

Power to Make Me Brave

Sharing Jesus
through the
Holy Spirit



WEEK OF PRAYER
December 5 – 14, 2025



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**SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
REFORM MOVEMENT**

Editorial

Dear Children,

How wonderful it is to be a child of God! You can be so thankful to have the chance to take part in this Week of Prayer—and to have those who brought you here for these meetings. The Lord is so good! He gives you life, food, and a place to sleep. We don't need to be rich and famous if we have the Lord Jesus taking care of us.

Jesus has told His followers: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Here He is talking to every one of us, including children! “Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right” (Proverbs 20:11).

There are over 8 billion people on planet Earth. That's a lot of people—many more than any one of us can count! How are we ever going to tell everyone in the world about the good news of Jesus coming to die for our sins? How can we let them know He is coming again to take to Heaven all those who accept His forgiveness and trust in Him? How can we explain to everyone how He can strengthen them to be faithful to the end?

Jesus helps you with your problems; He answers your prayers. You all have a special story to share with others about how good He is to you. Yes, He is willing to help you speak about His love. How can this happen?

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6). Yes, the Holy Spirit can work in an amazing way in the hearts and lives of all—both grownups and children—who surrender their lives to Christ.

So, for this Children’s Week of Prayer, we will learn more about how the power of the Holy Spirit will strengthen us to share the gospel in a mighty way to the glory of God!

Let’s pray a lot this week to able to learn and grow in Jesus!—*B.H.M.*



Oil in our Lamps



By Elaine Tuleu – Brazil

The oil in the lamp

When it's dark and you need to see something, what do you do? You just turn on the light, correct? A long time ago, there were no lights that ran on electricity as we have today. They used oil lamps (like what we call a lantern today). These were filled with oil and lit with a flame to light up the surroundings. But a problem would occur whenever you would run out of oil. So, to make sure the lamp would not go out

in the dark, people carried a container with extra oil to keep the light going. It was a lot of trouble to have light in those days, wasn't it?

There's a story about this written in the Bible in Matthew 25:1–13. Here we learn about some young ladies who all needed to use this kind of lamp to walk in the dark, but some forgot to bring a container with extra oil. And what happened? Let's read the story.

The story

These ten young ladies were all very excited because they were going to participate in a very special wedding. The Bible calls them "the ten virgins." They were the bridesmaids—and, at that time, this meant waiting for the bride and groom on the way and accompanying the procession with their burning lamps. This is how their adventure began! Five of them were well prepared and had thought about what might happen if there was a delay. These were the "wise" virgins. They had lamps with plenty of extra oil so their lights would not go out. The other five the "foolish" virgins had only the lamps but they forgot to bring extra oil.

So, the ten virgins waited, and waited, and waited. . . . The bridegroom was taking a long time. Finally, they all got so tired, they fell asleep. Then, suddenly, in the middle of the night, they heard a shout: "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him" (Matthew 25:6). Then they all remembered to run; when they grabbed their lamps, they saw that the lights were going out.

The wise virgins used the extra oil they had brought so their lamps would stay bright. But the foolish virgins got upset because their oil had run out. They pleaded with wise virgins, "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves" (Matthew 25:8, 9).

So, the foolish virgins ran to buy oil. "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut" (Matthew 25:10). So, the five wise virgins, with their lamps lit up, entered with the wedding party, but the five foolish virgins could not get in.

This is an interesting story—but could it have some meaning for us today? To see what Jesus wants to say with this story, we need to understand that all the parts of it have important meanings.



In the Bible, spiritually speaking, oil signifies the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The bridegroom

Both the wise and the foolish virgins were waiting to enter the wedding party with the bridegroom. The Bridegroom, spiritually speaking, is Jesus, who is seeking to invite us to be at His marriage. He is seeking faithful people to go to Heaven with Him.

The virgins

The story speaks of ten virgins who were waiting for the bridegroom. There were surely many more young ladies in that city, don't you think? Yet only ten were waiting for the bridegroom. The virgins represent the few people in this world who are watching for the return of Christ. And of these, only some are truly interested and serious about preparing to go with Him to Heaven.

The oil

In the story, the virgins used oil to keep the light on in the lamp. In the Bible, spiritually speaking, oil represents the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The oil of the lamps helps to light up the path of the virgins going to the wedding feast. This spiritual oil is the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and it also lights up our pathway to heaven. Day by day, God is waiting for us to show others who Jesus is by the way we act. This helps to light up their pathway to come to know Him.

How the story applies

God has such a beautiful plan for you and me! He has given us the opportunity to be part of a different people, who know and

follow Jesus. In the story, only ten virgins wanted to follow the bridegroom. We are part of those ten. But even though all ten were waiting for the bridegroom, only five entered the marriage with him. So, there is no point in us saying we are waiting for Jesus to come and that we expect to live with Him in Heaven if we do not prepare ourselves. The wise virgins carried extra oil, and we need to have the Holy Spirit with us constantly to be prepared to receive Jesus.

How can we be prepared? By asking God to send us the Holy Spirit. He is the One who can light up our path, showing us what is the right and the wrong way — telling our hearts what we should or should not do, say, look at, listen to, and where we can or cannot safely go. The Bible says in Isaiah 30:21: “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

This voice behind us showing us the way is the voice of the Holy Spirit. He is the One who tells us: “Hey, don’t lie to your parents. That is wrong. Satan is the father of lies, and you are a child of God.” So, you can choose to continue lying or repent of what you were going to do and instead tell the truth. The choice is yours. If you want to be one of the five wise virgins, then ask Jesus to help you be a special child who wants to follow the right path and do God’s will. We cannot do the right things on our own. We need to ask Jesus to help us, and then, with His help, we will be different children and youth — happy, honest people who love others, who are not selfish, and who do not like to fight with anyone. Children and young people like this lighten the path of those around them, showing the true love of Jesus.

Appeal

Would you like to go to Heaven with Jesus when He returns? Watch your lamp and don’t let the oil run out, causing the light to go dim. That means to always ask God to send the Holy Spirit in your life, teaching you who you should be to represent Jesus well. This will brighten your life and the lives of those close to you. Surely many other children will want to wait for Jesus with you! Amen.

Activities

1) Find the words below in the diagram:

LAMP | OIL | WISE | MARRIAGE | FOOLISH | VIRGINS | WAITING
LIGHTS | SLEEP | BRIDEGROOM | ACCOMPANY | PROCESSION

I D O S P R O F M T L X C
M Q Z A R K A O W I S E S
L C B E O U C O Y E O D L
A R S L C B C L N V P I E
M W I S E Y O I M A L V E
P O M U S R M S A C Y I P
O I L S S E P H X E D R Q
F L O T I M A R R I A G E
B I A Y O L N V O I C I M
V G K L N Y Y A I T I N G
K B R I D E G R O O M S L
O T L I G H T S E F B C Y
Q S N W A I T I N G Y W G



2) Select the correct choice from what you have learned:

a) How many virgins (bridesmaids) were in this story and what do they represent?

- Ten (10) bridesmaids, and they represent all of humanity
- Ten (10) bridesmaids, and they represent the people who are waiting for Jesus
- Five (5) bridesmaids, and they represent people who are careless and lax

b) The virgins (bridesmaids) went to a wedding that would start when the bridegroom arrived.

- The wedding ceremony is Heaven and the bridegroom is Jesus.
- The wedding ceremony is the church and bridegroom is the pastor.
- The wedding ceremony is a wedding and the bridegroom is Jesus.

c) What was the object the bridesmaids carried, and what did they use to make it work?

- They carried a lamp and used water.
- They carried a lamp and used oil (olive oil).
- They carried a flashlight and used batteries.

d) What does the oil represent?

- The presence of light in our home
- The presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- The presence of oil in our home

e) When the bridegroom arrived, only five bridesmaids were allowed to accompany him. Why?

- The others were sleeping.
- They took extra oil to keep their lamps burning.
- The bridegroom liked them more.

f) What does it mean to be prepared for the arrival of the Bridegroom?

- We always ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- We want the Holy Spirit when Jesus arrives.
- Study the Sabbath school lesson and obey our parents.



The Heavenly Dove



By Maria Victoria Acero – Perú

The presence of the Godhead

The Godhead is made up of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They're always together, always working as one. Each took an active part in the creation of the world and in the creation of man. They each participated in the plan of salvation when man fell into sin. The Father and the Holy Spirit were also present at the baptism of Jesus.

