who, after His shame and sorrow and painful usage were over, would be left to struggle in the world. His thoughts of what He Himself must suffer were ever connected with His disciples. He did not think of Himself. His care for them was uppermost in His mind."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 643.

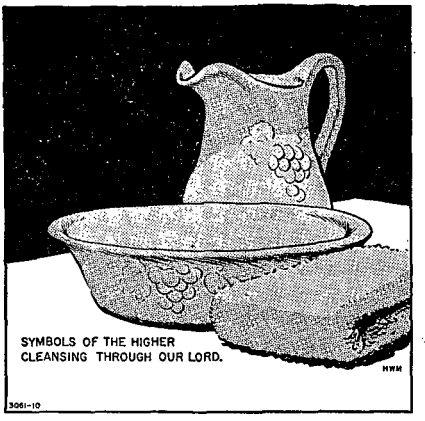
2. By the time the supper was ended, what had Judas Iscariot determined to do? John 13:2.

NOTE.—"Before the Passover Judas had met a second time with the priests and scribes, and had closed the contract to deliver Jesus into their hands. Yet he afterward mingled with the disciples as though innocent of any wrong, and interested in the work of preparing for the feast."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 645.

3. What did Jesus' foreknowledge lead Him to do? John 13:3-5.

NOTE.—"The disciples made no move toward serving one another. Jesus waited for a time to see what they would do. Then He, the divine Teacher, rose from the table. Laying aside the outer garment that would have impeded His movements, He

took a towel, and girded Himself. With surprised interest the disciples looked on, and in silence waited to see what was to follow. 'After that He poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith He was girded.' This action opened the eyes of the disciples. Bitter shame and humiliation filled their hearts. They understood the unspoken rebuke, and saw themselves in altogether a new light." —*The Desire of Ages,* page 644.



Jesus and Peter

4. What was Peter's first response to his Master's self-humiliation? John 13:6, 8, first part.

NOTE.—"The service which Peter refused was a type of a higher cleansing. Christ had come to wash the heart from the stain of sin. In refusing to allow Christ to wash his feet, Peter was refusing the higher cleansing included in the lower. He was really rejecting his Lord. It is not humiliating to the Master to allow Him to work for our purification. The truest humility is to receive with thankful heart any provision made in our behalf, and with earnestness do service for Christ."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 646.

5. How did Jesus deal with Peter's protest? John 13:7, 8, last part.

6. What impulsive surrender did Peter make on hearing his Master's words? John 13:9, 10.

NOTE.—"Like Peter and his brethren, we, too, have been washed in the blood of Christ, yet often through contact with evil the heart's purity is soiled. We must come to Christ for His cleansing grace. Peter shrank from bringing his soiled feet in contact with the hands of his Lord and Master; but how often we bring our sinful, polluted hearts in contact with the heart of Christ! How grievous to Him is our evil temper, our vanity and pride! Yet all our infirmity and defilement we must bring to Him. He alone can wash us clean."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 646, 649.

7. When the Saviour had served His disciples, how did He apply the lesson He had just given? John 13: 12-17.

NOTE.—"This ordinance is Christ's appointed preparation for the sacramental service. While pride, variance, and strife for supremacy are cherished, the heart cannot enter into fellowship with Christ. We are not prepared to receive the communion of His body and His blood. Therefore it was that Jesus appointed the memorial of His humiliation to be first observed."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 650.

Jesus and His Betrayer

8. What disturbing knowledge did Jesus possess? John 13:11, 18, 19, 21.

NOTE.—"Though Jesus knew Judas from the beginning, He washed his feet. And the betrayer was privileged to unite with Christ in partaking of the sacrament. A long-suffering Saviour held out every inducement for the sinner to receive Him, to repent, and to be cleansed from the defilement of sin."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 655.

9. When the Saviour shared this awful knowledge with His disciples, what did they want to know? John 13:22-25.

10. How did Jesus answer the disciples' questions? John 13:26.

11. When Judas realized that his treachery was known to his Master, how did he act? John 13:27-30.

NOTE.—"Until this step was taken, Judas had not passed beyond the possibility of repentance. But when he left the presence of his Lord and his fellow disciples, the final decision had been made. He had passed the boundary line."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 654.

Jesus' Concern for His Own

12. In contrast to the darkness in the traitor's soul, what thoughts occupied Christ's attention at this critical hour? John 13:31, 32.

NOTE.—In His approaching death Jesus saw His most glorious act and His supreme opportunity to glorify the Father. He therefore faced Gethsemane and the cross not in gloom but in a serenity that spoke of triumph.

13. At this, His final meeting with His disciples before His passion, what command did Jesus implant in their minds? John 13:33-35.

