THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

Quarterly

Senior Division, No. 286, Fourth Quarter, 1966

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.

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. Christlikeness
2. The Spirit of Forgiveness
3. The Spirit of Humility
4. The Spirit of Christian Courtesy
5. The Spirit of Self-Control
6. The Spirit of Kindness
7. The Spirit of Self-Denial
8. The Spirit of Zealous Service
9. The Spirit of Prayer
10. The Spirit of Courage
11. The Spirit of Giving
12. The Spirit of Faithfulness
13. The Spirit of Brotherhood
14. Becoming Like Him

NOTE.—All Scripture references quoted from Phillips are taken from *The New Testament in Modern English* by J. B. Phillips, copyright 1958. Used by permission of the Macmillan Company.

All Scripture references quoted from the N.E.B. are from *The New English Bible,* copyright by The Delegates of the Oxford University Press and The Syndics of the Cambridge University Press, 1961. Used by permission of the Oxford University Press, Inc., New York City.

All Scripture references quoted from *The Amplified New Testament* and *The Amplified Old Testament* are used by permission of The Lockman Foundation, Santa Ana, California.

Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly, No. 286, October-December, 1966. 20 cents a single copy, 75 cents a year (four issues); no additional charge to countries requiring extra postage. Published in the U.S.A. by Pacific Press Publishing Association (a corporation of S.D.A.), 1350 Villa Street, Mountain View, California 94040. Second-class mail privileges authorized at Mountain View, California. Form 3579 requested. When a change of address is desired, please be sure to send both old and new addresses.

Copyright, 1966, by Pacific Press Publishing Association

Printed in U.S.A.

COVER: JOHN STEEL, ARTIST; © P.P.P.A.

Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

Lesson 1, for October 1, 1966

Christlikeness

MEMORY VERSE: "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His." Rom. 8:9, last part.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Steps to Christ," chapter, "Growing Up Into Christ."

STUDY AIM: To behold Christ and to emulate His character.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐	Tuesday: Questions 3-6.	☐
Monday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading study helps.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 7-10.	☐
		Thursday: Questions 11-13; finish reading study helps.	☐
		Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Spirit of Christ

1. Isaiah foretells the spirit of Christ's ministry. Isa. 11:1-5; 61:1-3.
2. Isaiah's prophecy fufilled. Matt. 9:36; Luke 9:51-56; Eph. 5:2; Gal. 6:2.

II. In Christ's Image, in Spirit and Character

3. Christ, the image of the invisible God. Col. 1:13-15; Heb. 1:1-3.
4. Man made in the image of God. Gen. 1:26, 27.
5. Man predestined to be like God's Son. Rom. 8:29.
6. Christlikeness, evidence of the new birth. Col. 3:8-10.

III. We Must Be Like Him

7. We should walk as He walked. 1 John 2:6.
8. Without His Spirit we are not His. Rom. 8:9, last part.

IV. Help to Become Like Him

9. Power inherent in the promises of God. 2 Peter 1:4.
10. God "stablishes us." 2 Cor. 1:21, 22.

V. Forever Like Him

11. "The image of the heavenly." 1 Cor. 15:49.
12. Like Him at His appearing. 1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 15:51-54.
13. Like His glorious body. Phil. 3:20, 21.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Not by their wealth, their education, or their position does God estimate men. He estimates them by their purity of motive and their beauty of character. He looks to see how much of His Spirit they possess and how much of His likeness their life reveals. To be great in God's kingdom is to be as a little child in humility, in

simplicity of faith, and in purity of love." —*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 477, 478.

The Spirit of Christ

1. What did Isaiah say would characterize the work of the Messiah? Isa. 11:1-5; 61:1-3. Compare Luke 4: 16-21.

2. How is the spirit of Christ's ministry described by New Testament writers? Matt. 9:36; Luke 9:51-56; Eph. 5:2; Gal. 6:2.

In Christ's Image, in Spirit and Character

3. Who is the perfect image of God? Col. 1:13-15; Heb. 1:1-3.

NOTE.—"Christ is the visible representation of the invisible God." Col. 1:15, Weymouth. "To see what God is like, we must look at Jesus. Jesus perfectly represents, perfectly manifests God to men, in a form which men can see and know and understand."—William Barclay, *The Letter to the Colossians,* page 140.

4. In whose image was man created? Gen. 1:26, 27.

NOTE.—"When Adam came from the Creator's hand, he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a likeness to his Maker. 'God created man in His own image' (Genesis 1:27), and it was His purpose that the longer man lived the more fully he should reveal this image—the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator. All his faculties were capable of development; their capacity and vigor were continually to increase. . . . Had he remained loyal to God, all this would have been his forever. Throughout eternal ages he would have continued to gain new treasures of knowledge, to discover fresh springs of happiness, and to obtain clearer and yet clearer conceptions of the wisdom, the power, and the love of God. More and more fully would he have fulfilled the object of his creation, more and more fully have reflected the Creator's glory."—*Education,* page 15.

5. What was God's original plan for man? Rom. 8:29.

NOTE.—"To share the likeness of His Son." Weymouth.

"It is the glorious destiny of every Christian to be changed into the likeness of Christ, the Son of God. . . . How such a marvelous transformation may take place is the good news of the gospel. . . . The change is effected by the union of the human with the divine. As the Son of God took upon Himself our human nature, so Christians may become the temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19), and Christ will dwell in them (John 14:23). . . . By patient endurance of suffering his character is continually made more and more like that of the Saviour, . . . until the day of final glorification, when the likeness will be made complete."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 8:29.

6. What is one of the greatest evidences that we have truly put on the new man in Christ Jesus? Col. 3:8-10.

NOTE.—When we are renewed "after the image of Him that created" us—when we are truly Christlike, manifesting the spirit of Christ in our daily lives—then men will know that we have been born again.

Sanctification, with its constant goal of Christlikeness, is a continuous process throughout our lifetime. The New English Bible renders Colossians 3:10, "The new nature, which is being constantly renewed in the image of its Creator."

We Must Be Like Him

7. How does John say Christlikeness will be manifested in the life of an individual? 1 John 2:6.

NOTE.—If we have the Spirit of Christ, we will walk in the footsteps of Christ. With His help and by His grace we will keep all of the commandments. "Obedience is the test of whether we really live 'in God' or not. The life of a man who professes to be living in God must bear the stamp of Christ." 1 John 2:5, 6, Phillips.

8. What does the apostle Paul say about those who do not manifest the presence of the Spirit of Christ in their daily lives? Rom. 8:9, last part.

NOTE.—"It is not by arbitrary law or rule that the graces of character are developed. It is by dwelling in the atmosphere of the pure, the noble, the true. And wherever there is purity of heart and nobleness of character, it will be revealed in purity and nobleness of action and of speech."—*Education,* page 237.

Help to Become Like Him

9. What is one means by which Christians may become partakers of the divine nature? 2 Peter 1:4.

NOTE.—We become "partakers of the divine nature"—Christlike—through the power contained in the precious promises of the Word. There is an inspired promise for our every need.

"Real refinement of thought and manner is better learned in the school of the divine Teacher than by any observance of set rules. His love pervading the heart gives to the character those refining touches that fashion it in the semblance of His own. This education imparts a heaven-born dignity and sense of propriety. It gives a sweetness of disposition and a gentleness of manner that can never be equaled by the superficial polish of fashionable society."—*Education,* page 241.

10. Who alone has power to impart the spirit of Christ to our hearts? 2 Cor. 1:21, 22.

NOTE.—"Through faith in Christ, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed."—*Education,* page 257.

"The followers of Christ are to become like Him—by the grace of God to form characters in harmony with the principles of His holy law. . . .

"This work can be accomplished only through faith in Christ, by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God."—*The Great Controversy,* page 469.

Forever Like Him

11. How does Paul describe the transformation of the born-again child of God? 1 Cor. 15:49.

NOTE.—"Let us also bear the image of the [Man] of heaven." The Amplified New Testament. "Of the heavenly Man." N.E.B.

12. When will we become like Jesus in body as well as in character? 1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 15:51-54.

NOTE.—"We know that when He comes *and* is manifested we shall [as God's children] resemble *and* be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is." 1 John 3:2, The Amplified New Testament.

13. What does Paul say of the eternal likeness of the redeemed to the Redeemer? Phil. 3:20, 21.

NOTE.—"He will remake these wretched bodies of ours to resemble His own glorious body." Phil. 3:21, Phillips.

"All come forth from their graves the same in stature as when they entered the

tomb. Adam, who stands among the risen throng, is of lofty height and majestic form, in stature but little below the Son of God. He presents a marked contrast to the people of later generations; in this one respect is shown the great degeneracy of the race. But all arise with the freshness and vigor of eternal youth. In the beginning, man was created in the likeness of God, not only in character, but in form and feature. Sin defaced and almost obliterated the divine image; but Christ came to restore that which had been lost. He will change our vile bodies and fashion them like unto His glorious body. The mortal, corruptible form, devoid of comeliness, once polluted with sin, becomes perfect, beautiful, and immortal. All blemishes and deformities are left in the grave. Restored to the tree of life in the long-lost Eden, the redeemed will 'grow up' (Malachi 4:2) to the full stature of the race in its primeval glory."—*The Great Controversy,* pages 644, 645.

Personal Appeal

Do I possess the spirit of Christ?

Can those with whom I associate see Jesus in me?

Would people obtain an accurate picture of Jesus if I were His only representative in my community?

> "There are among us those who, if they would take time to consider, would regard their do-nothing position as a sinful neglect of their God-given talents."—*Christian Service,* page 85.

Lesson 2, for October 8, 1966

The Spirit of Forgiveness

MEMORY VERSE: "Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Col. 3:13.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing," 1956 ed., pp. 113-116 (1943 ed., pp. 166-169); "Christ's Object Lessons," chapter, "The Measure of Forgiveness." For other Spirit of Prophecy comments see "Forgiveness" and "Pardon" in "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To contrast God's pardoning grace with man's spirit, and to develop a more Christlike spirit of forgiveness.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: Questions 1-3; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 4-7.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 8, 9; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christ's Spirit of Forgiveness

1. The law of unlimited forgiveness. Matt. 18:23-35.
2. Christ's supreme example of forgiveness. Luke 23:33, 34.
3. Stephen's Christlike prayer. Acts 7:60.

II. The Measure of God's Forgiveness

4. God's forgiveness described. Isa. 55:7; 44:22; 43:25.
5. Sins cast into the depths of the sea. Micah 7:18, 19.
6. Sins removed as far as east from west. Ps. 103:3, 12.
7. Cleansing as well as forgiveness. 1 John 1:9.

III. The Forgiveness God Requires of His Children

8. Forgive as Christ forgave you. Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13.
9. We must endeavor to be reconciled. Matt. 18:15-17.
10. God forgives us as we forgive others. Matt. 6:12; 7:2; Luke 11:4.
11. No limit to our forgiveness. Luke 17:3, 4; Matt. 18:21, 22.
12. We must not refuse to pardon others. Matt. 6:14, 15.
13. Passing over others' mistakes. Prov. 19:11, last part.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"One of the most common sins, and one that is attended with most pernicious results, is the indulgence of an unforgiving spirit. How many will cherish animosity or revenge, and then bow before God and ask to be forgiven as they forgive."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 5, p. 170.

Christ's Spirit of Forgiveness

1. How did Jesus set forth the law of unlimited forgiveness in one of His parables? Matt. 18:23-35.

NOTE.—"The great lesson of the parable lies in the contrast between God's compassion and man's hardheartedness; in the fact that God's forgiving mercy is to be the measure of our own."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 251.

2. What supreme example of forgiveness does Luke record? Luke 23: 33, 34.

NOTE.—"All heaven was filled with wonder when the prayer of Christ was offered in the midst of His terrible suffering,—'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.' . . . Yet there stood men, formed in the image of God, joining to crush out the life of His only-begotten Son. What a sight for the heavenly universe!"—*The Desire of Ages,* page 760.

3. How did Stephen manifest the spirit of Christ toward his murderers? Acts 7:60.

NOTE.—"In pleading for them he [Stephen] revealed how fully he had acquired the forgiving spirit that had characterized his Master."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Acts 7:60.

The Measure of God's Forgiveness

4. What is the measure of God's forgiveness? Isa. 55:7; 44:22; 43:25.

NOTE.—"In God's forgiveness the heart of the erring one is drawn close to the great heart of Infinite Love. The tide of divine compassion flows into the sinner's soul, and from him to the souls of others. The tenderness and mercy that Christ has revealed in His own precious life will be

seen in those who become sharers of His grace."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 251.

"God's pardon is like His giving—'good measure . . . and running over.' Luke 6:38. How all-inclusive is the word 'abundantly,' which Isaiah uses to describe God's pardoning power."—Robert H. Pierson, *Give Us This Day,* page 53.

5. How completely does God forgive our sins? Micah 7:18, 19.

NOTE.—"If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love. His ear is open to the cry of the contrite soul. The very first reaching out of the heart after God is known to Him."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 206.

6. What does God do with confessed and forsaken sins? Ps. 103:3, 12.

NOTE.—"What a blessed assurance for each of us today: 'As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.' Satan cannot find our confessed sins, for God has removed them beyond his reach. . . .