The baptism of Jesus

The Bible tells us that when Jesus was already grown up and the time came to begin His great mission on earth, the first thing He did was go to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. God

had already let John know that one day Jesus would come to see him to ask for baptism. When Jesus arrived, John, looking at him, saw that Jesus was very special and had a very pure heart. Then John felt small and said to Him, "I should be baptized by You!"

"But Jesus answered him, Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he consented" (Matthew 3:13, 14, ESV). So John obeyed and baptized Jesus there in front of everyone. The angels in heaven watched the scene with great excitement.

God had promised John that He would give him a sign so that he could recognize the true Messiah. And so it was: when Jesus came up out of the water, John saw the sky open, and the Spirit of God came down in the form of a dove and rested on Jesus. The face and body of Jesus shone with a beautiful light from the glory of God. Then there came "a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Because He had no sin, Jesus did not need to be baptized, but He submitted to the rite of baptism as an example for His repentant followers until the end of time.

Why a dove?

The dove that encircled Jesus at His baptism is a very special symbol. It represents the Holy Spirit that speaks to us in a tender, gentle voice.

The dove is a very special symbol. It represents how tender, pure, and harmless Jesus was. The dove is a very gentle and strong little bird that must be watchful when in danger.

For example, sometimes a dove might be pursued by a hawk. Hawks are powerful, agile birds of prey, while doves are more peaceful. Yet despite the hawk being a bigger bird with a much longer wingspan, it is also heavier. On the other hand, doves are typically lighter and even more agile due to their smaller size. This makes it easier for them to make quick turns to escape the hawks when needed.

Hawks soar through the air and save their energy by gliding, and this helps them go for long distances. But doves can beat their wings rapidly, and can change direction quickly and speed up faster. This can protect them from being caught.

Another point is interesting: Doves often fly in flocks, and this way they are able to keep one another safer. They can warn each other about possible threats, while a hawk usually hunts alone with none other to help him.

All these things operating together show how our wonderful Cre-

ator works to protect the gentle dove. Like the dove, we, too, have an enemy that tries to deceive us every day to keep us from what is good, but we must not give up the struggle. With all our hearts, we must be alert, watching, moving forward, and warning each other of danger—always looking to Jesus who shows us the way and never leaves us alone. With Him, we are safe.

The promise of the Holy Spirit

Jesus made a very beautiful promise to His friends, the disciples. He told them that after He ascended back to Heaven, He would send them a special Comforter to help them here on earth (John 14:16). Do you know who that friend was? It was the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit is part of God, and His task is to help people realize what is right, what is wrong, and that one day we will all be report to God (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit is the one who helps us prepare to do the work God wants us to do. Therefore, it is very important to ask God every day to fill us with His Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself, when He was on Earth, received the power of the Holy Spirit every day to fulfill His mission of love and salvation. If Jesus needed it, imagine how much more do we need it too, to be strong and do good!

Who baptizes us with the Holy Spirit? John the Baptist said, “I indeed baptize with water unto repentance: but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to bear, he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Matthew 3:11). Jesus is the one who baptizes His children with the Holy Spirit. When do we need to be baptized by the heavenly “dove?” Every day we need this divine power for our own conversion, so that we may invite others into the kingdom of God. The prophet Zechariah called this baptism the Latter Rain (Zechariah 10:1).

The Latter Rain

God uses something we all know—rain—to teach us how the Holy Spirit works in us, his people. In the middle eastern part of the world where the Bible was written, there are two major times when rain falls:

1. The gentle **early rain** falls when the seeds are planted. It is very important because it helps the seeds awaken and begin to grow as small green shoots.
2. The **latter rain** falls later, when the plants are already grown.

This rain helps them mature so they are ready for the harvest.

Likewise, in the spiritual life: The Early Rain represents the Holy Spirit, which was poured out in the time of the apostles, when they began their great work of sharing the message of Jesus. And many people believed in Jesus because of that! The Latter Rain is even more special. God will send it in a greater amount at the end of time to strengthen the Third Angel's message and prepare all His faithful children for the great day of spiritual harvest. How wonderful it is to know that God cares for us and gives us His Spirit to help us grow strong in faith!

Do you know what we must do to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

First, we must give ourselves to God with all our hearts. That means asking Him to cleanse our bodies and minds so that we can be good helpers to Him. We also need to let go of things that don't please God, such as pride, envy, jealousy, bad suspicion, and anything that hurts others or leads us away from Him. It's like cleaning our house to receive a very special guest. We must cleanse our hearts so that the Holy Spirit can live in us and bring us the "refreshment," that beautiful peace and joy that comes from God's presence.

Thus, we will be ready to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and be used by God in His great work.

Total deliverance

Dear children, Jesus promised a very special gift to His church: the Holy Spirit. This promise is also for you, just as it was for the first disciples who prepared to receive it. Today, that same work must be done again. We cannot allow ourselves to become lazy or distracted. We must be vigilant, praying with humility and faith to receive that beautiful blessing. Let us stay faithful to the principles of the Bible, to live as God wants, and to follow the teachings of Jesus with love and obedience.

May the Lord bless all our boys and girls throughout the whole world to receive the latter rain. This special power of the Spirit helps to finish the great work that God has given us.

Words of encouragement

Our goal is that our children may know the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Godhead and that He is present at all times—and that we have a Helper who has power to guide us and change our lives to be like Jesus.

We should pray each day for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, to prepare and preach to others, and to look forward to the second coming of Jesus.



Activities

1) Color the picture of the dove representing the Holy Spirit.