NOTE.—"What a wonderful statement; but, oh, how poorly practiced! In the church of God today brotherly love is sadly lacking. Many who profess to love the Saviour do not love one another. Unbelievers are watching to see if the faith of professed Christians is exerting a sanctifying influence upon their lives; and they are quick to discern the defects in character, the inconsistencies in action."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 550.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. When I share in this ordinance of humble service, do I consciously emulate the Master? John 13:1-5.
2. Am I willing to be completely cleansed from sin? John 13:6-17.
3. How often has my conduct betrayed Christ? John 13:18-30.
4. Am I observing the new commandment? John 13:31-35.

Lesson 11, for September 9, 1961

Jesus and His Departure

LESSON SCRIPTURES: John 14:1-27; 15:1-8, 26, 27; 16:7-14, 33.

MEMORY VERSE: "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 662-680 (chapter 73); "The Acts of the Apostles," pages 37-56; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Lesson Scriptures; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To encourage faithful discipleship in view of the Saviour's soon return.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐	Wednesday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-5.	☐	Thursday: Read further from Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 6-10.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 11-14.	☐		

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Counsel Before Departure

1. Reasons for comfort. John 14:1, 2.
2. Hope of reunion. John 14:3.
3. The way, the truth, and the life. John 14:4-6.
4. Usefulness of those who believe. John 14:12.
5. Promises of peace. John 14:27; 16:33.

II. The Comforter

6. The Comforter to fill Christ's place. John 14:16, 18; 16:7.
7. Communion between the Spirit and the disciples. John 14:17.
8. The Spirit as teacher. John 14:25, 26; 16:13, 14.
9. Effect of the Spirit's instruction. John 15:26, 27.
10. The Spirit's threefold work. John 16:8-11.

III. Union With Christ

11. The Vine, the Husbandman, and the branches. John 15:1, 2.
12. Necessity for abiding in Christ. John 15:4, 5.
13. Results of abiding or not abiding. John 15:6, 7.
14. Evidence of discipleship. John 15:8.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Parting Conversation: "In His parting conversation with His disciples on the night before the crucifixion the Saviour made no reference to the suffering that He had endured and must yet endure. He did not speak of the humiliation that was before Him, but sought to bring to their minds that which would strengthen their faith, leading them to look forward to the joys that await the overcomer. He rejoiced in the consciousness that He could and would do more for His followers than He had promised; that from Him would flow forth love and compassion, cleansing the soul temple, and making men like Him in character; that His truth, armed with the power of the Spirit, would go forth conquering and to conquer."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 23.

Counsel Before Departure

1. What reasons for comfort did Jesus give to His disciples on the eve of His crucifixion? John 14:1, 2.

NOTE.—"The object of Christ's departure was the opposite of what the disciples feared. It did not mean a final separation. He was going to prepare a place for them, that He might come again, and receive them unto Himself. While He was building mansions for them, they were to build characters after the divine similitude."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 663.

2. What hope of reunion did the Master give His followers? John 14:3.

NOTE.—"One of the most solemn and yet most glorious truths revealed in the Bible is that of Christ's second coming to complete the great work of redemption. . . . The doctrine of the second advent is the very keynote of the Sacred Scriptures."—*The Great Controversy,* page 299.

3. How did Jesus point the way for those who desire to follow Him? John 14:4-6.

NOTE.—"Whatever may be our situation, we have a Guide to direct our way; whatever our perplexities, we have a sure Counselor; whatever our sorrow, bereavement, or loneliness, we have a sympathizing Friend. If in our ignorance we make missteps, Christ does not leave us. His voice, clear and distinct, is heard saying, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.' John 14:6."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 173.

4. What assurance of usefulness did Jesus give to those whom He was leaving? John 14:12.

NOTE.—"By this Christ did not mean that the disciples' work would be of a more exalted character than His, but that it would have greater extent. He did not refer merely to miracle working, but to all that would take place under the working of the Holy Spirit."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 664.

5. What promises of peace did the Saviour give His followers? John 14: 27; 16:33.

The Comforter

6. How did Jesus plan to fill the gap between heaven and earth caused by His going away? John 14:16, 18; 16:7.

NOTE.—"Before offering Himself as the sacrificial victim, Christ sought for the most essential and complete gift to bestow upon His followers, a gift that would bring within their reach the boundless resources of grace. . . .

"At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 668-670.

7. How close a relationship is to exist between the Spirit and Christ's disciples? John 14:17.

NOTE.—"With the consecrated worker for God, in whatever place he may be, the Holy Spirit abides. The words spoken to the disciples are spoken also to us. The Comforter is ours as well as theirs."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 51.

8. What instruction would the Spirit impart to those who had been with Jesus? John 14:25, 26; 16:13, 14.

9. As a result of the Spirit's instruction, what would the disciples be enabled to do? John 15:26, 27.

NOTE.—"To all who have accepted Christ as a personal Saviour, the Holy Spirit has come as a counselor, sanctifier, guide, and witness. The more closely believers have walked with God, the more clearly and powerfully have they testified of their Redeemer's love and of His saving grace."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 49.