"Satan sometimes holds past sins over our heads. He would make us feel that our case is hopeless, that we must be on probation for some time. Away with such thoughts. Through Jesus' blood the mistakes of yesterday are cared for."—*Give Us This Day,* page 48.

7. What follows God's forgiveness? 1 John 1:9.

NOTE.—"Divine forgiveness is not merely a legal transaction that wipes from the record the sins of the past, but a transforming power that eradicates sin from the life. By blotting out transgression God transforms sinners into saints. . . . That is, once they [our sins] are confessed, forsaken, and forgiven. God treats the repentant sinner as if he had never sinned."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Isa. 43:25.

The Forgiveness God Requires of His Children

8. What is to be the standard of our spirit of forgiveness? Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13.

NOTE.—"The Lord Himself is the only model we should attempt to follow. . . . Forgiveness for men was purchased at infinite cost, whereas it cost men nothing, except the sacrifice of some personal pride, to forgive others. Our forgiveness is to be measured against the divine forgiveness, . . . a fact that becomes the more startling the more it is pondered."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Eph. 4:32.

9. What is to be our attitude toward one who refuses to be reconciled? Matt. 18:15-17.

NOTE.—"If those who have injured us, still continue in their course of wrongdoing . . . we must make efforts to be reconciled to our brethren, following the Bible plan, as Christ Himself has directed. If our brethren refuse to be reconciled, then do not talk about them, nor injure their influence, but leave them in the hands of a just God, who judgeth all men righteously."—Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God,* page 90.

10. Why is it important that we fully forgive our debtors? Matt. 6:12; 7:2; Luke 11:4.

NOTE.—"We are not forgiven *because* we forgive, but *as* we forgive."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 251.

11. How many times are we to forgive those who have wounded us? Luke 17:3, 4; Matt. 18:21, 22.

NOTE.—Forgiveness is not a matter of arithmetic; it is a matter of following

Christ—of being truly born again. It is a matter of compassion, mercy, and love.

"Will you not, if anyone has done you a wrong, and is too proud and stubborn to say to you, 'I repent,' go to the offender and say, 'I love you for Christ's sake, and I forgive you the injury you have done me'? Jesus will witness and approve of this deed of love; and as you do to others, it shall be done again to you."—*Sons and Daughters of God,* page 153.

12. What is the peril of cherishing an unforgiving spirit? Matt. 6:14, 15.

NOTE.—"He who is unforgiving cuts off the very channel through which alone he can receive mercy from God. We should not think that unless those who have injured us confess the wrong we are justified in withholding from them our forgiveness. . . . However sorely they may have wounded us, we are not to cherish our grievances and sympathize with ourselves over our injuries."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* pages 113, 114.

13. What is said to be a man's glory? Prov. 19:11, last part.

Personal Appeal

Do I manifest Christ's spirit of forgiveness?

Am I cherishing a grudge in my heart against anyone?

Do I "forget" as well as forgive?

> "In studying the Scriptures, in manifesting an unselfish interest in others, in doing those things that will please the Saviour, you will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 69.

Lesson 3, for October 15, 1966

The Spirit of Humility

MEMORY VERSE: "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt. 11:29.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "The Desire of Ages," pages 135, 138, 242, 243. For further Spirit of Prophecy comments see "Humility" in "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: Rightly to understand and to practice the spirit of true humility.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 5-9.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Thursday: Read study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Spirit of Humility in Jesus' Life and Ministry

1. Humility of the Master foretold. Zech. 9:9; Isa. 53:7.
2. Extent of Christ's self-renunciation. Phil. 2:5-8.
3. Meek and lowly in heart. Matt. 11:29.
4. Jesus washes the disciples' feet. John 13:1-11.

II. The Spirit of Christ Must Be Ours

5. Christ's instruction for us. John 13:12-15.
6. James and Peter enjoin humility. James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5.
7. Walk humbly with God. Micah 6:8.

III. Bible Characters Who Illustrated Humility

8. Jacob, Gen. 32:9-11; Saul, 1 Sam. 9:19-22; Solomon, 1 Kings 3:7-9.
9. The centurion, Matt. 8:5-10; the Syrophoenician woman, Matt. 15:22-28; John the Baptist, John 3:27-31.

IV. Blessings Promised to the Humble

10. Greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 5:5; 18:1-4.
11. The humble will receive grace. James 4:6.
12. The humble will be exalted. Luke 14:11; 1 Peter 5:6.
13. A threefold blessing for the humble. Prov. 22:4.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"In consenting to become man, Christ manifested a humility that is the marvel of the heavenly intelligences. The act of consenting to be a man would be no humiliation were it not for the fact of Christ's exalted preexistence. We must open our understanding to realize that Christ laid aside His royal robe, His kingly crown, His high command, and clothed His divinity with humanity, that He might meet man where he was, and bring to the human family moral power to become the sons and daughters of God. To redeem man, Christ became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."—Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God,* page 81.

"The meekness and humility that characterized the life of Christ will be made manifest in the life and character of those who 'walk even as He walked.' "—*Ibid.*

The Spirit of Humility in Jesus' Life and Ministry

1. What spirit was Jesus to manifest, or possess? Zech. 9:9; Isa. 53:7. Compare Matt. 21:1-11; 27:12-14.

2. To what extent did Christ humble Himself? Phil. 2:5-8.

3. What did Jesus say of Himself? Matt. 11:29.

NOTE.—"Jesus places meekness among the first qualifications for His kingdom. In His own life and character the divine beauty of this precious grace is revealed." —*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 14.

"Those who reveal the meek and lowly spirit of Christ are tenderly regarded by God. They may be looked upon with scorn by the world, but they are of great value in His sight."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 301.

"The meekness and lowliness of Christ is the Christian's power."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 4, p. 559.

4. What amazing example of humility does John record? John 13:1-11.

NOTE.—The humiliation of the Man

Christ Jesus is incomprehensible to the human mind.

"The ordinance of feet washing most forcibly illustrates the necessity of true humility. While the disciples were contending for the highest place, in the promised kingdom, Christ girded Himself, and performed the office of a servant by washing the feet of those who called Him Lord. . . .

"As Christ celebrated this ordinance with His disciples, conviction came to the hearts of all save Judas. So we shall be convicted as Christ speaks to our hearts. The fountains of the soul will be broken up. The mind will be energized, and, springing into activity and life, will break down every barrier that has caused disunion and alienation."—Ellen G. White, *The Faith I Live By,* page 298.

The Spirit of Christ Must Be Ours

5. As the Saviour washed the disciples' feet, what memorable words did He utter? John 13:12-15.

NOTE.—"If humility, obedience, and self-renunciation were the supreme characteristics of the life of Jesus Christ, then they must also be the hallmarks of the Christian, for the Christian must ever be as his Lord. Christian greatness and Christian fellowship alike depend on the renunciation of self, and are destroyed by the exaltation of self. Selfishness, self-seeking, and self-display destroy our likeness to Christ and our fellowship with each other."—William Barclay, *The Letter to the Philippians,* page 47.

6. How do the apostles James and Peter enjoin humility upon the saints of God? James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5.

NOTE.—"If its [the church's] members follow Christ, they will deny the inclination for display, the love of dress, the love of elegant houses and costly furniture. There must be far greater humility, a much greater distinction from the world, among Seventh-day Adventists, else God will not accept us."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 7, p. 296.

"To walk humbly with God is essential to the perfection of Christian character. God requires undeviating principle in the minutest details of the transactions of life."—*Ibid.,* Vol. 4, p. 337.

7. How does the prophet describe what God requires of each one of us? Micah 6:8.

NOTE.—"Humble thyself to walk with thy God." Margin.

" 'To walk humbly with thy God' is to live in harmony with the principles of the first table of the Decalogue. . . . This is Godward virtue."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Micah 6:8.

"Lowliness of heart is the strength that gives victory to the followers of Christ; it is the token of their connection with the courts above."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 301.

Bible Characters Who Illustrate Humility

8. What examples of humility are recorded in the Old Testament? Gen. 32:9-11; 1 Sam. 9:19-22; 1 Kings 3:7-9.

NOTE.—"Solomon was never so rich or so wise or so truly great as when he confessed, 'I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.' "—*Prophets and Kings,* page 30.

9. What testimony is borne of the centurion? of the Syrophoenician woman? of John the Baptist? Matt. 8:5-10; 15:22-28; John 3:27-31.

NOTE.—"Looking in faith to the Redeemer, John had risen to the height of self-abnegation."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 179.

Blessings Promised to the Humble

10. Who did Jesus say would be greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Matt. 5:5; 18:1-4.

NOTE.—"Before honor is humility. To fill a high place before men, Heaven chooses the worker who . . . takes a lowly place before God. The most childlike disciple is the most efficient in labor for God."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 436.

11. To whom is grace promised? James 4:6.

NOTE.—"Because of God's love for His people, fresh and fuller supplies of grace are continually given. . . . Men who sincerely pray for grace will be constantly developing in Christian character. God demands undivided allegiance, but He also provides man with sufficient strength to enable him to obey."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on James 4:6.

12. Whom does God promise to exalt? When? Luke 14:11; 1 Peter 5:6.

NOTE.—"As you humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, He will lift you up. Commit your work to Him; labor in faithfulness, in sincerity, in truth, and you will find that each day's labor brings its reward."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* page 235.

13. What threefold blessing comes by humility? Prov. 22:4.

Personal Appeal

Do I manifest a Christlike spirit of humility?

Am I proud of my humility?

Do I feel superior to other people?

> An essential part of the Christian education of a child is teaching him to share.

Lesson 4, for October 22, 1966

The Spirit of Christian Courtesy

MEMORY VERSE: "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous." 1 Peter 3:8.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Child Guidance," pages 143-145; "The Adventist Home," pages 155, 156. For other Spirit of Prophecy comments on "Courtesy" see "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To understand the close relationship between the spirit of true Christian courtesy and the effectiveness of our Christian witness.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 5, 6; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 7-9; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Questions 10-13.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. What is True Christian Courtesy?

1. Golden rule in action. Matt. 7:12.
2. Christian respect toward everyone. Titus 3:2.
3. Seeing the other person's point of view. Phil. 2:4.
4. Gracious speech. Col. 4:6.

II. Examples of Courtesy in the Scriptures

5. Abraham, Gen. 13:8, 9; Boaz, Ruth 2:11-14; Abigail, 1 Sam. 25: 23-35.
6. Paul, Acts 26:2-28; Julius, Acts 27:3; Publius, Acts 28:7.

III. Christ, Our Example in True Courtesy

7. Jesus courteous to the woman of Samaria. John 4:5-29.
8. Jesus courteous even toward Pilate. John 19:8-12.
9. We should love as Jesus loved. John 13:34.

V. Followers of Christ Will Reveal the Spirit of the Master

10. Love as brethren, be courteous. 1 Peter 3:8, 9.
11. Kindly affectioned one to another. Rom. 12:10.
12. Courteous, careful words avert trouble. Prov. 15:1.
13. Courtesy needed in dealing with the spiritually weak. Gal. 6:1.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The religion of Christ never degrades the receiver, never makes him coarse or rough or uncourteous.

"There is much to do in order to fit us for the courts of the Lord. The roughness of spirit, the coarseness of speech, the cheapness of character, must be put away, or we can never wear the garment woven in the heavenly loom,—the righteousness of Christ."—Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God,* page 315.

What is True Christian Courtesy?

1. What is the essence of true courtesy? Matt. 7:12.

NOTE.—"Treat other people exactly as you would like to be treated by them—this is the essence of all true religion." Phillips.

"The cultivation of a uniform courtesy, a willingness to do to others as we would wish them to do to us, would annihilate half the ills of life."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 133.

2. How does Paul's letter to Titus describe the conduct of a Christian? Titus 3:2.

NOTE.—"Show unqualified courtesy toward everybody." The Amplified New Testament.

"The heart where love reigns will be guided to a gentle, courteous, compassionate course of conduct toward others, whether they suit our fancy or not, whether they respect us or treat us ill."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 5, pp. 123, 124.

3. How does true courtesy affect a Christian's attitude toward others? Phil. 2:4.

NOTE.—"Learn to see things from other people's point of view." Phillips.

"The Christian is always courteous. And by association with his fellow workers, he becomes more and more refined. He learns to overlook little points of difference regarding questions that are of no vital consequence. . . . He will not hesitate to speak plainly and firmly when occasion demands; but his every word and act will be mingled with a courtesy so kindly, so Christlike, that no offense can be taken. Powerful is the influence for good that is exercised by a consecrated, active Christian gentleman."—*Special Testimonies,* Series B, No. 11, pp. 13, 14.

4. What should characterize the Christian's speech? Col. 4:6.

NOTE.—"Let your speech at all times be gracious (pleasant and winsome)." The Amplified New Testament.

Examples of Courtesy in the Scriptures

5. What examples of courtesy are recorded in the Old Testament? Gen. 13:8, 9; Ruth 2:11-14; 1 Sam. 25: 23-35.

6. Cite some New Testament examples of courtesy. Acts 26:2-28; 27:3; 28:7.

Christ, Our Example in True Courtesy

7. What did Christ's approach enable Him to do for a soul who needed salvation? John 4:5-29.

NOTE.—"If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous, . . . there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 9, p. 189.