2) Crossword Puzzle

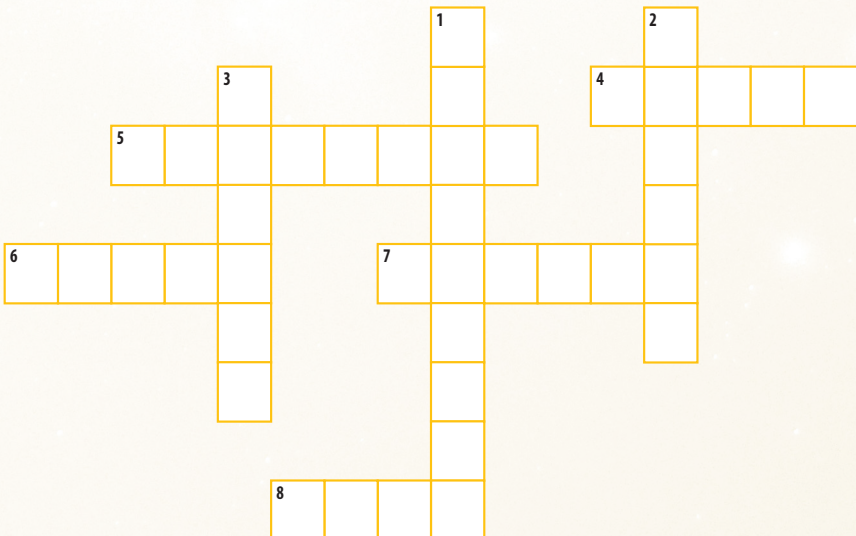
Receiving the Holy Spirit

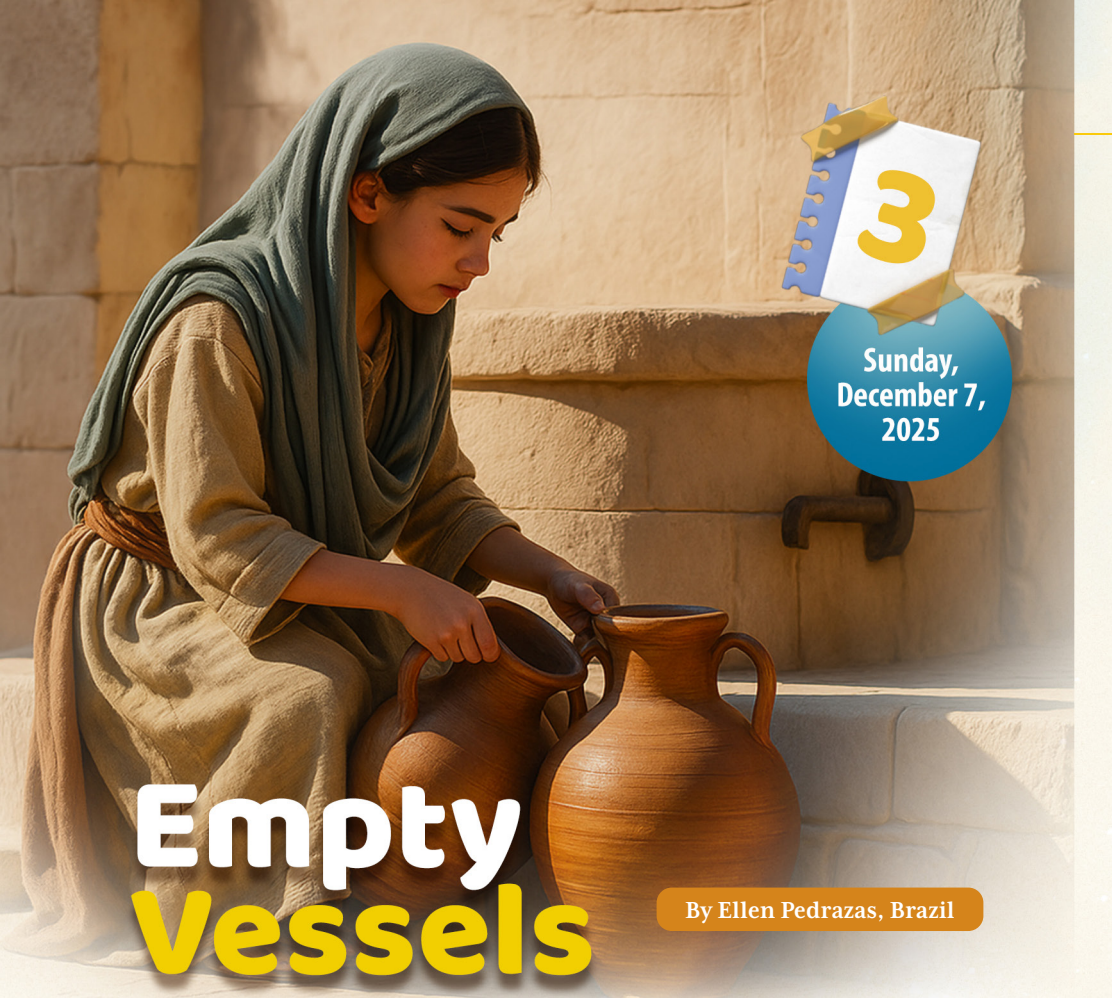
ACROSS

4. The gentle _____ rain falls when the seeds are first planted, helping them to sprout.
5. The early rain was poured out in the time of the _____.
6. The latter rain strengthens the _____ angel's message.
7. We need the _____ power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
8. The symbol of the _____ shows how the Holy Spirit speaks to us in a tender, gentle voice.

DOWN

1. We need to stay faithful to the Bible and follow the teachings of Jesus with love and _____.
2. The _____ rain comes near the end to help the plants mature for harvest.
3. Jesus was baptized in the _____ River.





Sunday,
December 7,
2025

Empty Vessels

By Ellen Pedrazas, Brazil

Do you like to go to the market with your parents? What do you usually buy there? Food, cleaning materials and things for personal use? When you get home, you promptly help to put all your purchases in their proper place. The shelves and cabinets that were empty are filled with what was missing. Have you ever noticed that we don't like to have empty wardrobes, food containers, or drawers? We try to put in there the things we buy or get. If you find a blank piece of paper, you'll want to draw or write on it. If you have a purse, you will keep all your little things there to take with you when you go out. Nobody likes to see things empty.

In creating the world, did God fill everything with beauty and color?

Look at the sky on a sunny day. You can see the sun, the blue sky and the white clouds. Is that all there is in heaven? No, the sky

is full of invisible gases, such as the oxygen we breathe, nitrogen, water vapor, ozone that gives the blue color, etc. In the sea there are many plants, corals, fish, and animals. On the earth we see beautiful flowers, green grass, trees and many plants. There are so many colorful birds, reptiles and animals that we are delighted whenever we get a chance to see them. The Creator filled your body with cells, bones, muscle, blood, organs so that you could walk, run, and jump with health, intelligence, and joy. He also created a space for Him to dwell within you. In 1 Corinthians 6:19 it is written that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. God Himself wants to be with us. It's wonderful to know that!

Emptiness through sin

When Adam and Eve disobeyed, they lost their relationship with God. There was an empty space inside them. Jesus did not accept this and offered to pay the price to bring His children back. He was not satisfied to be without them. So, He came into our world, was born as a baby, grew up as an obedient child, then as a grace-filled teenager He lived like us. Throughout His whole life, He taught the love of God. He died in our place and conquered evil. He rose again and then went to heaven to prepare a place for us to live with Him. Now we can have a new chance to fill the empty void that has been left since Adam and Eve disobeyed. We can live with Jesus again. He took our place and suffered our punishment so that we could restore our friendship with God. He wants to occupy our whole heart to fill it with His presence.

The choice is up to each one. Would you like Jesus to dwell in your heart? Some people do not let God dwell within them. They think they don't need Him. They are ungrateful and only want to do their own way. They do not want to obey God. Neither did some leaders of Jesus' day. They knew the texts of the Bible that pointed to the coming of the Messiah, but when He came they rejected Him as Saviour. They did not let the truth spring up in their hearts. They did not have in their hearts the love, forgiveness, and kindness that came from heaven. They were filled with hatred, anger, and evil thoughts, so they killed Jesus. Taken by evil, they persecuted all who chose to love Him. But Jesus rose again and stayed forty days with His disciples. Before ascending to heaven, He promised them that He would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to help them.

Hope through Christ

The disciples lived with Jesus for three and a half years and did not understand all the lessons He taught. Looking up to heaven, they heard the angels say that the same Jesus who had gone would return. They were filled with hope. Can you imagine how rude and quarrelsome men were changed by the power of God? Now, far from the Master, they united. Each one searched his heart and begged God's forgiveness. In the following ten days, the disciples emptied themselves of their stubborn wills and their selfish thoughts in wanting to be better than everybody else. They began to think of all that Jesus had said, and they understood His lessons. They filled the air of the place where they were with repentance and gratitude.

What precious moments they spent there! They praised the Lord, singing and praying. They felt that their sins had been forgiven. They were prepared to receive the Holy Ghost and be used by God. They stayed in Jerusalem, as Jesus had commanded, until the day of Pentecost.

Do you know what Pentecost means? In Israel there were three main feasts: Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles. Pentecost came 50 days after the Passover and was a time to give thanks for the good harvests given by God that year. After Jesus, the true Lamb of God, had ascended, 50 days later, the disciples were gathered together in the same place. Suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a mighty, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Tongues of fire appeared over their heads. They were all filled with power by the presence of the Holy Spirit and began to speak in foreign languages.

Preaching to all kinds of people

Why did they need to speak in foreign languages at that moment? Jerusalem was filled with Jews from various countries, so the people there spoke many different languages. The people had come to give to the Lord their grain prepared as food, two loaves baked with leaven. Now they found the disciples speaking of God's love in sending His Son to die on the cross to save people from the clutches of evil and sin. Everyone was amazed at the words of hope, for all the Jews were waiting for the promised Messiah, but many still did not know that He had already come. Can you imagine the disciples preaching in the language of people who lived in Egypt, Asia, Assyria, Lebanon, Persia, Rome, and other nations? That day, everyone could understand the message of

salvation in Jesus and to see the power of the Holy Spirit working through the voice of the disciples.

During the days that Jesus lived here on earth, He sowed the seeds of truth and watered it with His own blood as He died on the cross. Many Jews who heard the teachings of Jesus Himself were converted there, as they witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit in the words of the disciples. On that day of Pentecost more seeds of love were sown, planted and sprouted for the Lord. More than 3,000 people accepted Jesus as their Saviour. Taken by the Holy Spirit, everyone emptied themselves of selfishness and evil thoughts. They all wanted to fill their hearts with the Spirit of God. When we know Jesus, hear His stories, and feel His care and love, we are so grateful for all He has done and does for us that we want to be as He is. We want to fill our hearts with His goodness, His love, His joy, and His care for people who suffer.