10. To what threefold end would the Spirit's ministry to the world be directed? John 16:8-11.

NOTE.—"Having brought conviction of sin, and presented before the mind the standard of righteousness, the Holy Spirit withdraws the affections from the things

of this earth and fills the soul with a desire for holiness. 'He will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13), the Saviour declared. If men are willing to be molded, there will be brought about a sanctification of the whole being. The Spirit will take the things of God and stamp them on the soul. By His power the way of life will be made so plain that none need err therein."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* pages 52, 53.

Union With Christ

11. What work is essential for fruitfulness? John 15:1, 2.

NOTE.—"Jesus with solemn tenderness explained the purpose of the Husbandman. The pruning will cause pain, but it is the Father who applies the knife. He works with no wanton hand or indifferent heart. . . . The Husbandman prunes away the harmful growth, that the fruit may be richer and more abundant."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 677.

12. How only can the Christian bear fruit? John 15:4, 5.

NOTE.—"The life of the vine becomes the life of the branch. So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed. The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 675.

13. What does Jesus show to be the result of abiding or not abiding in Him? John 15:6, 7.

14. What evidence of discipleship does the Master expect? John 15:8.

NOTE.—"Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciple that the Christian becomes like Him in mind and character. Through a connection with Christ he will have clearer and broader views. His discernment will be more penetrative, his judgment better balanced. He who longs to be of service to Christ is so quickened by the life-giving power of the Sun of Righteousness that he is enabled to bear much fruit to the glory of God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 251.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. Do I sincerely believe that Jesus will come again and receive me unto Himself? John 14:1-3.
2. Am I making Christ my way, my truth, my life? John 14:4-6.
3. Does the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, dwell in me? John 14:15-18.
4. Am I daily abiding in Christ? John 15:1-8.

Lesson 12, for September 16, 1961

Jesus and His Father

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 17.

MEMORY VERSE: "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." John 17:3.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," page 680 (in chapter 73); pages 685-694 (in chapter 74); "Testimonies," vol. 5, pp. 737-746; "Fundamentals of Christian Education," pages 431-433; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," vol. 5, pp. 1145-1148, and on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To lead the Christian into closer communion with the Father and the Son, and to point the way to that unity among brethren for which Christ prayed.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-3.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8, 9; begin reading from Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Son's Prayer for Himself

1. "Father, . . . glorify Thy Son." John 17:1.
2. The Son's power to give eternal life. John 17:2, 3.
3. The Son's earthly work finished. John 17:4, 5.

II. The Son Intercedes for the Disciples

4. The Father perfectly revealed to the disciples by the Son. John 17:6-8.
5. The Son prays particularly for His own. John 17:9, 10.
6. "Keep them from the evil." John 17:11, 15.
7. Jesus' faithful care for those who were given Him. John 17:12, 13.
8. Reasons for the world's hatred of Christians. John 17:14, 16.
9. The reason for and the means of the disciples' sanctification. John 17:17-19.

III. The Wider Prayer

10. For those who would believe through the disciples' word. John 17:20.
11. For perfect unity. John 17:21-23, first part.
12. That the world might believe. John 17:23, last part.
13. Christ's fourfold desire for His followers. John 17:24-26.

THE LESSON

Introduction

The Intercessory Prayer: "This chapter contains the intercessory prayer offered by Christ to His Father just before His trial and crucifixion. This prayer is a lesson regarding the intercession that the Saviour would carry on within the veil, when His great sacrifice in behalf of men, the offering of Himself, should have been completed. Our Mediator gave His disciples this illustration of His ministration in the heavenly sanctuary in behalf of all who will come to Him in meekness and humility, emptied of all selfishness, and believing in His power to save."—Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1145.

The Son's Prayer for Himself

1. As the critical hour in His earthly life approached, what petition did Jesus address to His Father, and for what purpose? John 17:1.

2. For what beneficent purpose had the Father given power to the Son? John 17:2, 3.

NOTE.—"The experimental knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ whom He has sent, transforms man into the image of God. It gives to man the mastery of himself, bringing every impulse and passion of the lower nature under the control of the higher powers of the mind. It makes its possessor a son of God and an heir of heaven. It brings him into communion with the mind of the Infinite, and opens to him the rich treasures of the universe.

"This is the knowledge which is obtained

by searching the word of God. And this treasure may be found by every soul who will give all to obtain it."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 114.

3. Why could Jesus confidently call on the Father to glorify the Son? John 17:4, 5.

NOTE.—"Christ is not praying for the manifestation of the glory of human nature; for that human nature never had an existence in His pre-existence. He is praying to His Father in regard to a glory possessed in His oneness with God. His prayer is that of a mediator; the favor He entreats is the manifestation of that divine glory which was possessed by Him when He was one with God. Let the veil be removed, He says, and let My glory shine forth—the glory which I had with Thee before the world was."—Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1146.