8. How did Jesus manifest the spirit of true courtesy toward Pilate? With what results? John 19:8-12.

9. How will Christians treat others? John 13:34.

NOTE.—In this command the Saviour set forth a new relationship that should exist among believers and a new spirit that believers should manifest toward those in the world—a new spirit of love and Christian courtesy.

"A thoroughgoing Christian draws his motives of action from his deep heart love for his Master. Up through the roots of his affection for Christ springs an unselfish interest in his brethren. Love imparts to its possessor grace, propriety, and comeliness of deportment. It illuminates the countenance and subdues the voice; it refines and elevates the whole being."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 490.

Followers of Christ Will Reveal the Spirit of the Master

10. What admonition does the apostle Peter direct to the followers of Christ? 1 Peter 3:8, 9.

NOTE.—"Finally, all [of you] should be of one *and* the same mind (united in spirit), sympathizing [with one another], loving [each the others] as brethren (of one household), compassionate *and* courteous—tenderhearted and humble minded. Never return evil for evil or insult for insult—scolding, tongue-lashing, berating; but on the contrary blessing—praying for their welfare, happiness and protection, and truly pitying and loving them." The Amplified New Testament.

Someone has said that we should treat everyone with politeness, even those who are rude to us; for remember that you are courteous to others not because they are gentlemen, but because you are one.

11. What spirit will the Christian manifest toward those with whom he associates? Rom. 12:10.

NOTE.—"Let us have real warm affection for one another as between brothers." Phillips.

"You may be true to principle, you may be just, honest, and religious; but with it all you must cultivate true tenderness of heart, kindness, and courtesy."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 150.

12. How will a courteous answer frequently avert trouble? Prov. 15:1.

NOTE.—Recall instances in your own experience when this has proved true.

13. How should the spirit of Christ be revealed in our labor for others who are in need of spiritual help? Gal. 6:1.

NOTE.—"Restore *and* reinstate him, without any sense of superiority *and* with all gentleness." The Amplified New Testament.

"If all our people—teachers, ministers, and lay members—would cultivate the spirit of Christian courtesy, they would far more readily find access to the hearts of the people; many more would be led to examine and receive the truth."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* pages 93, 94.

Personal Appeal

Am I uniformly courteous, even to those who are not considerate of me?

Do I maintain thoughtful courtesies in the home?

Do kind actions always follow the polite words that I speak?

Lesson 5, for October 29, 1966

The Spirit of Self-Control

MEMORY VERSE: "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." Ps. 141:3.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "My Life Today," pages 70, 78, 81, 83. For other Spirit of Prophecy comments see "Self-control" in "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To learn the secret of greater self-control and Christ-control in our daily lives.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 3-8.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-11.	☐
Thursday: Questions 12-14; finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christ's Example of Self-Control

1. Christ's self-control foretold. Isa. 53:7.
2. Silent when accused by chief priests and elders. Matt. 27:12.

II. Inspired Exhortations

3. A city without walls. Prov. 25:28.
4. Vain religion. James 1:26.
5. Body subject to the will. 1 Cor. 9:27.
6. Self-control better than might. Prov. 16:32.

7. Keeping mouth means keeping life. Prov. 13:3.
8. Control leads to perfection. James 3:2.

III. Help in Gaining the Victory

9. Victory not in man's own self. Jer. 10:23.
10. Love, the secret of self-control. John 13:35; Rom. 13:8-10.
11. God's part in the victory. Heb. 8:10.
12. We also have a part. 1 Peter 1:13.
13. Self-control is Christ-control. Gal. 2:20.
14. Our prayer moment by moment. Ps. 141:3; 19:14.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"The highest evidence of nobility in a Christian is self-control. He who can stand unmoved amid a storm of abuse is one of God's heroes."—*My Life Today,* page 70.

"Strength of character consists of two things—power of will and power of self-control. Many youth mistake strong, uncontrolled passion for strength of character; but the truth is that he who is mastered by his passions is a weak man. The real greatness and nobility of the man is measured by his powers to subdue his feelings, not by the power of his feelings to subdue him."—*Child Guidance,* pages 161, 162.

"If we possess the humility of our Master, we shall rise above the slights, the rebuffs, the annoyances, to which we are daily exposed, and they will cease to cast a gloom over the spirit."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 301.

Christ's Example of Self-Control

1. In what words did Isaiah foretell Christ's spirit of self-control? Isa. 53:7.

2. Describe Christ's example of self-control when He was accused by the chief priests and elders. Matt. 27:12.

NOTE.—"To all the false charges against Him He answered not a word. . . . He stood unmoved by the fury of the waves that beat about Him. . . . He stood silent, but His silence was eloquence. It was as a light shining from the inner to the outer man."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 726.

Inspired Exhortations

3. To what does the wise man liken a person without self-control? Prov. 25:28.

NOTE.—"He who under abuse or cruelty fails to maintain a calm and trustful spirit robs God of His right to reveal in him His own perfection of character."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 301.

4. How does James describe the professed religion of a person who has not learned self-control? James 1:26.

NOTE.—"His religion is useless." Phillips. "Is worthless (futile, barren)." The Amplified New Testament.

5. To what important principle did the apostle Paul adhere? 1 Cor. 9:27.

NOTE.—"The body is the only medium through which the mind and the soul are developed for the upbuilding of character. Hence it is that the adversary of souls directs his temptations to the enfeebling and degrading of the physical powers. His success here means the surrender to evil of the whole being. The tendencies of our physical nature, unless

under the dominion of a higher power, will surely work ruin and death."—*My Life Today,* page 78.

6. In God's sight how does the person with self-control rank? Prov. 16:32.

NOTE.—"The man or woman who preserves the balance of the mind when tempted to indulge passion, stands higher in the sight of God and heavenly angels than the most renowned general that ever led an army to battle and to victory."—*My Life Today,* page 70.

7. What important principle should all of us keep in mind? Prov. 13:3.

NOTE.—"The largest share of life's annoyances, its heartaches, its irritations, is due to uncontrolled temper. In one moment, by hasty, passionate, careless words, may be wrought evil that a whole lifetime's repentance cannot undo. Oh, the hearts that are broken, the friends estranged, the lives wrecked, by the harsh, hasty words of those who might have brought help and healing!"—*My Life Today,* page 81.

"In the use of language there is perhaps no error that old and young are more ready to pass over lightly in themselves than hasty, impatient speech. They think it is a sufficient excuse to plead, 'I was off my guard, and did not really mean what I said.' But God's Word does not treat it lightly."—*Ibid.*

8. What does James say of the person who has his spirit well under control? James 3:2.

NOTE.—"The greatest triumph given us by the religion of Christ is control over ourselves."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 4, p. 235.

"If . . . [Christians] can remain calm amid a tempest of inconsiderate, passionate words, if they can rule their own spirits when provoked and abused, they are indeed conquerors. . . . To subdue self, and bring the passions under the control of the will, is the greatest conquest that men and women can achieve."—*Ibid.,* Vol. 3, p. 183.

"You should keep off from Satan's enchanted ground and not allow your minds to be swayed from allegiance to God. Through Christ you may . . . acquire habits of self-control. Even your thoughts must be brought into subjection to the will of God and your feelings under the control of reason and religion. . . . If the thoughts are wrong the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character. When you decide that as Christians you are not required to restrain your thoughts and feelings you are brought under the influence of evil angels and invite their presence and their control. If you yield to your impressions and allow your thoughts to run in a channel of suspicion, doubt, and repining you will be among the most unhappy of mortals, and your lives will prove a failure."—*Ibid.,* Vol. 5, p. 310.

"Man has been placed in a world of sorrow, care, and perplexity. He is placed here to be tested and proved, as were Adam and Eve, that he may develop a right character and bring harmony out of discord and confusion."—*Ibid.,* p. 311.

Help in Gaining the Victory

9. Why can we never gain the mastery over self in our own strength? Jer. 10:23.

NOTE.—"Human barriers against natural and cultivated tendencies are but as the sandbank against the torrent. Not until the life of Christ becomes a vitalizing power in our lives can we resist the temptations that assail us from within and from without. . . . By becoming one with Christ, man is free. Subjection to the will of Christ means restoration to perfect manhood."—*My Life Today,* page 78.

10. What is the real secret of manifesting self-control toward those around us? John 13:35; Rom. 13:8-10.

NOTE.—"We must manifest the loving, compassionate spirit of Christ. To love as Christ loved means that we must practice self-control."—*My Life Today,* page 80.

11. What help is assured us in our battle with self? Heb. 8:10.

NOTE.—"God's abounding love and presence in the heart will give the power of self-control and will mold and fashion the mind and character. The grace of Christ in the life will direct the aims and purposes and capabilities into channels that will give moral and spiritual power."—*My Life Today,* page 70.

12. What is our part in maintaining self-control? 1 Peter 1:13.

NOTE.—"We have each of us an individual work to do. . . . The mind must be firmly controlled to dwell upon subjects that will strengthen the moral powers . . . if the words of the mouth are to be words acceptable to Heaven and helpful to your associates."—*My Life Today,* page 83.

13. What is the ultimate secret of self-control? Gal. 2:20.

NOTE.—"Let this life, so stormy with conflicts and worries, be brought into connection with Christ, and then self will no longer clamor for the supremacy."—*Son and Daughters of God,* page 142.

14. What prayer might we offer daily with great profit? Ps. 141:3; 19:14.

Personal Appeal

Is Christ-control a reality in my life?

Do I excuse myself for losing my temper on occasion?

Have I learned to be silent when necessary?

Lesson 6, for November 5, 1966

The Spirit of Kindness

MEMORY VERSE: "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4:32.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "My Life Today," pages 152, 196, 235. For other Spirit of Prophecy comments see "Kindness" in "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To gain inspiration to emulate the kindly spirit of Christ.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 5-8.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-12; read from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Questions 13, 14; finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Kindness Characterized Christ's Earthly Ministry

1. Christ's spirit of loving-kindness foretold. Isa. 40:11.
2. Prophecies of Christ's kindness fulfilled. Luke 7:11-13; Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 20:34.
3. A bruised reed will He not break. Isa. 42:3.
4. Kindness shown the woman taken in sin. John 8:3-11.

II. Kindness in the Lives of Believers

5. Put on kindness. Col. 3:12.
6. Kindness linked with godliness. 2 Peter 1:7.
7. Be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving. Eph. 4:32.
8. Love is kind. 1 Cor. 13:4.

III. Kindness Cements Personal Relationships

9. Kindly affectioned with love. Rom. 12:10.
10. Gracious and full of compassion. Ps. 112:4.
11. A word in season to the weary. Isa. 50:4.
12. Kindness brings physical and spiritual help. Prov. 16:24; Isa. 58:6-8.

IV. Examples of Kindness in the Bible

13. Joseph, Gen. 50:21; Moses, Ex. 2:17; David, 2 Sam. 9:1.
14. Good Samaritan, Luke 10:33-35; Philippian jailer, Acts 16:33, 34; Melita islanders, Acts 28:1, 2.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Let the tenderness and mercy that Jesus has revealed in His own precious life be an example to us of the manner in which we should treat our fellow beings. . . . Many have fainted and become discouraged in the great struggle of life, whom one word of kindly cheer and courage would have strengthened to overcome. . . . We cannot tell how far-reaching may be our tender words of kindness, our Christlike efforts to lighten some burden. The erring can be restored in no other way than in the spirit of meekness, gentleness, and tender love."—Ellen G. White, *My Life Today,* page 235.

Kindness Characterized Christ's Earthly Ministry

1. What spirit would characterize the ministry of the coming Messiah? Isa. 40:11.

NOTE.—"The solicitous care of Christ for His people, providing for them and protecting them from harm, is often compared to the work of a gentle and faithful shepherd in caring for his flock. . . . As a shepherd gathers his lambs, carrying those that are too feeble to walk, and driving the ewes gently, . . . so Christ exercises every possible care for His flock."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Isa. 40:11.

2. Describe the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies. Luke 7:11-13; Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 20:34.

NOTE.—"At least eleven times the Gospels speak of Jesus having compassion upon the people. Our English word *compassion* comes from a Latin infinitive meaning 'to bear.' Compassion is the Christlike trait that draws out our hearts to those in need and creates within us a willingness to bear their burdens."—Robert H. Pierson, *Give Us This Day,* page 291.

"Let me point you to the life of Christ, to His compassion, His humility and love, His inexpressible tenderness. You are to copy His example."—Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God,* page 148.

3. By what figure is the kindness of Christ further illustrated? Isa. 42:3.

NOTE.—"Messiah will minister tenderly to the weak, the bruised, and the oppressed. He is a friend to the humble, contrite sinner—to every man who finds himself in need."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Isa. 42:3.

The Saviour found men bruised with care, with pain, with grief, with suffering. He did not break their spirit or their hearts by adding more burdens.

4. How did Jesus treat the woman taken in sin? John 8:3-11.

NOTE.—The repentant woman had enough to bear—she bore the burden of guilt. Jesus would not add the burden of condemnation. "A bruised reed" would "He not break."

Kindness in the Lives of Believers

5. What Christian graces should be found in the lives of believers? Col. 3:12.

NOTE.—"This word [kindness] expresses love in action (1 Cor. 13:4). It is descriptive of gentle, gracious, kindly consideration, both in disposition and action, toward the needs of one's neighbor."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Col. 3:12.