Children getting a chance

God wants to use children to spread His love throughout the world, just as He used the disciples. The day will come when the children will receive the power of the Holy Ghost to speak of the truth, love, and sacrifice of Jesus. These children will cause admiration, and many will be converted to the gospel by their words. Do you want to receive this power? Children who love Jesus need to be prepared to receive the Holy Spirit. He can empty your heart of selfishness, lies, quarrels, and evil thoughts in thinking that you are better than others. Only Jesus has the power to pluck the evil out of you. Ask Jesus in prayer and read the Bible so that He will fill your heart with His will. Don't waste time on things that take you away from Him. Don't get distracted. Let Jesus fill your heart today with the Holy Spirit!

Activities

1) Understand better by drawing

In this box, draw a smiling face and some beautiful things God has created below it.



In this box, draw some bad things that hurt our faith, and put an "X" on them.



2) Crossword Puzzle

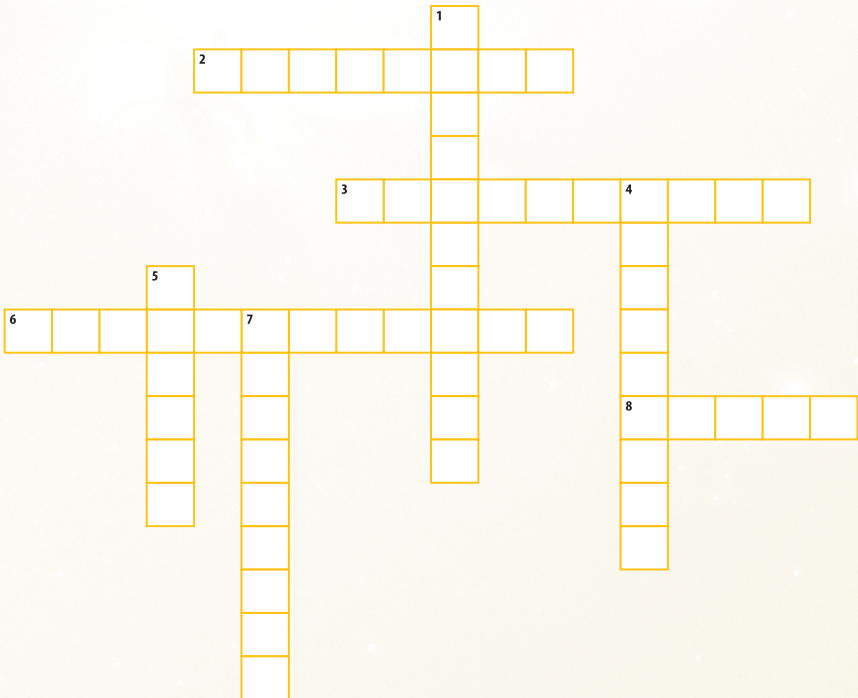
Emptied of Selfishness and Filled with God's Spirit

ACROSS

2. The disciples emptied themselves of their _____ wills and selfish thoughts.
3. Jesus took our punishment so that we can have _____ with God.
6. One thing the Creator has given you is _____.
8. Pentecost came _____ days after the Passover.

DOWN

1. Like the early disciples, we should beg for God's _____.
4. Children can speak of the truth, love, and _____ of Jesus.
5. Our body is a _____ for the Holy Spirit to dwell in.
7. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to speak in foreign _____.





Preparing my Body Temple

By Marta Iovu – Romania



Wednesday,
December 10,
2025

On a strange day, four teenagers were taken by surprise by a group of strong soldiers. They were quickly seized and forcibly taken to the greatest palace in the world—far away in a foreign land. As soon as they got there, they were brought before the king who, after examining them, ordered that they should be trained and prepared for certain duties.

“At the very outset of their career there came to them a decisive test of character. It was provided that they should eat of the



food and drink of the wine that came from the king's table. In this the king thought to give them an expression of his favor and of his solicitude for their welfare. But a portion having been offered to idols, the food from the king's table was consecrated to idolatry; and one partaking of it would be regarded as offering homage to the gods of Babylon. In such homage, loyalty to Jehovah forbade Daniel and his companions to join." *Prophets and Kings*, p. 481.

They "decided that as flesh meat had not composed their diet in the past, neither should it come into their diet in the future. And as the use of wine had been prohibited to all those who should engage in the service of God, they determined that they would not partake of it." *In Heavenly Places*, p. 261.

What a difficult test for these teenagers! They knew they needed mental and physical strength that could be maintained only through a healthy diet without meat or wine. Yet it might also be dangerous to go against the will of the powerful king who was generously providing for them what he considered to be the very best meals possible.

How would God view their decision? Would He allow them to be viewed as fanatics who restricted and complicated their own lives? How did the Lord handle this hard situation for them?

By His grace, "'God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs,' and the request that he might not defile himself was received with respect." *Prophets and Kings*, p. 483. What a blessing!

You may already know the rest of the story. Daniel appealed to this prince that was over him: "Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse [legumes] to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's

meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse" (Daniel 1:12–16).

After the 10-day experiment, not only did Daniel and his companions look better physically, but they were also mentally stronger than the rest: "In all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm" (Daniel 1:20).

Can the same thing happen today?

Dear children, every one of us is daily writing some history on this earth—just as with Daniel and his friends—history that will be studied in eternity. Since our early years at school, most of us have had trials—especially because of our diet, which is different from most of the world. I went through these trials when I was a student and needed to eat lunch with my classmates at the school cafeteria.

Seeing that there was no vegetarian menu, my father had to come to school to ask the cooks to prepare a special meal for me since I was the only student in the whole school who did not eat meat. They were a little hesitant, but with God's help, the requirement was approved. However, I was very concerned about my classmates' reactions, fearing that everyone would make fun of me. As I was thinking of all these feelings and as everyone's focus was on me, the Lord gave me the courage to share my faith and my experience as being the fourth generation in my family to be following a vegetarian diet. As a result of this, while we were together, all my classmates decided to eat the same way. So the cooks had to prepare vegetarian food for everyone!

By telling this little page from my life story, I want to encourage you not to be afraid or ashamed of the good principles you have been taught by your parents. God works in an extraordinary way with each of us, whatever the trial. Even if you are different from those around you in the way you dress, you eat, or drink, the Lord will bless you if you earnestly ask Him to make you to be a light in this world. He will work in an unexpected way for you to be an example for others. Having such experiences with God will make you the happiest and most peaceful you can ever be.

Dear children, we are no longer halfway up the road to the Eden above. God has guided His people throughout the ages so

they could get closer to the heavenly Eden—and today we are at the very border of the eternal world. As a church, we have at least 100 years of experience of not using meat and wine, confirming that we can live much better without them.

The Lord Jesus has not yet come, so is it possible that we are still not ready to enter through the gates of heaven?

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16). How solemn! Every one of us has the privilege to hasten the building of this Temple. Its design is found in Galatians 5:22, 23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

“We have been bought with a price; therefore we are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit, which are His. We are not to deny Him by one act of intemperance, because the only-begotten Son of God has purchased us at an infinite cost, even the sacrifice of His life. He did not die for us in order that we might become slaves to evil habits, but that we might become the sons and daughters of God, serving Him with every power of the being.

“Those who have a constant realization that they stand in this relation to God will not place in the stomach food which pleases the appetite, but which injures the digestive organs. They will not spoil the property of God by indulging in improper habits of eating, drinking, or dressing. They will take great care of the human machinery, realizing that they must do this in order to work in copartnership with God. He wills that they should be healthy, happy, and useful. But in order for them to be this, they must place their wills on the side of His will.” — *Child Guidance*, p. 399.

“If ever there was a time when the diet should be of the most simple kind, it is now.” — *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 63.

Dear children, it was through lust that sin entered the world—yet it is also true that through the restraint of lust, sin will be overcome. Jesus promised that He would not leave us alone in this battle; He promised that He would ask the Father to send us the Holy Spirit, so that even the weakest can become strong, courageous and full of zeal, that together we may encourage others through our victory.

Let's not wait any longer. Let us claim this promise in every prayer—and our God who loves us will send us the Holy Spirit! Amen.