The Son Intercedes for the Disciples

4. How successfully had Jesus revealed the Father to His own followers? John 17:6-8.

NOTE.—There was no suggestion of selfishness in Christ's ministry for His disciples; He strove to share with them His own full knowledge of the glories of eternity. He had faithfully fulfilled the supreme purpose of His Incarnation—to manifest God's name, or to reveal God's character to men—by His own love-filled, sinless life. He had winsomely passed on to His disciples the words or messages that the Father had given to Him, and His followers had begun to perceive that in Jesus of Nazareth they were beholding the eternal Son of God who had been sent by the Almighty as a living revelation of Himself. In reviewing such ministry the Master could justly feel a deep satisfaction.

5. Who were the special objects of His prayer? John 17:9, 10.

6. What is one of the Master's main concerns in this intercessory prayer? John 17:11, 15.

NOTE.—"By His own example the Saviour has shown that His followers can be in the world and yet not of the world. He came not to partake of its delusive pleasures, to be swayed by its customs, and to follow its practices, but to do His Father's will, to seek and save the lost. With this object before him the Christian may stand uncontaminated in any surroundings. Whatever his station or circumstances, exalted or humble, he will manifest the power of true religion in the faithful performance of duty."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 467.

7. How faithfully had Jesus kept those whom the Father had given into His care? John 17:12, 13.

8. What reason does Jesus assign for the world's hatred of His followers? John 17:14, 16.

NOTE.—"Between righteousness and sin, love and hatred, truth and falsehood, there is an irrepressible conflict. When one presents the love of Christ and the beauty of holiness, he is drawing away the subjects of Satan's kingdom, and the prince of evil is aroused to resist it. Persecution and reproach await all who are imbued with the Spirit of Christ."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* 1956 ed., p. 29.

9. What means has Jesus provided for the sanctification of His disciples? John 17:17-19.

NOTE.—"The Bible is the standard by which to test the claims of all who profess sanctification. . . . We need no other evidence in order to judge of men's sanctification; if they are fearful lest they shall not obey the whole will of God, if they are listening diligently to His voice, trusting in His wisdom, and making His word

the man of their counsel, then, while they make no boasts of superior goodness, we may be sure that they are seeking to attain to perfection of Christian character."—Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1147.

The Wider Prayer

10. For whom, in addition to His first disciples, does Jesus pray? John 17:20.

NOTE.—"All that Christ was to the disciples, He desires to be to His children today; for in that last prayer, with the little band of disciples gathered about Him, He said, 'Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word.' "—*Steps to Christ,* 1956 and pocket eds., p. 75.

"Yes; that prayer of Christ embraces even us. We should be comforted by the thought that we have a great Intercessor in the heavens, presenting our petitions before God. . . . In the hour of greatest need, when discouragement would overwhelm the soul, it is then that the watchful eye of Jesus sees that we need His help."—*Testimonies,* vol. 4, p. 530.

11. What is the dominant theme in the Master's prayer for all believers? John 17:21-23, first part.

NOTE.—"Christ brings His disciples into a *living union with Himself and with the* Father. Through the working of the Holy Spirit upon the human mind, man is made complete in Christ Jesus. Unity with Christ establishes a bond of unity with one another. This unity is the most convincing proof to the world of the majesty and virtue of Christ, and of His power to take away sin."—Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol 5, p. 1148.

12. Of what does Christian unity convince the onlooking world? John 17:23, last part.

NOTE.—"The unity of the church is the convincing evidence that God has sent Jesus into the world as its Redeemer. This is an argument which worldlings cannot controvert."—*Testimonies,* vol. 5, p. 620.

13. What fourfold desire does Jesus cherish in respect of those who follow Him? John 17:24-26.

NOTE.—This deepest and loftiest of all recorded prayers closes by asking the Father's aid that Christians may (1) finally be with Christ, (2) behold Christ's glory, (3) experience the same love as the Father has for the Son, and (4) have Christ dwelling personally in them.

"Thus in the language of one who has divine authority, Christ gives His elect church into the Father's arms. As a consecrated high priest He intercedes for His people. As a faithful shepherd He gathers His flock under the shadow of the Almighty, in the strong and sure refuge. For Him there waits the last battle with Satan, and He goes forth to meet it."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 680.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. When my life closes, shall I be able to say, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do"? John 17:1-5.
2. Can Jesus say of me, He has "kept Thy word"? John 17:6-10.
3. Does my knowledge of God's word sanctify me? John 17:11-19.
4. Am I one with the Father, the Son, and the church? John 17:20-26.