6. What important Christian grace is closely linked with kindliness? 2 Peter 1:7.

7. What other Christian graces does Paul associate with kindness? Eph. 4:32.

NOTE.—"Our word *kind* comes from the Old English *kindred.* When we are kind to others we treat them as we would our kindred—our own flesh and blood. What a wonderful world this would be in which to live if we all treated everyone as we treat those we truly love most. Such treatment would be the most effective evangelistic program every launched, and it would result in the greatest ingathering of souls the church has every experienced."—*Give Us This Day,* page 293.

8. If love is in the heart, how will it be manifested? 1 Cor. 13:4.

NOTE.—"*Is kind.* . . . 'To be considerate and mild.' The word portrays the gracious nature of one who is actuated by the Spirit of God, one who is ever seeking to reveal by word and deed an understanding sympathy for, and appreciation of, the struggles and difficulties of others."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 13:4.

Kindness Cements Personal Relationships

9. What spirit should the Christian manifest toward those about him? Rom. 12:10.

NOTE.—"Let us have real warm affection for one another as between brothers." Phillips. "Joined together in a brotherhood of mutual love." Berkeley.

"Kindness makes a person gentle, tenderhearted affectionate, forgiving, courteous. Kindness wishes well. It is never harsh, offensive, discourteous, sour, or ill-natured. Kindness wins friends for Christ and influences people for His truth. Kindness makes us like Jesus."—*Give Us This Day,* page 293.

10. What will be seen in the life of the upright? Ps. 112:4.

NOTE.—By reflecting the gracious spirit of Jesus, we will be kind to others.

"The Lord is the light that arises in the darkness unto them that are sincere toward Him: He is 'the Sun of righ-

teousness' (Mal. 4:2). He is gracious and full of compassion. . . . The righteous man shares the divine attributes. He becomes a partaker of the divine nature."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Ps. 112:4.

11. How does a kindly person bring courage to a weary soul? Isa. 50:4.

NOTE.—"He who is a Christian will have kind words for his relatives and associates. He will be kind, courteous, loving, sympathetic, and will be educating himself for an abode with the family above. If he is a member of the royal family, he will represent the kingdom to which he is going. He will speak with gentleness to his children, for he will realize that they too are heirs of God, members of the heavenly court. Among the children of God no spirit of harshness dwells.

"Some pride themselves on being outspoken, blunt, and rough, and they call this frankness; but it is not rightly named, it is selfishness of the deepest dye."—*My Life Today,* page 196.

12. How does kindness benefit both giver and receiver? Prov. 16:24; Isa. 58:6-8.

NOTE.—"Kind, cheerful, encouraging words will prove more effective than the most healing medicines. These will bring courage to the heart of the desponding and discouraged, and the happiness and sunshine brought into the family by kind acts and encouraging words will repay the effort tenfold."—*My Life Today,* page 152.

Examples of Kindness in the Bible

13. How was kindness revealed in the life of Joseph? of Moses? of David? Gen. 50:21; Ex. 2:17; 2 Sam. 9:1.

14. What examples of kindness are mentioned in the New Testament? Luke 10:33-35; Acts 16:33, 34; 28: 1, 2.

Personal Appeal

How much like my Exemplar am I in revealing the spirit of kindness?

Do I exemplify love in action?

Am I truly kind and gentle?

Lesson 7, for November 12, 1966

The Spirit of Self-Denial

MEMORY VERSE: "Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Matt. 16:24.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary." For Spirit of Prophecy comments see "Self-denial" in "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To study and follow Christ's example in self-denial.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 5-8.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-12.	☐
Thursday: Read study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Precept and Example of Jesus

1. Jesus enjoyed no creature comforts. Matt. 8:20.
2. Jesus became poor that we might become rich. 2 Cor. 8:9.
3. Jesus called others to deny self. Matt. 19:21.
4. Jesus' spirit of self-denial led Him to the cross. Matt. 26:39, 42; 27:42, 50.

II. Self-Denial—a Condition of Christian Discipleship

5. Threefold condition of discipleship. Matt. 16:24.
6. God may require all we have. Luke 14:26, 33.

III. The Example of the Disciples

7. Matthew left all. Luke 5:27, 28; Mark 1:16-20.
8. No reservations in accepting the call. Mark 10:28-30; Luke 22:27-30.

IV. Paul's Teaching on Self-Denial

9. Consider the interests of others first. Phil. 2:4.
10. Please others rather than ourselves. Rom. 15:1, 2.
11. Avoid yielding to carnal desires. 1 Cor. 9:27.
12. Complete dedication of life. Phil. 3:5-8.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Everything must be viewed in the light of the example of Christ. . . . Listen to His words, copy His example in self-denial and self-sacrifice."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 419.

"Self-denial means to rule the spirit when passion is seeking for the mastery; to resist the temptation to censure and to speak faultfinding words; . . . to stand at the post of duty when others may fail; to lift responsibilities wherever and whenever you can, not for the purpose of applause, not for policy, but for the sake of the Master, who has given you a work to be done with unwavering fidelity; when you might praise yourself, to keep silent and let other lips praise you. Self-denial is to do good to others where inclination would lead you to serve and please yourself."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 4, p. 521.

Precept and Example of Jesus

1. What words of Jesus describe the absence of creature comforts in His life? Matt. 8:20.

NOTE.—"Jesus worked to relieve every case of suffering that He saw. He had little money to give, but He often denied Himself of food in order to relieve those who appeared more needy than He."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 87.

2. What motive led the Saviour to such sacrifice of material comforts? 2 Cor. 8:9.

NOTE.—"Thus it will ever be when the Spirit of God takes possession of the life. Those whose hearts are filled with the love of Christ, will follow the example of Him who for our sake became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich. Money, time, influence—all the gifts they have received from God's hand, they will value only as a means of advancing the work of the gospel."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 71.

3. After the rich young ruler assured Jesus that he had kept all of the commandments, what further condition of perfection did the Saviour lay down? Matt. 19:21.

NOTE.—"In a character otherwise lovable (see Mark 10:21), one serious defect remained—selfishness. Unless the blighting

influence of selfishness were removed, the rich young ruler could make no further progress toward perfection. . . .

"Whatever a man loves more than he loves Christ, makes him unworthy of Christ. . . . A man must be ready to sell 'all that he hath.' But this, the rich young ruler could not bring himself to do. Here was his cross, but he refused to bear it."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 19:21.

4. To what length did Jesus' spirit of self-denial lead Him? Matt. 26:39, 42; 27:42 (first part), 50.

NOTE.—"Had Jesus now saved Himself He would have forfeited the power to save others. The plan of salvation would have been broken. Though they knew it not, the Jewish leaders gave utterance to a profound truth. Christ's refusal to save Himself was the supreme demonstration of divine love (see John 15:13). It is precisely because Jesus chose not to save Himself at this moment that He can save others."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 27:42.

"Meet around the cross of Calvary in self-sacrifice and self-denial. God will bless you as you do your best. As you approach the throne of grace, as you find yourself bound to this throne by the golden chain let down from heaven to earth to draw men from the pit of sin, your heart will go out in love for your brethren and sisters who are without God and without hope in the world."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 9, p. 256.

Self-Denial—a Condition of Christian Discipleship

5. What threefold condition of discipleship did Jesus lay down? Which of these did He place first? Matt. 16:24.

NOTE.—"Shall the world's Redeemer practice self-denial and sacrifice on our account, and the members of Christ's body practice self-indulgence? Self-denial is an essential condition of discipleship."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 3, p. 388.

"Brethren, for Christ's sake fill up your lives with good works, even though the world does not appreciate your efforts and gives you no credit. This is self-denial."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 4, p. 627.

"*Deny himself.* That is, 'renounce himself,' submit his will to Christ, henceforth to live for Christ rather than for himself." —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 16:24.

6. How does Jesus further describe the possible cost a person must be willing to pay in order to follow Him? Luke 14:26, 33.

NOTE.—"In the Bible, 'to hate,' often should be understood simply as a typical Oriental hyperbole meaning 'to love less.'" —*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Luke 14:26.

"Not 'will not,' but 'cannot.' Whoever has personal interests that take precedence over loyalty to Christ and devotion to His service will find it impossible to meet the requirements Christ makes of him. At all times and under all circumstances the call of the kingdom must take precedence. The service of Jesus calls for the entire and permanent renunciation of self."—*Ibid.*

The Example of the Disciples

7. How fully did certain disciples respond to the Saviour's invitation to follow Him? Luke 5:27, 28; Mark 1:16-20.

NOTE.—"Matthew 'left all, rose up, and followed Him.' There was no hesitation, no questioning, no thought of the lucrative business to be exchanged for poverty and hardship. It was enough for him that he was to be with Jesus, that he might listen to His words, and unite with Him in His work."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 273.

8. What reservations did the disciples make in accepting Jesus' call to discipleship? What were the disciples promised in return? Mark 10: 28-30; Luke 22:27-30.

NOTE.—"What a promise is here made upon condition of obedience! . . . If you make the sacrifice, if you have to forsake father, mother, sisters, brothers, wife, and children for Christ's sake, you will not be friendless. God adopts you into His family; you become members of the royal household, sons and daughters of the King who rules in the heaven of heavens. Can you desire a more exalted position than is here promised? Is not this enough?"—*Testimonies,* Vol. 1, p. 510.

"We are never called upon to make a real sacrifice for God. Many things He asks us to yield to Him, but in doing this we are but giving up that which hinders us in the heavenward way. Even when called upon to surrender those things which in themselves are good, we may be sure that God is thus working out for us some higher good."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 473, 474.

Paul's Teaching on Self-Denial

9. What guiding principle should the Christian ever seek to follow in his relationship with others? Phil. 2:4. Compare 1 Cor. 10:24.

10. How did Paul emphasize, in his letter to the Romans, the Christian's duty to live unselfishly? Rom. 15:1, 2.

11. How all-important did the apostle feel the principle of self-denial to be in his own life? 1 Cor. 9:27.

NOTE.—"The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, requires a struggle; but the soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in holiness."—*Steps to Christ,* page 43.

12. What worthy example of dedication to the work of God has Paul left for Christians of all ages? Phil. 3:5-8.

NOTE.—"The position you must come into is to value salvation dearer than earthly gain, to count everything but loss that you may win Christ. The consecration on your part must be entire. God will admit of no reserve, of no divided sacrifice; you can cherish no idol. You must die to self and to the world. Renew your consecration to God daily. Everlasting life is worth a lifelong, persevering, untiring effort."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 2, p. 49.

Personal Appeal

What have I given up for my Saviour this week?

What do I know personally of self-denial?

Have I met the conditions of discipleship laid down by Jesus?

Lesson 8, for November 19, 1966

The Spirit of Zealous Service

MEMORY VERSE: "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work." John 4:34.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Steps to Christ," chapter, "The Work and the Life." For other Spirit of Prophecy comments see "Service," "Zeal," and "Soul winning" in "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To study and follow Christ's example in service for others.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-4.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 5-8.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-13.	☐
Thursday: Read study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christ's Spirit of Service

1. David and Isaiah foretell Christ's zeal in service. Ps. 69:9; Isa. 59:17.
2. Christ's all-consuming passion. John 4:34.
3. Christ felt the urgency of the work. John 9:4.
4. Peter describes Christ's spirit of service. Acts 10:38.

II. Saved to Serve

5. Job's practical service. Job 29: 15, 16.
6. Always abounding in the work. 1 Cor. 15:58.
7. God's people shall be willing. Ps. 110:3, first part.
8. Responsibility proportionate to talents received. Matt. 25:14-29.

III. Paul's Burden for the Lost

9. Paul's burden, similar to that of Moses. Rom. 10:1; 9:3; Ex. 32:32.
10. Night and day with tears. Acts 20:31.

IV. Witnessing for Him

11. Christ's challenge to service. John 4:35.
12. Tell what God has done for you. Luke 8:39, first part.
13. Working wisely and earnestly. 1 Cor. 9:19-22.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Christ gave no stinted service. He did not measure His work by hours. His time, His heart, His soul and strength, were given to labor for the benefit of humanity. Through weary days He toiled, and through long nights He bent in prayer for grace and endurance that He might do a larger work. With strong crying and tears He sent His petitions to heaven, that His human nature might be strengthened, that He might be braced to meet the wily foe in all his deceptive workings, and fortified to fulfill His mission of uplifting humanity. To His workers He says, 'I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done.' John 13:15."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 500.

Christ's Spirit of Service

1. How was Christ's zeal for His Father's work foretold? Ps. 69:9; Isa. 59:17. Compare John 2:17.

2. How did Jesus describe the burden He carried for a finished work? John 4:34.

NOTE.—"The eager response of the woman was more refreshing to the soul of Jesus than food would have been to His body."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on John 4:32.

"Jesus lived for the one purpose of doing His Father's will. . . . The material requirements of life were incidental to His great objective of accomplishing man's salvation."—*Ibid.,* on John 4:34.

3. In what words did Jesus emphasize the urgency of His work? John 9:4.

NOTE.—"Many feel that it would be a great privilege to visit the scenes of Christ's life on earth, to walk where He trod, to look upon the lake beside which He loved to teach, and the hills and valleys on which His eyes so often rested. But we need not go to Nazareth, to Capernaum, or to Bethany, in order to walk in the steps of Jesus. We shall find His footprints beside the sickbed, in the hovels of poverty, in the crowded alleys of the great city, and in every place where there are human hearts in need of consolation. In doing as Jesus did when on earth, we shall walk in His steps."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 640.