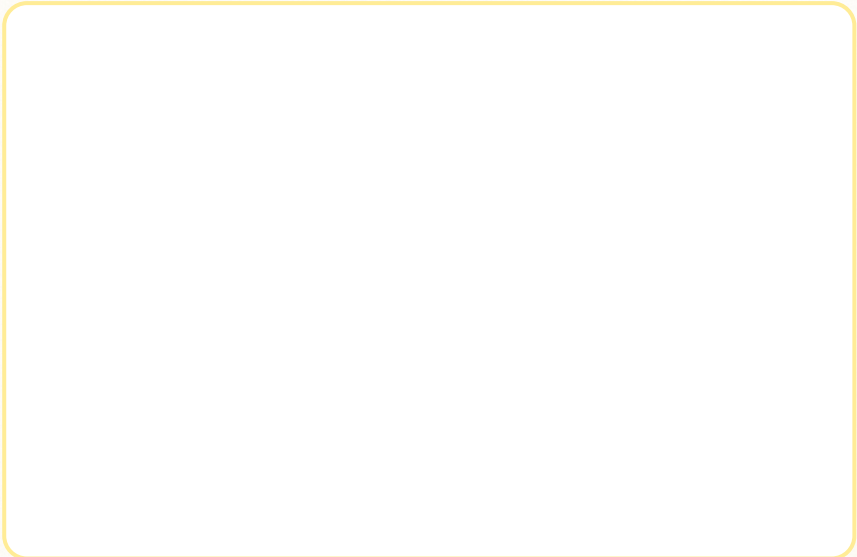
Activities

1) Understand better by drawing:

Draw a picture of foods that are good for us:



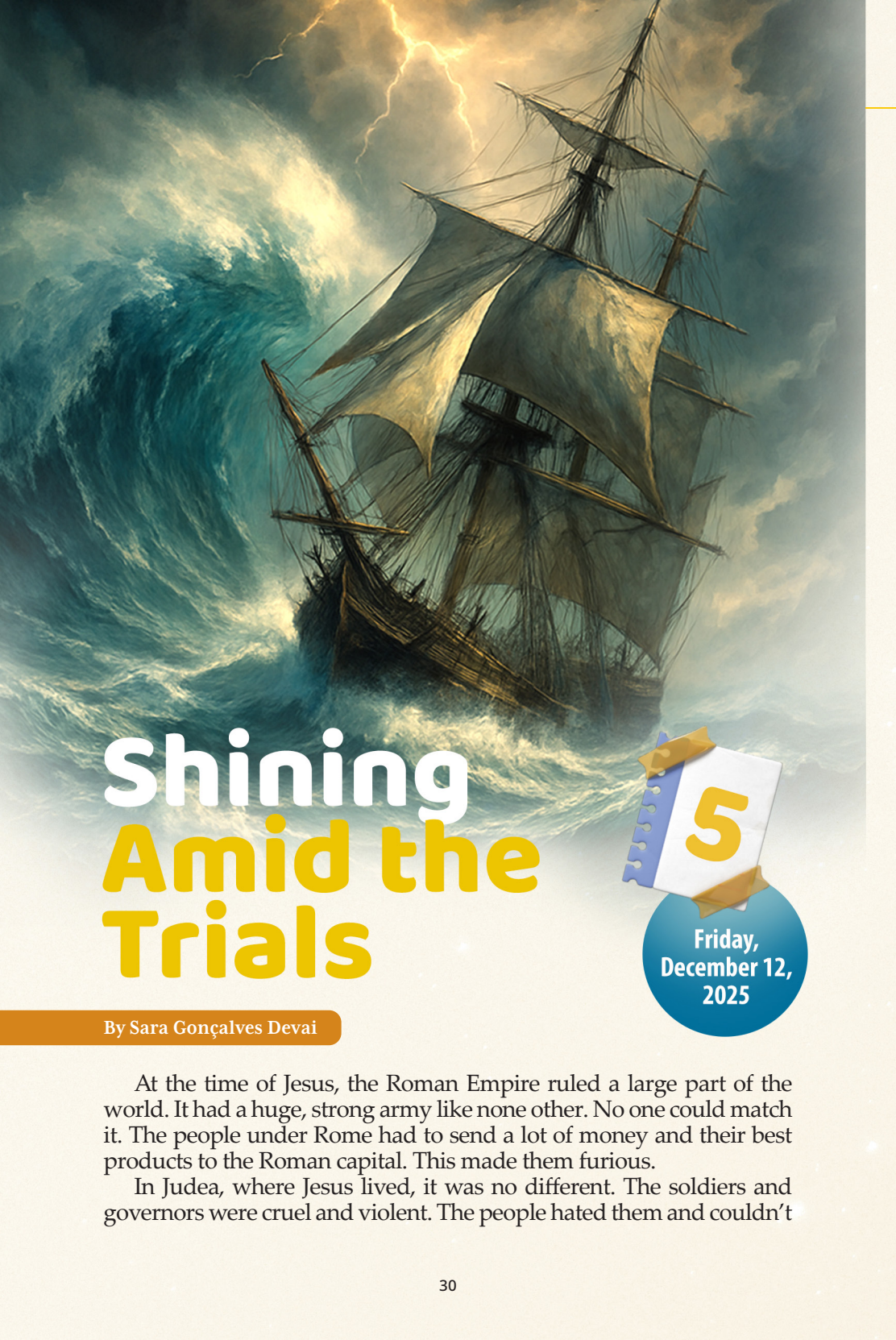
Draw a picture of foods to avoid because they are bad for us:



2) Find the words below in the diagram:

SOLDIERS | FOREIGN | DETERMINED | SITUATION | COUNTENANCES | STRENGTH
 VEGETARIAN | PREPARE | DIET | PROMISE | BRAVE | HEALTHY

I	D	O	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	X	C
M	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	W	I	E	E	O
L	C	B	L	O	U	C	O	Y	S	A	D	U
A	R	S	D	D	B	C	L	N	I	L	I	N
M	W	L	I	E	Y	D	I	E	T	T	V	T
F	O	R	E	I	G	N	R	O	M	I	S	E
O	R	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	A	D	R	N
F	G	O	S	I	M	A	R	R	T	A	G	A
B	R	A	V	E	G	E	T	A	R	I	A	N
V	N	K	S	I	T	U	A	T	I	O	N	C
K	S	D	E	T	E	R	M	I	N	E	D	E
O	T	L	I	G	H	T	S	E	F	B	C	S
W	S	N	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	Y	W	G



Shining Amid the Trials



Friday,
December 12,
2025

By Sara Gonçalves Devai

At the time of Jesus, the Roman Empire ruled a large part of the world. It had a huge, strong army like none other. No one could match it. The people under Rome had to send a lot of money and their best products to the Roman capital. This made them furious.

In Judea, where Jesus lived, it was no different. The soldiers and governors were cruel and violent. The people hated them and couldn't

wait to take revenge on them. What calmed them were old prophecies about a deliverer. When things were going badly, they said to each other: "Let's hold on! Soon the Lord will send the deliverer and then we will get revenge."

God had indeed promised a deliverer, but not the people expected. He sent His Son Jesus into the world as a Deliverer from sin instead of from the oppression of the Romans. One day, in a sermon, Jesus said: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:43, 44). Those who hate want harm to come upon others. And the Jews hated the Romans. To them, loving one's enemies sounded crazy. At that time there were wars and revolts everywhere. Jesus never got involved in any of them. He also never hurt or mistreated anyone, even those who hurt Him. He wants us to be like that, too.

In times of war

Is it always easy to love those who hurt us badly? No, it is not. Even more so when everyone thinks you should hate, mistreat and kill the enemies. From 1861–1865, there was a terrible war in the United States, and thousands of people died. Then, on May 23, 1865, the Seventh-day Adventist Church publicly confirmed in writing, "We are led to refuse any participation in acts of war and bloodshed." That is, these early Advent believers understood that they could not obey Jesus and, at the same time, participate in war.

But, over time, they changed their viewpoint and became more relaxed. In 1914, a terrible war broke out in Europe that involved countries all over the world. It became known as World War I. In it, two groups of countries fought among themselves. On both sides were Christian soldiers—men who claimed to follow Christ. But they were stationed on the frontlines of battle to kill each other. Do you think that's right?

Surprisingly, the majority of Seventh-day Adventists (98%) figured it was okay. Many joined the fight, even though they knew that this was not according to Jesus' teaching. Only a few did not want to go (2%). What happened to these few? They were persecuted by the government of their countries. Men who would not go to war were imprisoned, tortured, and in many cases sentenced to death. Some people pressured them by saying: "The Bible says we must obey the

authorities and they are telling us to go to battle. So, we are not guilty of killing people.”