Jesus and the Cross

LESSON SCRIPTURES: John 3:14, 15; 8:28; 12:32; 18:1-9, 28-37; 19:1-37.

MEMORY VERSE: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:14, 15.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 694-697, 723-757 (last of chapter 74, and chapters 77, 78); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," on Lesson Scriptures; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To lead God's children to a new consecration as they survey anew the wondrous cross.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sabbath afternoon: General survey.	☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1, 2; begin reading Study Helps.	☐
Monday: Questions 3-5; read further from Study Helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 6-8; continue reading Study Helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-13.	☐
Thursday: Read from Study Helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Shadow of the Cross

1. Why Jesus consented to the cross. John 3:14, 15; 8:28; 12:32.
2. The voluntary death of Jesus. John 10:11, 15, 17, 18; 18:4, 7, 8.

II. The Jews, Pilate, and Jesus

3. The Jews invoke Roman aid to compass their ends. John 18:28-32.
4. Pilate questions Jesus. John 18: 33-37.
5. The innocent Prisoner cruelly treated. John 19:1-6.

III. Jesus Condemned to Die

6. Why the Jews judged Jesus to be worthy of death. John 19:7.
7. Pilate attempts to release Jesus. John 19:8-11, 12, first part.
8. Pilate delivers Jesus to be crucified. John 19:12 (last part), 13-16.

IV. Jesus on the Cross

9. The title on the cross. John 19:19-22.
10. Prophecy fulfilled by the soldiers. John 19:23, 24.
11. Jesus' care for His mother. John 19:25-27.
12. Jesus completes His sacrifice. John 19:28-30.
13. Scriptures further fulfilled. John 19:31-37.

THE LESSON

Introduction

Learn at the Foot of the Cross: "It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His spirit. If we would be saved at last, we must learn the lesson of penitence and humiliation at the foot of the cross."—*The Desire of Ages*, page 83.

The Shadow of the Cross

1. What motives impelled Jesus to go to the cross? John 3:14, 15; 8:28; 12:32.

NOTE.—"The cross is in direct line with the shining of the divine countenances, so that by beholding the cross men may see and know God and Jesus Christ, whom He hath sent. In beholding God we behold the One who poured out His soul unto death. In beholding the cross the view is extended to God, and His hatred of sin is discerned. But while we behold in the cross God's hatred of sin, we also behold His love for sinners, which is stronger than death. To the world the cross is the incontrovertible argument that God is truth and light and love."—Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1133.

2. How did Jesus emphasize the voluntary nature of His efficacious death? John 10:11, 15, 17, 18; 18:4, 7, 8.

NOTE.—"This was a voluntary sacrifice. Jesus might have remained at the Father's side. He might have retained the glory of heaven, and the homage of the angels. But He chose to give back the scepter into the Father's hands, and to step down from the throne of the universe, that He might bring light to the benighted and life to the perishing."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 22, 23.

The Jews, Pilate, and Jesus

3. Why did the Jewish leaders invoke Roman authority to bring about the death of Jesus? John 18:28-32.

NOTE.—Oh, the cruel mockery of Jewish rectitude! They would not enter the judgment hall "lest they should be defiled,"

even while they were unjustly seeking the death of the Sinless One! Although hating the Roman yoke, they were willing to use Roman power that they might see Jesus crucified! Sin leads men to terrible inconsistencies.

4. In response to Pilate's questioning, how did Jesus describe the kingdom He was about to establish? John 18:33-37.

NOTE.—"The kingdom of God comes not with outward show. The gospel of the grace of God, with its spirit of self-abnegation, can never be in harmony with the spirit of the world. The two principles are antagonistic. . . .

"Not by the decisions of courts or councils or legislative assemblies, not by the patronage of worldly great men, is the kingdom of Christ established, but by the implanting of Christ's nature in humanity through the work of the Holy Spirit. . . . Here is the only power that can work the uplifting of mankind."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 509, 510.

5. Although he recognized the Prisoner's innocence, what brutal treatment did Pilate order and permit? John 19:1-6.

Jesus Condemned to Die

6. On what grounds did His enemies judge Jesus to be worthy of death? John 19:7. See also John 5:18; 10:33.

7. When Pilate heard the Jews' accusation against the Prisoner, how did he then relate himself to Jesus? John 19:8-11, 12, first part.

8. What finally led Pilate to deliver Jesus to the Jews for crucifixion? John 19:12 (last part), 13-16.

NOTE.—"Pilate longed to deliver Jesus. But he saw that he could not do this, and yet retain his own position and honor. Rather than lose his worldly power, he chose to sacrifice an innocent life. How many, to escape loss or suffering, in like manner sacrifice principle. Conscience and duty point one way, and self-interest points another. The current sets strongly in the wrong direction, and he who compromises with evil is swept away into the thick darkness of guilt."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 738.