4. In his sermon to the Gentiles at Caesarea, how did Peter refer to Christ's spirit of service? Acts 10:38.

NOTE.—"When the Son of God humbled Himself at the incarnation, He laid aside the independent exercise of His attributes as the second person of the Godhead. . . . For all that He accomplished on earth He relied, as must other men, on power from above.

"The life of Jesus exhibits a consistent example of dedication to the service of mankind."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Acts 10:38.

Saved to Serve

5. In what practical manner did Job serve the Lord? Job 29:15, 16.

> "The Lord designs that the means entrusted to us shall be used in building up His kingdom."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 35.

NOTE.—

Christ has no hands but our hands
To do His work today;
He has no feet but our feet
To lead men in His way;
He has no tongue but our tongues
To tell men how He died;
He has no help but our help
To bring them to His side.

—Annie Johnson Flint.*

(*Copyright. Reproduced by permission. Evangelical Publishers, Toronto, Canada.)

6. How did Paul admonish the church at Corinth to be zealous in the Lord's service? 1 Cor. 15:58.

NOTE.—"Always being superior (excelling, doing more than enough) in the service of the Lord, knowing *and* being continually aware that your labor in the Lord is not futile—never wasted or to no purpose." The Amplified New Testament.

"The great incentive to continual activity in the cause of truth is the positive assurance that such efforts will not be 'in vain in the Lord,' but will result in the salvation of souls and the advancement of the glory of God."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 15:58.

7. What spirit should characterize our service for God? Ps. 110:3, first part. Compare Judges 5:2; Neh. 11:2.

NOTE.—"It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the work of soul saving depends alone upon the ministry. The humble consecrated believer upon whom the Master of the vineyard places a burden for souls is to be given encouragement by the men upon whom the Lord has laid larger responsibilities. Those who stand as leaders in the church of God are to realize that the Saviour's commission is given to all who believe in His name. God will send forth into His vineyard many who

have not been dedicated to the ministry by the laying on of hands."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 110.

8. How does the Lord measure our responsibility in His service? Matt. 25:14-29.

NOTE.—"We shall individually be held responsible for doing one jot less than we have ability to do. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service. The unused capabilities are as much brought into account as are those that are improved."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 363.

Paul's Burden for the Lost

9. How does Paul's burden for his people compare with that of Moses? Rom. 10:1; 9:3; Ex. 32:32.

NOTE.—"All things in Paul's life were made subject to his great objective of preaching the gospel and winning souls for Christ. He was prepared to be of no account if by so doing some might be drawn to the Lord. . . . The apostle's laudable ambition was that he should be used by the Holy Spirit to lead the greatest number possible to accept salvation from sin through Christ. This is the ambition of every true minister of the gospel."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 9:19.

10. How earnestly did the apostle labor for souls? Acts 20:31. Compare Gal. 4:19.

NOTE.—"Paul sometimes worked night and day, not only for his own support, but that he might assist his fellow laborers. He shared his earnings with Luke, and he helped Timothy. He even suffered hunger at times, that he might relieve the necessities of others. His was an unselfish life."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 352.

Witnessing for Him

11. How does Jesus challenge our spirit of service? John 4:35.

NOTE.—"Not one in a hundred among us is doing anything beyond engaging in common, worldly enterprises. We are not half awake to the worth of the souls for whom Christ died."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 8, p. 148.

12. What is the least anyone can do for his Lord? Luke 8:39, first part.

NOTE.—"Recount [the story] throughout of how many *and* great things God has done for you." The Amplified New Testament.

13. How wisely and earnestly are we to work for souls? 1 Cor. 9:19-22.

NOTE.—"*Made myself servant.* Literally, 'enslaved myself.' Paul was willing to labor for others, as a slave does without reward or pay, to advance their welfare. Like a slave, wishing to please his master, or because he is forced to do so, he was willing to comply with the habits, customs, and opinions of others as far as possible, without compromising principle. God's ministers must be ready at all times to adapt themselves and their ministry to the nature of those for whom they labor."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 9:19.

Personal Appeal

Am I one of God's *willing* workers, or do I have to be coaxed and pleaded with when there is church work to be done?

How long has it been since I have won a soul for the Lord?

If all church members followed my example in devotion and service, how long would it take to finish God's work in the world?

Lesson 9, for November 26, 1966

The Spirit of Prayer

MEMORY VERSE: "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Luke 11:9.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Gospel Workers," pages 255, 256; "The Desire of Ages," pages 111-113, 685-697; "Steps to Christ," chapter, "The Privilege of Prayer." For other Spirit of Prophecy comments see "Prayer" in the "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To develop greater faithfulness in a personal prayer life.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 4-8.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 9-11; begin reading study helps.	☐
Thursday: Questions 12-14; finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Christ's Spirit of Prayer and Devotion

1. He was never too busy to pray. Mark 6:44-47; Luke 5:15, 16.
2. He prayed publicly. Luke 3:21, 22; Matt. 11:23-26; John 11:41-43.
3. Examples of intercessory prayer. Luke 22:32; John 17:22-26.

II. In the Hour of Decision or Crisis Jesus Prayed

4. He prayed before selecting disciples. Luke 6:12, 13.
5. He prayed when offered kingship. John 6:14, 15; Matt. 14:22, 23.
6. He prayed at the transfiguration. Luke 9:28-36.
7. He prayed in Gethsemane. Luke 22:39-46.
8. He prayed on the cross. Luke 23:33, 34.

III. Christ Reveals the Conditions of Answered Prayer

9. We must ask. John 16:24; Luke 11:5-9.
10. We must believe. Mark 11:22-24.
11. We must abide in Christ. John 15:7.

IV. Exhortations to Earnest Prayer

12. Watch and pray. Matt. 26:40, 41.
13. Persevere in prayer. Luke 18:1-8.
14. Never stop praying. 1 Thess. 5:17.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Christ our Saviour . . . had bodily wants to be supplied, bodily weariness to be relieved. It was by prayer to His Father that He was braced for duty and for trial. Day by day He followed His round of duty, seeking to save souls. His heart went out in tender sympathy for the weary and heavy-laden. And He spent whole nights in prayer in behalf of the tempted ones. . . .

"The Christian is given the invitation to carry his burdens to God in prayer, and to fasten himself closely to Christ by the cords of living faith."—Ellen G. White, *Our High Calling*, page 127.

Christ's Spirit of Prayer and Devotion

1. Name instances in which Jesus did not permit a busy program to crowd out His prayer appointments. Mark 6:44-47; Luke 5:15, 16.

NOTE.—"While we are to labor earnestly for the salvation of the lost, we must also take time for meditation, for prayer, and for the study of the Word of God. Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good.

"No other life was ever so crowded with labor and responsibility as was that of Jesus; yet how often He was found in prayer! How constant was His communion with God! . . .

"In a life wholly devoted to the good of others, the Saviour found it necessary to withdraw from the thoroughfares of travel and from the throng that followed Him day after day. He must turn aside from a life of ceaseless activity and contact with human needs, to seek retirement and unbroken communion with His Father."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 362, 363.

2. Under what circumstances did Jesus pray in public? Luke 3:21, 22; Matt. 11:23-26; John 11:41-43.

3. Cite examples of intercessory prayer offered by Jesus. Luke 22:32; John 17:22-26.

In the Hour of Decision or Crisis Jesus Prayed

4. How long did Jesus pray before He chose twelve disciples to be His closest associates? Luke 6:12, 13.

NOTE.—"Often Jesus devoted an entire night to prayer. . . . Usually such instances mentioned by the various gospel writers preceded points of decision or crisis in the Saviour's life or ministry."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Mark 3:13.

"The Saviour knew the character of the men whom He had chosen; all their weaknesses and errors were open before Him; He knew the perils through which they must pass, the responsibility that would rest upon them; and His heart yearned over these chosen ones. Alone upon a mountain near the Sea of Galilee He spent the entire night in prayer for them, while they were sleeping at the foot of the mountain."—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 291, 292.

5. When tempted with an urgent offer of kingship, what did Jesus do? John 6:14, 15; Matt. 14:22, 23.

6. Describe the prayer meeting on the mount of transfiguration. Luke 9:28-36.

7. How did the Saviour prepare for the ordeal of Calvary? Luke 22:39-46.

NOTE.—"Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. . . . He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin. His prayer now breathes only submission: 'If this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done.' "—*The Desire of Ages,* pages 690, 693.

8. Even while enduring the agony of the cross, what did Jesus do? Luke 23:33, 34.

NOTE.—"That prayer of Christ for His enemies embraced the world. It took in every sinner that had lived or should live, from the beginning of the world to the end of time. Upon all rests the guilt of crucifying the Son of God. To all, forgiveness is freely offered. 'Whosoever will' may have peace with God, and inherit eternal life."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 745.

Christ Reveals the Conditions of Answered Prayer

9. Before we receive, what must we do? John 16:24; Luke 11:5-9. Compare James 4:2, last part.

NOTE.—"Ask *and* keep on asking and you will receive." John 16:24, The Amplified New Testament.

"We must have help which God alone can give, and that help will not come unasked. . . .

"I have been shown angels of God all ready to impart grace and power to those who feel their need of divine strength. But these heavenly messengers will not bestow blessings unless solicited."—*Our High Calling,* page 129.

"Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. Wrestling with God—how few know what it is!"—*The Great Controversy,* page 621.

10. What prerequisite of answered prayer does Jesus set forth? Mark 11:22-24.

NOTE.—"Jesus Himself never moved literal mountains, nor did He intend His followers to contemplate any necessity of doing so themselves. Jesus here is speaking of figurative mountains of difficulty." —*S. D. A. Bible Commentary,* on Mark 11:23.

11. What continuing experience is essential to a successful prayer life? John 15:7.

NOTE.—"You are just as dependent upon Christ, in order to live a holy life, as is the branch upon the parent stock for growth and fruitfulness. Apart from Him you have no life. You have no power to resist temptation or to grow in grace and holiness. Abiding in Him, you may flourish. Drawing your life from Him, you will not wither nor be fruitless. You will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water."—*Steps to Christ,* page 69.

Exhortations to Earnest Prayer

12. What earnest admonition did Jesus give the disciples when He found them asleep in Gethsemane? Matt. 26:40, 41.

NOTE.—"Christians are not to await their Lord's return in idle expectancy. While waiting and watching they are to be vigilant in purifying their own souls by obedience to the truth, and to be earnest in working for others. It is their privilege 'not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God.' "—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 24:42.

13. What did Jesus emphasize as a necessity in the matter of prayer? Luke 18:1-8.

NOTE.—"Our prayers are to be as earnest and persistent as was the petition of the needy friend who asked for the loaves at midnight. The more earnestly and steadfastly we ask, the closer will be our spiritual union with Christ. We shall receive increased blessings because we have increased faith."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 146.

"Your petitions must not be faint, occasional, and fitful, but earnest, persevering, and constant."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 510.

14. What good counsel does Paul give the child of God? 1 Thess. 5:17.

NOTE.—"Let every breath be a prayer." —*The Ministry of Healing*, page 511.

"Cultivate the habit of talking with the Saviour when you are alone, when you are walking, and when you are busy with your daily labor."—*Ibid.*, pp. 510, 511.

Personal Appeal

How much of Jesus' spirit of prayer is found in my life?

Do I pray or do I just "say my prayers"?

Do I let go of the arm of the Lord too soon?

Lesson 10, for December 3, 1966

The Spirit of Courage

MEMORY VERSE: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." Isa. 41:10.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Gospel Workers," pages 264-268; "Testimonies," Vol. 7, pp. 210-214. For other Spirit of Prophecy comments see "Courage" in the "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To develop Christlike courage for present and future needs.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1, 2; begin reading study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 3-6.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 7-11.	☐
Thursday: Questions 12-14; finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Courage of Jesus

1. Isaiah foretells Jesus' courageous spirit. Isa. 42:4.
2. Jesus' courage in face of danger. Luke 13:31-33.

II. Exhortations to Courage

3. Courage and endurance needed in last days. Matt. 24:12, 13.
4. God speaks courage to His people. Deut. 31:6; Joshua 1:7, 9.
5. Anticipation of final deliverance. Isa. 35:4.
6. Source of our strength and courage. 2 Tim. 2:1.

III. Bible Illustrations of Courage

7. Unusual courage in Jehoshaphat's day. 2 Chron. 20:20-23.
8. Nehemiah's courage in rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. Neh. 4: 16-18; 6:10, 11.
9. With courage, Peter and John faced difficulty. Acts 4:18, 19, 31-33.
10. Paul's courage at Philippi. 1 Thess. 2:2.
11. Brethren encourage Paul. Acts 28:14, 15.

IV. Promises That Inspire Courage

12. God's blessed promise of help. Heb. 13:5, 6.
13. Words of assurance to God's people. Isa. 41:10.
14. Precious promises through the psalmist. Ps. 27:14.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"Talk courage, talk faith, talk hope. My brother and sister in the Lord, be of good courage. O, how little we know what is before us! We will give ourselves entirely to Jesus, to be wholly His, and then say, 'Not my will, but Thy will, O God, be done.' . . . You have the tender love and compassion of your Saviour. Look to Him always. Trust in Him continually, and doubt not His love. He knows all our weakness and that which we need. He will give us grace sufficient for our day. Only look to Jesus continually, and be of good courage."—Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God,* page 191.