But the faithful few explained: “The Bible also says that ‘we must obey God rather than men’ (Acts 5:29).”

When the laws of men go against the Law of God, we must choose the Law of God.

Plenty of people accused the faithful few: “How can they fail to defend their homeland? They are traitors against the government!” “But our main homeland is Heaven,” the faithful responded. “God is our King. That is why we prefer to obey the laws of His Kingdom.” These stood firmly in the face of torture, prison, and death. How did they manage to pass such a tough test? They had a large portion of the Holy Spirit. This is the only way people are able to love their enemies and God so much that they are not afraid to die for their faith in Jesus and His teachings.

Satan is the one who is behind wars. He laughs to see thousands die on battlefields, while the survivors face hunger, disease, and all kinds of pain. It’s very sad.

More trials to face

In the Old Testament, God called one nation to represent Him, but today it’s different. God’s people are distributed among all nations. When one goes to war against another, Jesus’ followers are made to fight each other because of the greed and wickedness of their rulers. When things go smoothly, everything seems fine, but persecution reveals who is firm in Christ, and who is not.

What about those who do not take salvation seriously, nor receive the Holy Spirit every day? They cannot stand the test, so they just give up. It’s one thing to sing to Christ in church, safely. It is another thing to suffer and die for Christ. The faithful suffered the trials of World War I by faith. This bothered those who got involved in the war. The situation got even worse when governments threatened: “Let’s close the churches of those who don’t go to war!”

Out of fear, the Adventist Church disfellowshipped the brethren who would not go to the battlefield. When government officials asked all the churches to confirm that they were complying with the requirement to fight, church leaders said: “We sent our men to war, yes! Those who did not want to go are fanatics and we have already expelled them. We can even tell you who they are and where they live.” So, besides suffering at the hands of the authorities, the faithful were also betrayed by their own brothers and sisters in the faith. After the war was over, they tried their best to reconcile and reunite with the church. But the church leaders would not recognize that they had made a mistake. So, there was no other way: those who

were expelled founded the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement, registered in 1925.

Years later, in 1939, another terrible war broke out: World War II. And trouble began again for the small church. This time, it was the children of the first Reformers who had to decide whether to go to war or not. These young people grew up listening to their parents' stories of courage. They were taught that obeying and loving God is more important than anything, even life itself. The Reform families trusted in Jesus' promise: "Whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it" (Luke 9:24). When one would have doubts, the others said: "Cheer up! We will suffer a little here, but our Saviour will soon come. And He will give eternal life to those who love Him. Think of how much Jesus suffered for us. Doesn't Christ deserve for us to be willing to lay down our lives for Him, too?"

And that's how that generation of Reformers faced the test. Once again, they were denounced by their former Adventist brethren and many lost their lives for the love of Christ. It was hard, but the church remained faithful. In 1945 the war ended, but the problems did not end.

Next, some parts of the world began to be ruled by governments which said that God does not exist. They harshly controlled all the people and property and persecuted the Christians. So, for the Reformers, life was very hard when wanting to keep the Sabbath and not wanting to go into the military to fight people. The cruel people bragged: "In a short time there will be no more Reformers here. Let's destroy them all!" But God has always cared for His people, and in the end, it was those people who disappeared. Their system ended and the church remained firm and strong. Praise be to God!

Now, our problems are different:

Some people attend church, while still loving the world instead of looking toward Heaven. They don't take obedience to God's Word very seriously and are always finding excuses to sin.

Others think they're the only ones who are always right. Because they have really not repented of their sins, they are proud and selfish. They also try to make extra rules that God did not ask for and then try to make everybody else do what they say.

Neither of these groups are truly being led by the Holy Spirit. They are like the foolish virgins in the parable.

But meanwhile, there is also a group that truly believes in Jesus as their Saviour and obeys Him with good will and pure motives. They read the Bible with humble hearts, wanting to learn how to please God, spending a lot of time in prayer, seeking the Lord's help and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

What is coming?

Soon a crisis will come. The worldly-minded will embrace the world and simply abandon the faith. Others may brag that they are righteous but will distort and exaggerate what is written. Neither type is filled with the Holy Spirit. Both will kinds lose their way.

Only those who are firm in Jesus will be able to maintain faith and obedience at the same time. They have repented of their sins and live for God. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they become more like Jesus every day. These will be given power to help thousands understand. When persecution returns, they will face it like the first Reformers, with courage and faith.

Which group do you want to be in? Jesus has been in every courtroom, in every dark cell. In every corner of the world where our brothers and sisters were mistreated, Jesus was there, to strengthen and encourage. They were like the stars in heaven, shining in the dark wickedness in this world.

Now, God is looking for those who will defend His Law before the world. Will you be one of them? Will you rise up to do your part, like the first Reformers? If so, know that Jesus will be with you in this decision, as He has been in the past. Trust in Him and go forward. No matter what happens, He will be at your side. And when the Lord returns, you will receive eternal life, along with His embrace. Nothing is worth more than that. Not even life itself.



Activities

- 1) Color the picture of the lion and the lambs at peace together in Heaven.

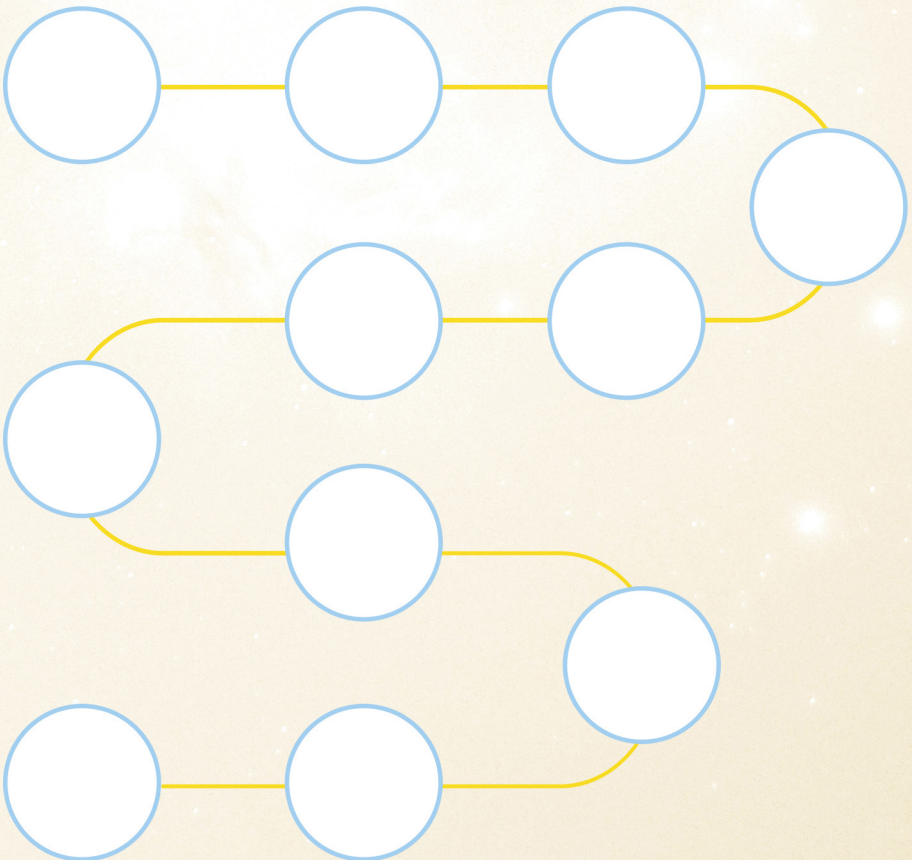


2) Make a timeline with the main facts of the history of the SDA Reform Movement as mentioned in this article.

List of words:

1. World War I. 2. 98% support the war 3. 2% do not go to war
4. Expelled and denounced 5. Prison, torture, death 6. Attempts at reconciliation fail. 7. Founding of the SDARM 8. World War II
9. Persecution. 10. End of persecution. 11. Today.

Fill in the timeline in the right order. If you want to be among those who will carry God's message to the end, add your name in the correct space.





Unity



The same night in which He was betrayed, Jesus prayed for His disciples and for us: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (John 17:21).

After the Lord resurrected from the dead, He spent 40 forty days with His disciples before His ascension. During this time, He talked to them a lot about the kingdom of God. But hadn’t He taught them about it before? Why did He need to explain about it again? It was because the disciples had not yet understood.