Jesus on the Cross

9. How did Pilate unwittingly testify to the truth of Jesus' claims? John 19:19-22.

NOTE.—"A higher power than Pilate or the Jews had directed the placing of that inscription above the head of Jesus. In the providence of God it was to awaken thought, and investigation of the Scriptures. . . . It was a living truth, transcribed by a hand that God had guided."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 745, 746.

10. In what way did the soldiers fulfill Scripture while Christ was on the cross? John 19:23, 24.

11. During His own agony, what provision did Jesus make for His grief-stricken mother? John 19:25-27.

NOTE.—"The perfect example of Christ's filial love shines forth with undimmed luster from the mist of ages. For nearly thirty years Jesus by His daily toil had helped bear the burdens of the home. And now, even in His last agony, He remembers to provide for His sorrowing, widowed mother. The same spirit will be seen in every disciple of our Lord. Those who follow Christ will feel that it is a part of their religion to respect and provide for their parents. From the heart where His love is cherished, father and mother will never fail of receiving thoughtful care and tender sympathy."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 752.

12. Under what circumstances did the Saviour complete His sacrifice on man's behalf? John 19:28-30.

NOTE.—"Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, 'It is finished.' John 19:30. The battle had been won. His right hand and His holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour's victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 758.

13. How were the Scriptures further fulfilled? John 19:31-37.

NOTE.—"But it was not the spear thrust, it was not the pain of the cross, that caused the death of Jesus. That cry, uttered 'with a loud voice' (Matt. 27:50; Luke 23:46), at the moment of death, the stream of blood and water that flowed from His side, declared that He died of a broken heart. His heart was broken by mental anguish. He was slain by the sin of the world."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 772.

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. Do I profess a form of godliness while doing despite to the Son of God? John 18:28-32.
2. Do I belong to the kingdom of this world, or of the world to come? John 18:36.
3. How Christlike am I toward my parents? John 19:25-27.
4. Am I as faithful to my mission as Jesus was to His? John 19:30.

Lesson 14 for September 30, 1961

Jesus and the Resurrection

LESSON SCRIPTURE: John 19:38-42; 20:1-31.

MEMORY VERSE: "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." John 20:30, 31.

STUDY HELPS: "The Desire of Ages," pages 769-808 (chapters 80 to 84); "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary," vol. 5, pp. 558-560, and on Lesson Scripture; "The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary."

AIM: To help us share the disciples' belief in the reality of our Lord's resurrection.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

Check Here

Sabbath afternoon: General survey. ☐
Sunday: Introduction; Questions 1-4. ☐
Monday: Questions 5-7; begin reading Study Helps. ☐
Tuesday: Questions 8-12. ☐
Wednesday: Question 13; read from Study Helps. ☐
Thursday: Read further from Study Helps. ☐
Friday: Finish reading Study Helps; review entire lesson. ☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Burial and Resurrection

1. Care for Jesus' body. John 19:38-42.
2. Mary Magdalene's discovery. John 20:1, 2.
3. Peter and John confirm Mary's discovery. John 20:3-7.
4. John believes in the resurrection. John 20:8-10.

II. Mary and the Master

5. Two angels speak with Mary. John 20:11-13.
6. Mary converses with the Master. John 20:14-16.
7. Mary fulfills the commission given by the Lord. John 20:17, 18.

III. The Risen Lord and His Disciples

8. Jesus meets His disciples. John 20:19, 20.
9. Jesus bestows spiritual gifts. John 20:21-23.
10. The skepticism of Thomas. John 20:24, 25.
11. Jesus deals with Thomas's disbelief. John 20:26, 27.
12. Thomas tardily believes. John 20:28, 29.

IV. John's Objective in His Gospel

13. John explains the purpose behind the writing of his book. John 20:30, 31; 21:25.

Introduction

Life to the Believer: "To the believer, Christ is the resurrection and the life. In our Saviour the life that was lost through sin is restored; for He has life in Himself to quicken whom He will. He is invested with the right to give immortality. The life that He laid down in humanity, He takes up again, and gives to humanity."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 786, 787.

Burial and Resurrection

1. After the Saviour's death, who lovingly cared for His body? John 19:38-42.

NOTE.—"Even in death, Christ's body was very precious to His disciples. They longed to give Him an honored burial, but knew not how to accomplish this. . . .

"In this emergency, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus came to the help of the disciples. Both these men were members of the Sanhedrin, and were acquainted with Pilate. Both were men of wealth and influence. They were determined that the body of Jesus should have an honorable burial."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 772, 773.

2. When the first visitor, after a Sabbath's rest, arrived at the sepulcher, what did she discover? John 20:1, 2.

NOTE.—"The women who had stood by the cross of Christ waited and watched for the hours of the Sabbath to pass. On the first day of the week, very early, they made their way to the tomb, taking with them precious spices to anoint the Saviour's body. . . .