The Courage of Jesus

1. In what words did the prophet Isaiah foretell the courageous spirit of Jesus? Isa. 42:4.

NOTE.—"He will not fail *or* become weak, or be crushed *and* discouraged." The Amplified Old Testament.

"Day by day He met trials and temptations; day by day He was brought into contact with evil and witnessed its power upon those whom He was seeking to bless and to save. Yet He did not fail or become discouraged."—*The Ministry of Healing,* pages 18, 19.

2. How did Jesus display courage in the face of Herod's threats? Luke 13:31-33.

NOTE.—"Apparently the Pharisees used this device in an attempt to frighten Jesus out of Peraea into Judea, where they could lay hands on Him themselves. For nearly two years the Jewish leaders had been plotting His death (see DA 213, 401; John 11:53, 54, 57 . . .), and the Jews had recently tried twice to stone Him."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Luke 13:31.

Exhortations to Courage

3. In a time of widespread wickedness, what spirit should characterize believers? Matt. 24:12, 13.

NOTE.—"Christ's forecast met its first fulfillment in the decades prior to the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (DA 633; cf. 36, 37). The prophecy will again be fulfilled in the last days (2 Tim. 3:1-5; cf. 5T 136, 741)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 24:12.

"The day of the Lord is approaching with stealthy tread; but the supposed great and wise men know not the signs of Christ's coming or of the end of the world. Iniquity abounds, and the love of many has waxed cold.

"There are thousands upon thousands, millions upon millions, who are now making their decision for eternal life or eternal death."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 6, p. 406.

4. On what two occasions did the Lord speak a message of encouragement to Israel? Deut. 31:6; Joshua 1:7, 9.

5. **In anticipation of final deliverance from the power of sin, what inspired words of hope and courage does Isaiah speak to God's people? Isa. 35:4.**

NOTE.—"Christian life is more than many take it to be. It does not consist wholly in gentleness, patience, meekness, and kindliness. These graces are essential; but there is need also of courage, force, energy, and perseverance. The path that Christ marks out is a narrow, self-denying path. To enter that path and press on through difficulties and discouragements requires men who are more than weaklings."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 497.

6. **Where is the source of our strength and courage? 2 Tim. 2:1.**

NOTE.—"However courageous and successful a man may be in the performance of a special work, unless he looks constantly to God when circumstances arise to test his faith he will lose his courage. Even after God has given him marked tokens of His power, after he has been strengthened to do God's work, he will fail unless he trusts implicitly in Omnipotence." —Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 2, p. 1035.

Bible Illustrations of Courage

7. **How did God honor an unusual manifestation of courage on the part of His people in Jehoshaphat's day? 2 Chron. 20:20-23.**

NOTE.—"They praised God for the victory, and four days thereafter the army returned to Jerusalem, laden with the spoils of their enemies, singing praises for the victory won.

"Do you not think that if more of this were done now, our hope and courage and faith would be revived? Would not the hands of the soldiers who are standing in defense of the truth be strengthened? If there were much more praising the Lord, and far less doleful recitation of discouragement, many more victories would be gained."—*Sons and Daughters of God,* page 199.

8. **What commendable display of valor characterized the work of Nehemiah and his followers in rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem? Neh. 4: 16-18; 6:10, 11.**

NOTE.—"Nehemiah showed himself to be a man whom God could use to put down false principles and to restore heaven-born principles; and God honored him. The Lord will use in His work men who are as true as steel to principle, who will not be swayed by the sophistries of those who have lost their spiritual eyesight."—*Sons and Daughters of God,* page 213.

9. **Under what circumstances did Peter and John deport themselves with unusual fortitude? With what results? Acts 4:18, 19, 31-33.**

10. **What splendid example of courage did Paul and his companion leave for all who would serve the Lord under trying circumstances in later years? 1 Thess. 2:2.**

NOTE.—"We are handicapped on all sides, but we are never frustrated; we are puzzled, but never in despair. We are persecuted, but we never have to stand it alone: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out!" 2 Cor. 4:8, 9, Phillips.

> The attempted separation of the gospel of grace from the gospel of giving is the tragedy of modern church life.

11. What encouragement came to Paul on his trying journey to Rome? Acts 28:14, 15.

Promises That Inspire Courage

12. What blessed promise has the Lord given that would enable the child of God to face the future without fear? Heb. 13:5 (last part), 6.

NOTE.—"God will honor and uphold every truehearted, earnest soul who is seeking to walk before Him in the perfection of Christ's grace. He will never leave nor forsake one humble, trembling soul."—*Sons and Daughters of God,* page 192.

"Divine strength is ours; and let us talk courage and strength and faith."—*Testimonies to Ministers,* page 391.

"In the darkest days, when appearances seem most forbidding, have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 482.

13. What reassuring words did God speak in Isaiah's day that will bring strength to the church until the close of time? Isa. 41:10.

NOTE.—"There is to be no despondency in God's service. Our faith is to endure the pressure brought to bear upon it. God is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the strength they need. He will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 8, p. 11.

14. How does the psalmist seek to encourage and inspire the hearts of God's people? Ps. 27:14. Compare Ps. 29:11; 31:24.

NOTE.—"Let us not be discouraged. Let us not talk doubt, but faith; for faith brings infinite power. If we lay hold upon this power, and do not trust in our own human strength, we shall see the salvation of God."—*Selected Messages,* Bk. 1, p. 85.

Personal Appeal

Am I easily discouraged when even little things go wrong?

Am I keeping in close enough contact with my source of courage?

Is my present experience preparing me to stand courageously during the time of trouble ahead?

Lesson 11, for December 10, 1966

The Spirit of Giving

MEMORY VERSE: "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:6, 7.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "The Desire of Ages," chapter, "God With Us." For further Spirit of Prophecy comments see "Gifts" and "Giving" in "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To see the greatness of the gifts of Heaven to mankind, and to give more of ourselves and our means to help finish God's work on earth.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-5.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 6, 7; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 8-12.	☐
Thursday: Questions 13, 14; finish reading study helps.	☐
Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Spirit of Divine Giving

1. God's love gift to a sinful world. John 3:16.
2. Christ's part in the divine gift. Eph. 5:2, 25.
3. The measure of Christ's gift to the world. Gal. 1:4; Isa. 50:6; 53:5.
4. The Holy Spirit, a gift and a Giver of gifts. John 14:16, 26; Acts 1:8.
5. The angels as ministering spirits delight to give. Heb. 1:14.

II. The Spirit of Giving in the Scriptures

6. Israel gave willingly and abundantly. Ex. 35:22; 36:5, 6.
7. Two illustrations of sacrificial giving in the New Testament. Luke 21:1-4; Acts 4:34, 35.

III. Inspired Guide in Christian Giving

8. Give according to our income. Deut. 16:17.
9. Give cheerfully. 2 Cor. 9:7.
10. Give freely. Matt. 10:8, last part.
11. Give systematically. 1 Cor. 16:1, 2.
12. Give without ostentation. Matt. 6:3, 4.

IV. Promises to the Faithful Giver

13. "Give, and it shall be given unto you." Luke 6:38.
14. Wonderful blessings of benevolence. 2 Cor. 9:8-15.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"If God's people had the love of Christ in the heart; if every church member were thoroughly imbued with the spirit of self-denial; if all manifested thorough earnestness, there would be no lack of funds for home and foreign missions; our resources would be multiplied; a thousand doors of usefulness would be opened, and we would be invited to enter. Had the purpose of God been carried out by His people in giving the message of mercy to the world, Christ would have come to the earth, and the saints would ere this have received their welcome into the City of God."—*Selected Messages,* Bk. 1, p. 82.

The Spirit of Divine Giving

1. What greatest of all love gifts did God make to the world? John 3:16.

NOTE.—"Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 5, p. 740.

2. What was Christ's part in the greatest of all gifts? Eph. 5:2, 25.

3. What was the measure of Christ's gift to a lost world? Gal. 1:4; Isa. 50:6; 53:5.

NOTE.—"Benevolence was the life of His soul."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 191.

"All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life."—*Ibid.*, p. 21.

4. What further gift did Jesus promise to those who believed on Him? John 14:16, 26; Acts 1:8.

NOTE.—"What gift could He bestow rich enough to signalize and grace His ascension to the mediatorial throne? It must be worthy of His greatness and His royalty. He determined to give His representative, the third person of the Godhead. This gift could not be excelled."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 6, p. 1053.

5. What part do the angels have in God's great plan of giving? Heb. 1:14.

NOTE.—"The angels of glory find their joy in giving,—giving love and tireless watchcare to souls that are fallen and unholy. Heavenly beings woo the hearts of men; they bring to this dark world light from the courts above; by gentle and patient ministry they move upon the human spirit, to bring the lost into a fellowship with Christ which is even closer than they themselves can know."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 21.

The Spirit of Giving in the Scriptures

6. How did the church in the wilderness set a worthy example in liberal giving for us today? Ex. 35: 22; 36:5, 6. Compare 1 Chron. 29:9.

7. What two New Testament illustrations of sacrificial giving are recorded for our admonition? Luke 21:1-4; Acts 4:34, 35.

Inspired Guide in Christian Giving

8. What reasonable principle should determine our giving to the Lord? Deut. 16:17.

NOTE.—We give nothing personally until after we have returned to God the tithe which is His own. It does not belong to us at all. Our giving begins after the tithe.

"The contributions required of the Hebrews for religious and charitable purposes amounted to fully one fourth of their income."—*Patriarchs and Prophets,* page 527.

9. How should we not give? What kind of giver does Paul say God loves? 2 Cor. 9:7.

NOTE.—"Whenever God's people, in any period of the world, have cheerfully and willingly carried out His plan in systematic benevolence and in gifts and offerings, they have realized the standing promise that prosperity should attend all their labors just in proportion as they obeyed His requirements."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 3, p. 395.

"For things that are needless, often harmful, professed Christians are today spending more, many times more, than they spend in seeking to rescue souls from the tempter."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 207.

10. Why should we give freely to the Lord? Matt. 10:8, last part.

NOTE.—"What is the value of money at this time, in comparison with the value of souls? Every dollar of our means should be considered as the Lord's, not ours; and as a precious trust from God to us; not to be wasted for needless indulgences, but carefully used in the cause of God, in the work of saving men and women from ruin."—*Life Sketches,* page 214.

11. How did Paul encourage the early church in systematic giving? 1 Cor. 16:1, 2.

NOTE.—"Those churches who are the most systematic and liberal in sustaining the cause of God, are the most prosperous spiritually. . . . Worldliness and coveteousness are eating out the vitals of God's people."—*Sons and Daughters of God,* page 264.

12. In what words did Jesus rule out any unnecessary display in giving? Matt. 6:3, 4.

NOTE.—"Christ's own words make His meaning plain, that in acts of charity the aim should not be to secure praise and honor from men. Real godliness never prompts an effort at display. Those who desire words of praise and flattery, and feed upon them as a sweet morsel, are Christians in name only."—*Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing,* page 80.

Promises to the Faithful Giver

13. What promise is given to those who faithfully share their material blessings with the Lord and with those who are in need? Luke 6:38. Compare 2 Cor. 9:6.

NOTE.—"Let us not complain because we are often asked to give for the upbuilding of the cause. What is it that makes these frequent calls a necessity? Is it not the rapid increase of missionary enterprises? Shall we, by refusing to give, retard the growth of these enterprises? . . .

"All who possess the Spirit of Christ will have a tender, sympathetic heart, and an open, generous hand. . . .

"The more we bring to God's treasure-house, the more we shall have to bring; for He will open ways before us, increasing our substance."—Ellen G. White, *Our High Calling,* page 197.

14. How does Paul further set forth the wonderful blessings of liberal giving? 2 Cor. 9:8-15.

Personal Appeal

1. Is love such a motivating factor in my giving of time, talents, and means that it leads me to give cheerfully and sacrificially?

2. Do I give myself along with my gifts?

Lesson 12, for December 17, 1966

The Spirit of Faithfulness

MEMORY VERSE: "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb. 12:1, 2.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary." For Spirit of Prophecy comments on "Faithfulness," "Loyalty," "Steadfastness," "Persecution," and "Promises," see "Index to the Writings of E. G. White."

STUDY AIM: To see the importance of faithfulness, and to develop this essential Christian grace.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-3.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 4-6; begin reading study helps.	☐
Wednesday: Questions 7-9; read further from study helps.	☐
Thursday: Questions 10-14.	☐
Friday: Finish reading study helps and review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Faithfulness of Jesus

1. Faithful under test and temptation. Matt. 4:1-11.
2. Faithful even to Calvary. Matt. 27:33-38.

II. Heroes of Faith

3. Trials of the faithful worthies. Heb. 11:35-40.

III. Faithful Promises

4. Not one promise failed. 1 Kings 8:56.
5. We can depend on Him. 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Cor. 10:13.
6. A never-failing source of strength. 1 Peter 4:19.