All along, the disciples thought that Jesus would soon become king of Israel. Being vain and ambitious, they were thinking: “We are Jesus’ best friends. When He sits on the throne, we will be the most important people in Israel!” This idea did not leave their minds.

Yet even before His death, the Lord had given some important news to them: "And Jesus going up to Jerusalem took the twelve disciples apart in the way, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again" (Matthew 20:18, 19).

Jesus was very clear, wasn't He? But the disciples didn't seem to hear properly; maybe they were not really listening. Right after that, we read: "Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom" (Matthew 20:20, 21).

This request was brought by the mother, but we are told that the idea actually came from the sons: "James and John presented through their mother a petition requesting that they might be permitted to occupy the highest positions of honor in Christ's kingdom." *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 541.

Didn't these disciples understand what Jesus had just told them about His death and resurrection? It really does seem like they must not have been listening. Still, He did not lose His patience with them. When the other ten heard about the request, they were very angry with the two brothers. They began to argue about which one of them was the most important. That was what Satan wanted them to do. He knew that if they were not united, they would not be able to resist evil.

Jesus explained that in the world, those who have riches and power rule over others. But among you it should not be so. Whoever wants to be the most important needs to be a servant to others. And whoever wants to be the first, should work for the good of others. Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life to save all who would truly accept Him. We are to do as He did.

You must be thinking, "Now the disciples finally got the idea." But, no, they still didn't understand. They continued to argue and criticize each other. They were not united.

Jesus solves the problem

A few days later, Jesus and the twelve were sitting in a private upper room to keep the Passover. Because they wore sandals

and the roads were dusty, their feet were dirty and needed to be washed. Usually a servant did this. In the room there was a basin with water and a towel, but this time there was no servant. The disciples looked at each other. Each one thought, “I am not a servant or slave. I’m not going to do this service. Let others do it.”

Why did they think so? There was pride, selfishness, and unforgiveness among them. These things are like invisible walls that separate people. When Jesus saw this, He took the basin with water and the towel to wash the disciples’ feet. He was the leader, but He didn’t mind doing the work of a servant. It was a practical lesson of love and humility. The disciples were very ashamed. When they finished supper, Jesus took them to the Mount of Olives where He prayed to God: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me” (John 17:21).

Why did Jesus pray this prayer? He knew that they would only be strong if they were united. And they would only be united if they loved one another. When people saw them caring for one another with love, they would say, “Jesus must really be the Son of God. He changes selfish people into loving people.” Jesus did not pray only for the disciples. He prayed for us, too. On the same night, Jesus was handed over to His enemies. The next day, He was crucified. What a disappointment for the disciples! But He had already warned of everything.

The good news that followed is that Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to Heaven to be able to help His children from there. Finally the disciples understood why Jesus had to die on the cross. It was part of God’s plan to save us. The punishment for sin is death. Sin is to disobey God, to break His commandments. All—every one of us—has sinned and is doomed to die. But because Jesus loved us so much, He offered to suffer the punishment in our place. There on the cross, it was as if the sin of the whole world was laid upon Him. In this way, Jesus paid our debt to God. Whoever believes in His sacrifice receives forgiveness of sins.

An assignment for us

The truth about Jesus is the most important news of all time, isn’t it? Everybody needs to know this. Jesus told the disciples to go all over the world and tell this news to every single person. After ascending to heaven, He would send the Holy Spirit to strengthen them.

The power of prayer

The disciples went to the same place where they had the last supper with Jesus. There gathered the eleven disciples, the women who served Jesus, Mary, His mother, His brothers, sisters, and others. Together, they waited for the promise of the Holy Spirit. It took ten days to be fulfilled. Did they stay all those days just with their arms crossed, making small talk? No! The Bible says that there were prayer meetings, pleading for the promise of God. When people pray together, they become more united. And the disciples needed to unite. Satan didn't like this at all, and he certainly tried to get in the way. But Acts 1:14 says that they "persevered." Do you know what that means? That they decided to keep praying, whatever the cost, whatever happened. We need to do the same. Keep praying, whatever the cost, whatever happens. They also went to the temple together to worship God. There they praised together. Then they would come back together. During the day, they ate and prayed together.

The Holy Spirit brought them to repentance. Have you ever felt sorry that you did something bad or maybe had a negative attitude and grumbled about something? That sorrow for wrong was the Holy Spirit at work in you, making you want to be better. Like the disciples, we are praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit every day of this week of prayer. The Spirit of God is at work in us, so that God can fulfill the promise. In addition to repenting, the disciples did something else: They confessed their sins to each other and to God.

Probably James, John, and their mother said sorry to the others for the way they had expected to get the top positions for their family. Others probably did the same. Maybe they said something like, "Brethren, we should not have tried to get the first place in the kingdom for ourselves. We are very ashamed. Please forgive us!"

Their stony hearts were melted. . . . What is the Holy Spirit whispering to your heart right now? Are you sad that you have disobeyed your parents or deceived a friend? Do you need to look for someone to ask for forgiveness? Or is He talking about something that only you and God know?

As the days passed, the disciples became very different. Instead of serving themselves, they now tried to help and improve others. Each sought the good of the other. Gradually, they became more and more united. This gave the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to pour love into their hearts. And it was a love so deep, so strong, that it made them capable of dying for Christ, for the truth. And if they

would have to die for each other, they would do that, too. After 10 days, they were different. They were united. They were ready to receive the promise of the Holy Ghost. We, too, need to be transformed and to live in unity. Without it, we will never receive the Holy Spirit. But if we are united, nothing and no one can stop us from preaching the gospel. Let's do our part, and the Lord will bless us to do His will fully. Amen.—S.G.D.



Activities

1) Select the correct choice from what you have learned:

a) Although they were Jesus' friends, what wrong feelings did the disciples have for a long time?

- () They were greedy like Judas was and wanted to steal the money.
- () Each one secretly wanted the highest position ahead of the others in the new kingdom.
- () They only wanted to do missionary work in easy places with nice weather.

b) Jesus corrected the problem of jealousy in the hearts of His disciples by doing this:

- () Giving them a big spanking.
- () Going to talk to their mothers.
- () Doing the part of a servant Himself by humbly bowing down and washing their feet.

c) After the last supper with His disciples, where did Jesus go, and why?

- () He went to the Mount of Olives to pray earnestly for them and for us.
- () He went to Jerusalem to announce to the rulers that He was the Son of God.
- () He went to find Judas again to try to reason with him.

d) After Jesus was crucified, resurrected, and ascended, what did His followers do?

- () They packed their bags to go on missionary trips.
- () They got books to study new languages.
- () They met together to ask forgiveness from one another for having been so selfish.

e) What should we do so that we can receive the Holy Spirit as they did?

- () Check out the latest chat group or AI program about it.
- () See if there is a new movie about it online.
- () Pray and invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts; obey God; make peace with our brethren.

Find the words below in the diagram:

PATIENCE | RESURRECTION | SERVE | FAITH | COMMANDMENTS | CRUCIFIXION
 LOVING | FORGIVENESS | REPENT | SPIRIT

F A I T H R E N D T H X C
 M P R O C I S E I I C F O
 W A B L R U C O S C R O M
 A T S O U B C L O R U R M
 M I E V C Y D I P U C G A
 F E R I I G N R P C I I N
 O N V N F S P I R I T V D
 F C E G I T S R C F I E M
 R E S U R R E C T I O N E
 V P K S I O R A I X N E N
 K E D E O N V O O I A S T
 O N L I N H E S N O B S S
 W T R E P E N T T N Y W L



Conquering and to Conquer

If you would be living in Jesus' time, what would you think if you saw someone riding a white horse, with a bow in His hand and a crown on His head? Would you think he was a merchant, or a fisherman, or a shepherd? No! The bow in the hand indicates a warrior, and the crown, a king. In Revelation 6:2, the apostle John speaks of a rider riding on a white horse, with a bow in His hand and a crown on His head. He has fought and won several battles, and He was going forth to conquer again. What does this mean? This figure represents the early years of the church that Jesus founded. And the winning warrior looks like Jesus, doesn't He? After all, He fought against sin and won every one of the battles.