"The women had not all come to the tomb from the same direction. Mary Magdalene was the first to reach the place; and upon seeing that the stone was removed, she hurried away to tell the disciples."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 788.

3. How thoroughly did Peter and John confirm Mary's report? John 20:3-7.

4. What conviction did the empty tomb bring to the beloved disciple? John 20:8-10.

NOTE.—"The disciples hurried to the tomb, and found it as Mary had said. They saw the shroud and the napkin, but they did not find their Lord. Yet even here was testimony that He had risen. The graveclothes were not thrown heedlessly aside, but carefully folded, each in a place by itself. John 'saw, and believed.' He did not yet understand the scripture that Christ must rise from the dead; but he now remembered the Saviour's words foretelling His resurrection."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 789.

Mary and the Master

5. On her return to the tomb, with whom did Mary Magdalene first converse? John 20:11-13.

6. What sacred privilege was then granted her? John 20:14-16.

NOTE.—"How many echo Mary's despairing cry, 'They have taken away the Lord, . . . and we know not where they have laid Him'! To how many might the Saviour's words be spoken, 'Why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?' He is close beside them, but their tear-blinded eyes do not discern Him. He speaks to them, but they do not understand."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 794.

7. What message did the risen Lord commission Mary to deliver? How faithfully did she fulfill His command? John 20:17, 18.

NOTE.—"Jesus refused to receive the homage of His people until He had the assurance that His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. He ascended to the heavenly courts, and from God Himself heard the assurance that His atonement for the sins of men had been ample, that through His blood all might gain eternal life."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 790.

The Risen Lord and His Disciples

8. Under what circumstances did the Master meet most of His disciples on the evening of the resurrection day? John 20:19, 20.

9. What spiritual gifts did the Lord then bestow on His followers? John 20:21-23.

NOTE.—"The more abundant impartation of the Spirit did not take place till after Christ's ascension. Not until this was received could the disciples fulfill the commission to preach the gospel to the world. But the Spirit was now given for a special purpose. Before the disciples could fulfill their official duties in connection with the church, Christ breathed His Spirit upon them."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 805.

10. On hearing of this meeting, how did Thomas Didymus express his skepticism? John 20:24, 25.

11. What loving rebuke did the Lord give to His doubting disciple a week later? John 20:26, 27.

NOTE.—"Jesus, in His treatment of Thomas, gave His followers a lesson regarding the manner in which they should treat those who have doubts upon religious truth, and who make those doubts prominent. . . . Persistent controversy will seldom weaken unbelief, but rather put it upon self-defense, where it will find new support and excuse. Jesus, revealed in His love and mercy as the crucified Saviour, will bring from many once unwilling lips the acknowledgment of Thomas, 'My Lord, and my God.' "—Ellen G. White Comments, *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary,* vol. 5, p. 1151.

12. When Thomas tardily believed, how did Jesus commend those whose belief does not depend on sight? John 20:28, 29.

John's Objective in His Gospel

13. In concluding his Gospel, how does John explain the central purpose behind the writing of his book? John 20:30, 31; 21:25.

NOTE.—From among the multitude of miracles done by "Jesus in the presence of His disciples" John chose those which were most likely to build up in the reader a firm faith that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed "the Christ, the Son of God." This central purpose was born of the conviction that such belief is absolutely essential to salvation.

The study of John's Gospel can be as productive of saving belief now as when the apostle first wrote his deep yet simple words. Each reader may meet the Master in the sacred page; he may find Him to be the Son of God; and believing Him to be this, he may have life "through His name."

Thoughts for Personal Meditation

1. What message has the empty tomb for me? John 20:1-10.

2. Am I well enough acquainted with my Lord to recognize His voice when He speaks to me? John 20:11-18.

3. Am I more ready to believe than was Thomas Didymus? John 20:19-29.

4. From my study of John's Gospel do I have a saving faith in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God? John 20:30, 31.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

September 30, 1961

The overflow this quarter goes to the South American Division. South America is a great continent of opportunity and contrast. The overflow from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering has helped this great continent in many ways in the past, providing medical-missionary launches to ply the network of rivers, buildings and equipment for various schools, and many other things.

This quarter we will again come to the aid of the River Plate College. The work in South America is rapidly expanding, and the River Plate College is expanding in an endeavor to meet the need for trained workers. The old buildings, built forty years ago, have, in fact, expanded almost to the breaking point. Five and six students are crowded into one room. The time has come when new buildings and equipment are imperative.