IV. Exhortations to Faithfulness

7. Report of faithfulness always cheering. Phil. 1:27.
8. Peter's timely warning. 2 Peter 3:17.
9. Faithful to death. Rev. 2:10, last part.

V. Rewards of Faithfulness

10. Faithfulness rewarded. Matt. 25:21, 23.
11. Crown of righteousness for faithful Paul. 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.
12. Final rewards of the faithful. Rev. 7:9, 14-17; 14:4; 15:2; 20:4; 22:14.

VI. Pressing Faithfully Forward

13. A harvest if we do not faint. Gal. 6:9.
14. Persevere with eyes on Jesus. Heb. 12:1, 2.

THE LESSON

Introduction

In this life we must expect trials to come. "Everyone has his individual tests and trials in the drama of life."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 3, p. 541. Before Jesus returns, these tests may assume very sizable proportions for the child of God. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Timothy 3:12. "The great crisis is just before us. To meet its trials and temptations, and to perform its duties, will require persevering faith."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 6, p. 404.

The Faithfulness of Jesus

1. How did Jesus remain faithful under great test and temptation? Matt. 4:1-11.

NOTE.—Christ remained steadfast in the face of the greatest tests and temptations, the most enticing allurements of the world any being has ever been subjected to. "Man will never be tried by temptations as powerful as those which assailed Christ."—*Counsels on Stewardship,* page 210.

2. To what extent was Jesus faithful during His earthly ministry? Matt. 27:33-38. Compare Phil. 2:5-8.

NOTE.—"And, having become man, He humbled Himself by living a life of utter obedience, even to the extent of dying, and the death He died was the death of a common criminal." Phil. 2:8, Phillips.

"It was humiliation indeed for God to become man; and then, being man, to die a shameful death on the cross. . . . It was a death that involved intense shame as well as intense suffering. . . . Even the Gentiles considered it the most foul and cruel of all punishments."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Phil. 2:8.

Heroes of Faith

3. To what fiery trials were the faithful worthies listed in Hebrews 11 subjected? Heb. 11:35-40.

NOTE.—"So it will be with all who will live godly in Christ Jesus. Persecution and reproach await all who are imbued with the Spirit of Christ. The character of the persecution changes with the times, but the principle—the spirit that underlies it—is the same that has slain the chosen of the Lord ever since the days of Abel." —*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 576.

Faithful Promises

4. In Solomon's prayer, of what did he remind the congregation? 1 Kings 8:56. Compare Heb. 10:23.

NOTE.—"God never fails. He has made many promises to His people, and He is faithful in carrying them out. . . . If men fail to receive the blessings that the Lord has promised to give them, it is because of failure on the part of man."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Kings 8:56.

"In His promises and warnings, Jesus means me."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 390.

5. What assurance have we that the Lord will sustain and strengthen His believers? 2 Thess. 3:3; 1 Cor. 10:13. Compare 1 Cor. 1:9.

NOTE.—"The absolute dependability of God is the basis for Paul's statement that the believers will be preserved unreprovable until the last. God's promises, like His character, are unchangeable. This is a source of constant comfort to the Christian living in the increasingly unstable world of today."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 1:9.

6. When trials come, to what source of strength may we always have access? 1 Peter 4:19. Compare 2 Timothy 1:12.

NOTE.—"In the time of trial before us God's pledge of security will be placed upon those who have kept the word of His patience. Christ will say to His faithful ones: 'Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.' Isaiah 26:20."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 6, p. 404.

Exhortations to Faithfulness

7. What report always cheers the heart of a Christian worker? Phil. 1:27.

8. What timely warning does the apostle Peter record? 2 Peter 3:17.

NOTE.—"Do not lose your own safe foothold." N.E.B.

"Believers are urged to remain firm in their faith, allowing nothing to disturb them. This appeal to rocklike stability is reinforced by the grand truth of the resurrection so ably expounded by the apostle in this chapter. In the light of such wonderful assurances for the future, believers should not be influenced by the manifold temptations of the devil, whether to indulge the flesh or, through the avenue of worldly philosophy, to turn from the certain facts of the gospel. No person or thing is to be permitted to shake the believer from the foundation of his faith and hope."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 15:58.

9. To what lengths will the child of God follow his Lord in faithfulness? Rev. 2:10, last part.

NOTE.—"The Greek verb form implies, 'continue to be faithful,'. . . 'up to and including death.' "—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rev. 2:10.

"Every crown that is given to the saints of the Most High will be bestowed by the hands of Christ—those hands that cruel priests and rulers condemned to be nailed to the cross."—Ellen G. White Comments, *Ibid.,* Vol. 7, p. 958.

Rewards of Faithfulness

10. What reward came to the faithful servants in the parable of the talents? Matt. 25:21, 23.

NOTE.—"The Lord does not reward the large amount of labor. He does not regard the greatness of the work so much as the fidelity with which it is done. The good and faithful servant is rewarded. As we cultivate the powers God has given us, we shall increase in knowledge and perception."—*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students,* page 513.

"The master's approval was not proportionate to the amount of profit in each case, but rather to the faithfulness displayed. . . . In part, a reward for faithful service comes in this life, but Jesus here refers primarily to the rewards of the world to come."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Matt. 25:21.

11. To what did Paul look forward at the end of a life of faithful service? 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

NOTE.—"During the dark hours of his [Paul's] noble fight for the faith the splendor of his Lord's promises had imparted courage and hope. . . .

"Paul knows of no immediate entrance into heaven at death; the second advent is 'that day' when the redeemed will be rewarded with eternal life. . . . The righteous, both dead and living, will receive their reward of eternal life at the same time, 'at that day.' "—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Tim. 4:8.

12. What glorious experience lies ahead for the faithful servant of God? Rev. 7:9, 14-17; 14:4; 15:2; 20:4; 22:14.

Pressing Faithfully Forward

13. What encouraging words has Paul written to strengthen us in well-doing? Gal. 6:9.

NOTE.—"Christ illustrated the bestowal of eternal rewards by comparing it with the harvesttime. . . .

"Only those who endure to the end can expect to receive a reward for doing well. Too often in the Christian warfare would-be soldiers of the cross have fainted and given up the struggle. . . . On the other hand, what a picture of heroism is presented in the courageous attitude of the thousands of Christian martyrs who faced the cruelest of deaths rather than relinquish their steadfast confidence in the One who redeemed them from their sins."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Gal. 6:9.

14. To whom does Paul direct us for the patience needed in remaining faithful? Heb. 12:1, 2.

NOTE.—"Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, who is the Leader *and* the Source of *our* faith." Heb. 12:2, The Amplified New Testament.

"*Looking unto Jesus.* That is, for grace and strength to overcome every difficulty and to endure unto the end. . . . To keep the eye of faith fixed upon Jesus is to maintain uninterrupted contact with Him who is the source of power, Him who can strengthen us to endure and to overcome."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Heb. 12:2.

Personal Appeal

Do I "maintain uninterrupted contact with Him who is the source of power"?

Have I settled my relationship to the Lord and to His last-day message?

Am I faithful in the little tests now, so that I may be faithful when greater tests come before Jesus returns?

> "The influence growing out of Sabbath School work should improve and enlarge the church."—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work,* page 9.

Lesson 13, for December 24, 1966

The Spirit of Brotherhood

MEMORY VERSE: "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:4, 5.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary," and Spirit of Prophecy comments on Scripture references; "The Desire of Ages," pages 325-327.

STUDY AIM: To learn from Christ's teaching and example how to love our fellowmen.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 9-13.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 5-8.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. The Spirit of Brotherhood in the Saviour's Ministry

1. Jesus revealed the true scope of Christian brotherhood. Mark 3:31-35.
2. Christ's enemies noted His impartiality. Matt. 22:16.
3. The Saviour mingled with people of all levels of society. Mark 14:3; Luke 14:1; John 2:1, 2.
4. Jesus recognized no barriers to the giving of the gospel. John 4:7-15.

II. We Are All Brethren

5. One Master, all brethren. Matt. 23:8, last part.
6. Malachi describes the brotherhood of man. Mal. 2:10.
7. All nations made of one blood. Acts 17:26.
8. Paul and Peter rule out proud nationalism. Gal. 3:28; Acts 10: 34, 35.

III. The Spirit of Christ Molds Our Relationships With Others

9. The touchstone of our attitude as Christians. Phil. 2:5.
10. An inspired guide in our relationships with others. Col. 3:12, 13.
11. Further helpful counsel. Rom. 12:10, 18.
12. Stumbling blocks to be avoided. Rom. 14:13.
13. Love, the only antidote for ill will. Mark 12:31; Rom. 13:10.

THE LESSON

Introduction

When the apostle John was given a vision of the rise of the advent movement, he saw an angel with "his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth." Rev. 10:2. Later he was shown another mighty angel proclaiming the judgment-hour message to all "that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people." Rev. 14:6. From these prophecies it is clear that God's last-day movement is to be an international movement.

It is the Lord's desire that these loved ones, gathered out from among all nations, tribes, and races of earth, will be brought together in a Christian brotherhood that will be a marvel to the whole world. Christ's prayer to the Father is that His people "may be one, even as We are one: . . . and that the world may know that Thou has sent Me." John 17:22, 23. For "all ye are brethren." Matt. 23:8.

The Spirit of Brotherhood in the Saviour's Ministry

1. How did Jesus reveal the true scope of Christian brotherhood? Mark 3:31-35.

NOTE.—"Dear and tender as were the ties which bound Him to His mother and brethren, yet those which bound Him to His disciples were more tender and sacred." —*Albert Barnes Notes,* on Matt. 12:48.

"All who would receive Christ by faith were united to Him by a tie closer than that of human kinship."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 325.

2. What had even His enemies noted about Christ's relationships with His fellowmen? Matt. 22:16.

3. How is the Saviour's freedom from human prejudices revealed in His personal contact with different levels of society? Mark 14:3; Luke 14:1; John 2:1, 2.

4. How did Jesus break through man-made barriers to bring salvation to a needy soul? John 4:7-15.

NOTE.—"He [Jesus] completely disarmed her prejudice and foiled her attempt to evade the issue by making it clear that He did not share the religious bias that separated the Jews from the Samaritans. Both might become 'true worshipers.' "—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on John 4:21.

We Are All Brethren

5. What is the basis for Christian brotherhood? Matt. 23:8, last part. Compare Gal. 3:28, last part.

NOTE.—"Those who, in the spirit and love of Jesus, will become one with Him, will be in close fellowship one with another, bound up by the silken cords of love. Then the ties of human brotherhood would not be always on the strain, ready at any provocation to snap asunder. 'All ye are brethren' will be the sentiment of every child of faith. When the followers of Christ are one with Him, there will be no first and last, no less respected or less important ones. A blessed brotherly fellowship one with another will bind all who truly receive the Lord Jesus Christ in a firm loyalty that cannot be broken. All will be equally one with Christ."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 5, pp. 1097, 1098.

6. How does the prophet Malachi further describe the brotherhood of man? Mal. 2:10.

7. In his sermon at Athens how did Paul refer to the common origin of the human family? Acts 17:26.

8. How do Paul and Peter rule out any spirit of proud nationalism from the experience of the Christian? Gal. 3:28; Acts 10:34, 35.

NOTE.—"*Respecter of persons.* Gr. *prosōpolēmptēs,* 'one who receives the face,' and so, one who distinguishes between persons on the basis of outward appearances. . . .

"*In every nation.* Peter dimly realized that Christianity was not to be national. In his dealings with Cornelius he began to see how this might be, though he did not yet understand it thoroughly. Paul would shortly declare that neither race, nor sex, nor social status have any bearing in God's sight (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:10, 11)."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Acts 10:34, 35.

The Spirit of Christ Molds Our Relationships With Others

9. What mind should be manifest in all the attitudes of the Christian? Phil. 2:5.

NOTE.—"Let Christ Himself be your example as to what your attitude should be." Phillips.

"Much more prayer, much more Christ-likeness, much more conformity to God's will, is to be brought into God's work."—*Evangelism,* page 559.

"Study carefully the divine-human character, and constantly inquire, 'What would Jesus do were He in my place?' This should be the measurement of our duty."—*The Ministry of Healing,* page 491.

10. What attribute of Christian grace will smooth our relationships with those not of our own nationality, race, or social group? Col. 3: 12, 13.

Give a Christmas gift to Jesus this thirteenth Sabbath.

11. In what other helpful counsel does the apostle promote brotherly love? Rom. 12:10, 18.

NOTE.—"A result of true affection is that one does not seek his own honor or position but is willing to give honor to others. Christian brethren who are motivated by genuine love will be more forward to pay respect than to receive it. None will be ambitious to gather honor to himself, but each will be eager to show honor to his fellow believers."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on Rom. 12:10.

12. What caution is given regarding the placing of stumbling blocks in the way of a brother? Rom. 14:13.

13. What is the only antidote for the ill will so prevalent among the people of the earth today? Mark 12:31; Rom. 13:10.

NOTE.—"When those who profess to serve God follow Christ's example, practicing the principles of the law in their daily life; when every act bears witness that they love God supremely and their neighbor as themselves, then will the church have power to move the world."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 340.

"It is the work of the Holy Spirit from age to age to impart love to human hearts, for love is the living principle of brotherhood."—*Testimonies,* Vol. 8, p. 139.

Personal Appeal

Is true Christian love the controlling motive of my life?