For example, shortly after His baptism, Jesus faced Satan's temptations in the wilderness and came out victorious. And it was like that all His life. Jesus never said "Yes" to sin even by a thought. He once told His disciples, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). And do you know when Jesus defeated Satan once and for all? As He was about to die on the cross, the Saviour said, "It is finished!" In other words, it was the end of the battle. He had managed to go all the way without sinning. Our salvation was assured.

How so? Why did this happen? The price of sin is death. We deserve to die because we are sinners. Unlike us, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, never sinned. He deserved to live. But because He loves us, He agreed to make an exchange. He received death in our place and gave the life, to which He was entitled, as a gift to us. So, when He said: "It is finished," it meant that the exchange was done. From that moment on, whoever believed in His sacrifice and repented of their sins received salvation. Jesus paid with His life to deliver us from the hands of the enemy. But He did not stay dead. On the third day, Jesus was resurrected. He also conquered death! Hallelujah! After His resurrection, the Lord Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matthew 28:18).

The disciples also needed this power to preach the gospel to all the world. They shouldn't even try to do that without divine power. Without Him, they would not be able to win. As we saw in the previous reading, they waited in Jerusalem, as Jesus had commanded: "Behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Remember that they spent ten days praying for this power? For this they needed to be prepared. Then, during that time, the Holy Spirit changed them. They were no longer selfish, envious, and cowardly. Now they were united and only wanted the best for each other. God's love warmed their hearts more and more. And the more love they had, the more they saw that they needed power to preach. So they kept praying. On the tenth day, they were ready to receive the promise. Power finally arrived!

The Holy Spirit poured out

We studied earlier this week about the feast of Pentecost. Thousands of people from other countries were in Jerusalem. The group of Jesus' followers was gathered in the same place. Suddenly, a

sound came from the sky. It felt like a strong wind and filled the whole house. "And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them" (Acts 2:3). All the people in the room were filled with the Holy Spirit. What happened next was amazing. They began to speak in other languages, without ever having studied them! Now they were able to preach to people everywhere without the need for a translator. Plus, the words came forth full of power. Three thousand people were converted at Peter's first preaching. And there's more! The disciples were also given the power to perform miracles. The book of Acts tells of healings and even resurrection of the dead!

With this, the good news that Jesus had conquered death and the devil was taken to the ends of the earth. Even with persecution, in a short time, Jesus' followers won thousands of people to Him. And the church grew rapidly. She was really like the warrior with the bow and the crown, riding on the white horse. The church was victorious in the power of Jesus and went out to win even more. After Pentecost, did you know that the promise of power to win was not only for the first disciples? It was given for all followers of Jesus at any time in history. Anyone who has ever truly converted is entitled to this promise. The work can be difficult, full of problems. But we must not give up. On the contrary, we are to move further and further towards victory. And who is at the side of the faithful who endure? Jesus. He promises to be with His followers every day until the end of the world.

Facing darkness

There are places in the world that are true strongholds of Satan. In them, there are many people who do not know salvation in Christ Jesus nor do they know that He is about to return. God's servants must determine to bring God's Word to these places. This costs a lot of work and struggle. But it doesn't matter. The Lord is with all who do this and He will guide them to be overcomers. What is the greatest conflict? Did you know that each of us is in a struggle, without even realizing it? It is the battle against evil. Sometimes we can get hurt or be defeated. But that doesn't mean we have lost the war. Imagine two armies facing each other. One is led by Satan and the other by Jesus. Sometimes some of Jesus' soldiers go over to Satan's side. Others forsake the devil and come to the side of those who obey God's commandments.

The battle gets tougher. Sometimes one side wins, but then loses again. Now Jesus' soldiers seem to give up. But it's only to be in a better situation to take down a fortress from the enemy. At this

time, the faithful shout with joy and sing hymns of praise to God. Jesus is the Captain. It is He who commands the battle and sends support to His soldiers. Step by step, He directs each one until victory is won.

Do you know what Satan's strongholds are? Every house, school, city or country where people do not know salvation in Jesus, nor His commandments. We are called by Jesus to preach the gospel in places like this. When a person is converted to the truth in such a place, it is as if the banner of Jesus is placed there. If more and more people are converted, Satan's stronghold is completely overcome. In our own strength this is impossible. But in the power of God, we come out as winners, victorious as the warrior of Revelation 6:2.

Under the latter rain

What happened at Pentecost and after that, was like the former rain. It prepares the earth to receive the seed. But the rain that falls at harvest time is much stronger. It is for this that we are waiting now. When it comes, God's servants will hurry up from place to place to preach the Word of God. They are very faithful people. Just by looking at their faces, people will realize that. Thousands will preach the gospel with power.

They will also perform miracles, heal the sick, and do amazing things. Satan will also do false things to deceive the world. So, everyone will have to choose which side to be on—either with Jesus or with the enemy. There will also be persecution again. Many will be arrested. Some parents and children will betray each other. But sincere people will accept the message. They will not be afraid to do God's will, even if it costs them their lives. Do you know what will cause all of this? The latter rain, which is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a much greater dose than was given to the disciples. Will all this happen only to adults? No. Children who have given themselves to Jesus will also receive the power of the Holy Spirit. They will preach about the return of Jesus with such power that they will leave people in awe. Many people will be converted by the work of these children. Will you be one of them?

An appeal

Dear child, right now we are all on the battlefield. This is not the time to be distracted by the things of the world. We need the power of God. Therefore, pray, study the Bible and ask the Lord for the bap-

tism with the Holy Spirit every day. When a temptation comes, ask for Jesus' help. He will help you to be a winner. Every time you win a race, prepare for the next one. If you fail, seek God's forgiveness. But don't give up. In Christ you can regain strength and win new victories. With the power of Jesus, you will be able to face all battles. Have courage. All of Heaven is watching you. Be faithful and obedient. When you believe what God says in His Word and live according to it, you are being an overcomer and are going forth to win, like the warrior in Revelation, sitting on the white horse.—S.G.D.



Activities

1) Draw the victorious warrior described by John in Revelation 6:2.

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a yellow border, intended for drawing the victorious warrior described in Revelation 6:2.

2) Crossword Puzzle

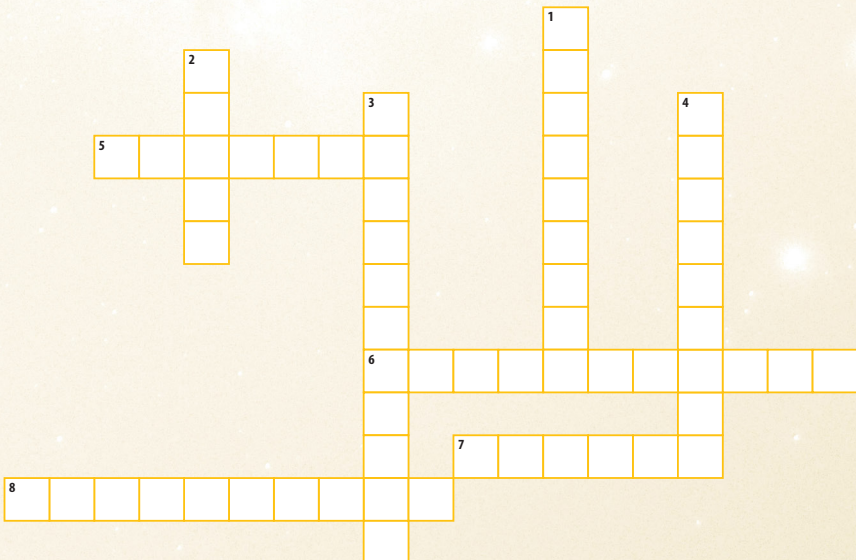
Conquering for Christ

ACROSS

5. We need to _____ the devil and his lies and come to the side of Jesus.
6. In the power of the Holy Spirit, the character of the disciples was _____.
7. After the disciples prayed for the Holy Spirit, they became _____.
8. Under the power of the latter rain, we can receive a great _____ of the Holy Spirit.

DOWN

1. Even when faced with persecution, the followers of Jesus won _____ to Him.
2. In vision, John the Revelator saw Jesus riding victoriously on a white _____.
3. Jesus gained the victory over all the _____ that Satan tried against Him.
4. Jesus paid the price so that we could be _____ from the hands of the enemy.





Power to Make Me Brave

Sharing Jesus
through the
Holy Spirit



SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
REFORM MOVEMENT