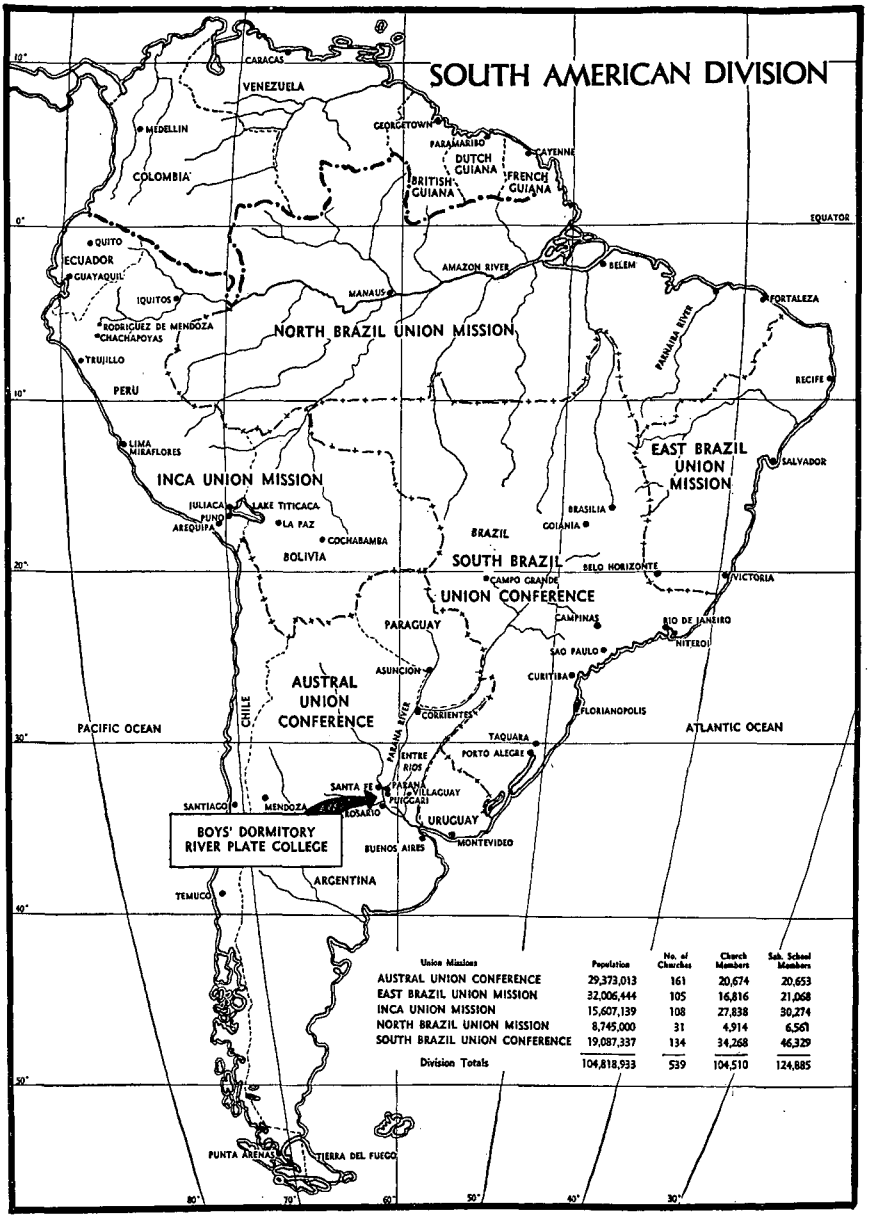
We know our Sabbath school members around the world will rally to the support of this school on September 30, as they have rallied to other calls in the past. We thank you all heartily for your support.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SABBATH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

LESSONS FOR THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1961

The subject of the quarter's lessons is "Character Studies of Bible Youth." The title of the first lesson is "Youth in the Home and in the Church." The Memory Verse is 1 Timothy 4:12. The texts to be studied are:

Ques. 1. Ps. 127:3.
Ques. 2. Prov. 22:6.
Ques. 3. Eph. 6:4.
Quse. 4. 1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12.
Ques. 5. Ex. 20:12.
Ques. 6. Eph. 6:1-3.
Ques. 7. Eccl. 12:1; Prov. 3:1-6; 4:20-27; 23:26.
Ques. 8. Mark 10:13-16.
Ques. 9. Matt. 18:1-6.
Ques. 10. John 21:15.
Ques. 11. I Tim. 4:12.
Ques. 12. Joel 2:28, 29.



Union Missions	Population	No. of Churches	Church Members	Sab. School Members
AUSTRAL UNION CONFERENCE	29,373,013	161	20,674	20,653
EAST BRAZIL UNION MISSION	32,006,444	105	16,816	21,068
INCA UNION MISSION	15,607,139	108	27,838	30,274
NORTH BRAZIL UNION MISSION	8,745,000	31	4,914	6,561
SOUTH BRAZIL UNION CONFERENCE	19,087,337	134	34,268	46,329
Division Totals	104,818,933	539	104,510	124,885