Is Jesus my example in all of my contacts with others?

Am I patient, understanding, and kind in all my relationships with those who are not part of my national, racial, or social group?

Lesson 14, for December 31, 1966

Becoming Like Him

MEMORY VERSE: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:23.

STUDY HELPS: "S.D.A. Bible Commentary"; "Our High Calling," pages 25, 27, 29, 99, 213, 217, 303; "Steps to Christ," chapters "Growing Up Into Christ" and "The Privilege of Prayer"; and other Spirit of Prophecy comments on Scripture references.

STUDY AIM: To understand the glorious provision God has made for us to become like the Saviour in our daily lives.

DAILY STUDY ASSIGNMENT AND RECORD

	Check Here		Check Here
Sunday: General survey; learn memory verse.	☐	Wednesday: Questions 11-14.	☐
Monday: Questions 1-4.	☐	Thursday: Read study helps.	☐
Tuesday: Questions 5-10.	☐	Friday: Review entire lesson.	☐

Lesson Outline:

Introduction

I. Standard to Be Reached

1. Sanctification—Christlikeness the goal before us. 1 Thess. 5:23.
2. Our lives must be hid with Christ. Col. 3:2-4; 1 John 3:1-3; 2:15-17.
3. Perfect as He is perfect. Matt. 5:48.
4. Only holiness will prepare us to see the Lord. Heb. 12:14.

II. How the Experience of Christlikeness May Become Ours

5. It is a progressive experience. 2 Peter 3:18; Phil. 3:13, 14.
6. We must consider Jesus. Heb. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18.
7. We must learn of Him. Matt. 11:29; John 6:68.
8. We must follow Him. John 12:26.
9. We must eliminate objectionable traits of character. Col. 3:5, 6.
10. We must do all to the glory of God. 1 Cor. 10:31.

III. Encouraging Assurances of Help

11. Partakers of the divine nature. 2 Peter 1:3-5, 10, 11.
12. God wills that we should be like Jesus. 1 Thess 4:3, first part.
13. In Christ only is there strength. John 15:5; Isa. 27:5.
14. His grace is sufficient. 2 Cor. 12:9.

THE LESSON

Introduction

"*Like Christ* is the watchword, not like your father or your mother, but like Jesus Christ—hid in Christ, clothed with Christ's righteousness, imbued with the Spirit of Christ. All the peculiarities given us as an inheritance or acquired by indulgence or through erroneous education must be thoroughly overcome, decidedly resisted."—*Our High Calling*, page 29.

"Now is the time for us to form characters after the divine Model. . . . If we know Christ, we shall reveal Him to others."—*Ibid.*, page 303.

Standard to Be Reached

1. What prayer for the development of Christlikeness in the church did the apostle Paul record? 1 Thess. 5:23.

NOTE.—A person who is sanctified wholly is one who is striving to be Christlike. "The followers of Christ are to become like Him—by the grace of God to form characters in harmony with the principles of His holy law. This is Bible sanctification."—*The Great Controversy,* page 469.

2. What attitude toward worldliness will the child of Christ maintain? Col. 3:2-4; 1 John 3:1-3; 2: 15-17.

NOTE.—"The soul that loves God, rises above the fog of doubt; he gains a bright, broad, deep, living experience, and becomes meek and Christlike. His soul is committed to God, hid with Christ in God. He will be able to stand the test of neglect, of abuse and contempt, because his Saviour has suffered all this."—Ellen G. White Comments, *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* Vol. 7, p. 907.

3. What goal does Jesus set forth for the Christian? Matt. 5:48.

NOTE.—"The ideal of Christian character is Christlikeness. As the Son of man was perfect in His life, so His followers are to be perfect in their life."—*The Desire of Ages,* page 311.

"The germination of the seed represents the beginning of spiritual life, and the development of the plant is a beautiful figure of Christian growth. . . . As its growth is silent and imperceptible, but continuous, so is the development of the Christian life. At every stage of development our life may be perfect; yet if God's purpose for us is fulfilled, there will be continual advancement."—*Christ's Object Lessons,* page 65.

4. If we would see the Lord, what must be our experience? Heb. 12:14.

NOTE.—"The life of Jesus, the Saviour of the world, was a pattern of . . . holiness."—*Spiritual Gifts,* Vol. 3, p. 176.

How the Experience of Christlikeness May Become Ours

5. What words of the apostles Peter and Paul indicate that Christlikeness of character is not suddenly attained? 2 Peter 3:18; Phil. 3:13, 14.

NOTE.—"Sanctification is not the work of a moment, an hour, a day, but of a lifetime."—*The Acts of the Apostles,* page 560.

"The longest chain is composed of separate links. If one of these links is faulty, the chain is worthless. Thus it is with character. A well-balanced character is formed by single acts well performed."—*Messages to Young People,* page 144.

"We must put to the stretch every spiritual nerve and muscle. . . . God . . . does not desire you to remain novices. He wants you to reach the very highest round of the ladder, and then step from it into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."—*Our High Calling,* page 217.

6. If we are to become like the Master, what two things does Paul say are necessary for us to do? Heb. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18.

NOTE.—We are to "consider" Christ, and we are to "behold" Him. "To be 'changed' into the likeness of Christ is logically the result of 'beholding' Him."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 2 Cor. 3:18.

"As Christ the Pattern is constantly kept before the mind's eye, new habits will be formed, powerful hereditary and cultivated tendencies will be subdued and overcome, self-esteem will be laid in the dust, old habits of thought will be constantly resisted, love for the supremacy will be seen in its real, despicable character, and will be overcome."—*Our High Calling,* page 99.

7. Who are we to accept as our teacher in the school of Christlikeness? Matt. 11:29, second part; John 6:68.

NOTE.—" 'Learn of me,' said the Divine Teacher, 'for I am meek and lowly in heart.' . . . We must learn self-denial, we must learn courage, patience, fortitude, and forgiving love. . . . If we have faith in Jesus as our helper, if our eyes of faith are directed to Him constantly, we shall become like Jesus in character. . . . The lessons which Christ has given us will be practiced."—*Our High Calling,* page 99.

8. What else is essential to the development of a character like our Saviour's? John 12:26.

NOTE.—" 'If any man serve Me, let him follow Me.' This is the rule given in the Word of God. By studying the life of Christ, let the workers find out how He lived and worked. Let them strive each day to live the life of Christ, seeking to know the way of the Lord."—*Evangelism,* page 686.

9. What objectionable traits will be eliminated from the life of the person who is seeking to become like Jesus? Col. 3:5, 6.

10. What should be the ultimate aim of all that we do? 1 Cor. 10:31. Compare John 17:1.

NOTE.—"The religion of Christ concerns all the affairs of man, whether in the physical, the mental, or the spiritual realm. . . .

"All the energies of the soul should be used to advance the interests of God's kingdom, and so to honor God."—*S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on 1 Cor. 10:31.

Encouraging Assurances of Help

11. How does the apostle Peter describe God's part and our part in the work of sanctification? 2 Peter 1:3-5, 10, 11.

12. In our endeavor to pattern our life after the Master, of what may we be certain? 1 Thess. 4:3, first part.

NOTE.—"Our sanctification is God's object in all His dealings with us. He has chosen us from eternity that we might be holy. Christ gave Himself for our redemption, that through faith in His power to save from sin, we might be made complete in Him."—*Our High Calling,* page 213.

13. In what words does Jesus emphasize our need of help, and how, through the gospel prophet, does He give assurance that this help will be forthcoming if we seek it? John 15: 5; Isa. 27:5.

NOTE.—"Christ is our tower of strength, and Satan can have no power over the soul that walks with God in humility of mind. The promise is, 'Let him take hold of My strength, that he may make peace with Me; and he shall make peace with Me.' In Christ there is perfect and complete help for every tempted soul. Dangers beset every path, but the whole universe of heaven is standing on guard, that none may be tempted above that which he is able to bear."—*My Life Today,* page 316.

14. What precious promises of assurance encourage us as we press toward the goal of Christlikeness? 2 Cor. 12:9.

NOTE.—"Jesus is our helper; in Him and through Him we must conquer. . . . The grace of Christ is waiting your demand

upon it. He will give you grace and strength as you need it if you ask Him. . . . The Spirit of Christ in the heart will be revealed in the character, will develop noble qualities and powers. 'My grace is sufficient' (2 Cor. 12:9), says Christ."—*Our High Calling,* page 29.

Personal Appeal

" 'This is the will of God, even your sanctification.' Is it *your* will that your desires and inclinations shall be brought into harmony with the divine mind?"—*Ibid.,* p. 213.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH OFFERING

December 24, 1966

South American Division

Pemphigus, or savage fire as it is commonly called in Brazil, is one of the most dreaded diseases of medical history. It is a living death, comparable only to leprosy. Ulcers and eczema, from the sole of the feet to the top of the head, with a continual burning sensation, make the condition of one with this disease most pathetic. We, as Seventh-day Adventists, are operating the only private hospital in Brazil, at Mato Grosso, for the treatment of this disease. This little hospital is one of the projects to benefit from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow.

One poor sufferer, as he pulled back the blood-stained sheet that covered his head to protect it from flies, said, "Please thank the Adventists wherever they are for the wonderful help they are giving us. I was once a prosperous rancher with a fine family, but I am now become as Job. I have lost my family and everything I possessed because of this terrible disease. Now I hope to start life over again because of the good help of the Adventists."

Won't you give a generous Christmas offering to help more of these poor sufferers, and also to help our needy hospital at São Paulo, Brazil?

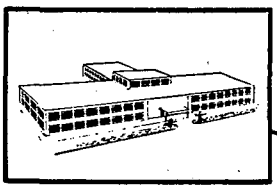
Lessons for the First Quarter

Sabbath School members who have failed to receive a senior *Lesson Quarterly* for the first quarter of 1967 will be helped by the following outline in studying the first lesson. The title of the series is "Studies in the Book of Daniel." The title of the first lesson is "Opportunity, Apostasy, and Exile." The memory verse is Deuteronomy 7:6. The study helps are *Christ's Object Lessons,* pages 284-290; *Prophets and Kings,* pages 479-490; the *S.D.A. Bible Commentary,* on the references cited. The texts to be studied are:

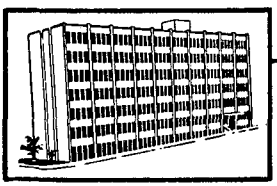
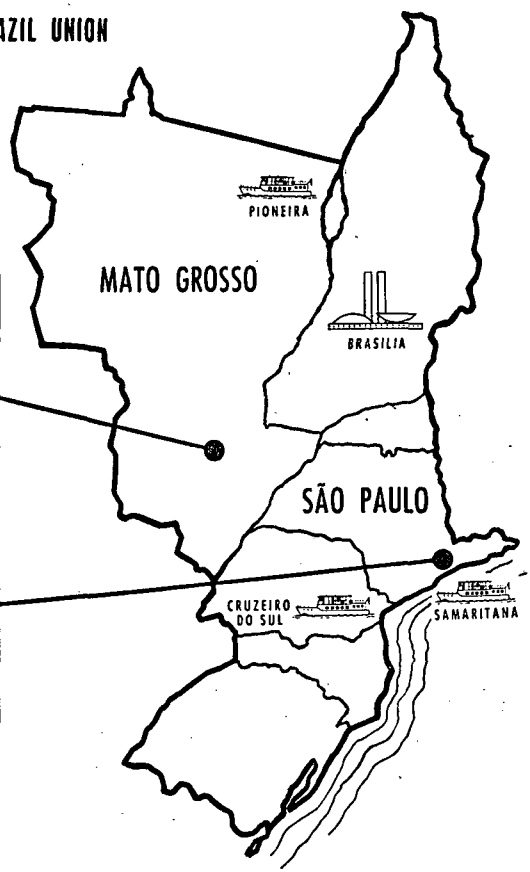
Ques. 1. Ex. 19:3-8; Deut. 7:6.
Ques. 2. Deut. 28:2-13.
Ques. 3. Deut. 28:1, 2, 13, 14.
Ques. 4. Gen. 22:18; Deut. 28:10.
Ques. 5. Rom. 3:1, 2; Jer. 35:15.
Ques. 6. Isa. 5:1, 2; 27:6.
Ques. 7. Isa. 5:2-7; Ezek. 22:23-31.
Ques. 8. Deut. 29:24-28; Dan. 9:5-12.
Ques. 9. Deut. 30:1-3; Jer. 30:11.
Ques. 10. Jer. 32:37-42.
Ques. 11. Dan. 1:1-6.
Ques. 12. Dan. 5:11, 14; 6:3, 4.
Ques. 13. Dan. 1:17.

SOUTH AMERICAN DIVISION

UNIONS	POPULATION	CHURCHES	CHURCH MEMB.	SAB. SCH. MEMB.
AUSTRAL	25,341,020	109	17,583	17,955
CHILEAN	8,001,000	66	10,060	9,441
NORTH BRAZIL	10,631,000	36	9,328	11,675
EAST BRAZIL	35,668,000	153	27,173	33,671
INCA	18,804,219	153	36,822	38,553
SOUTH BRAZIL	34,723,000	210	55,959	68,234
TOTALS	133,168,239	727	156,925	179,529



PENFIGO HOSPITAL



SAO PAULO HOSPITAL