



Alive in Jesus

SABBATH SCHOOL
CURRICULUM





“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your strength.
And these words which I command you today
shall be in your heart.
You shall teach them diligently to your children,
and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way,
when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

DEUTERONOMY 6:5-7

Table of Contents

Personal Pilot	22
Our Role	23

Unless otherwise noted, Bible texts are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Bible texts credited to NIV are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



Rationale

The **Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum is a Bible curriculum** developed by the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. It seeks to nurture the spiritual life of our children and youth from the time they are babies until they are 18 years of age. We are given the advice to “train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Such training is no small task. *Alive in Jesus* seeks to equip and empower parents, caregivers, Sabbath School teachers, Sabbath School leaders, and others to model and foster a thriving relationship with Jesus and the children in their spheres of influence.

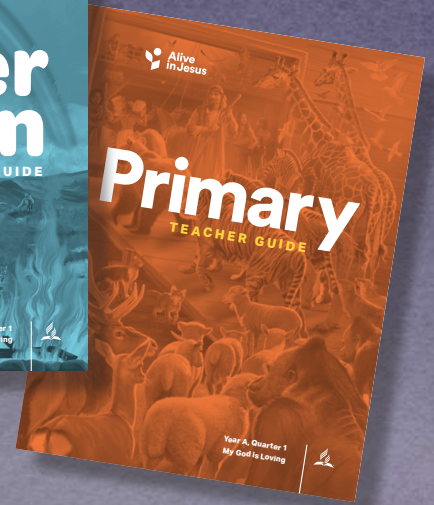
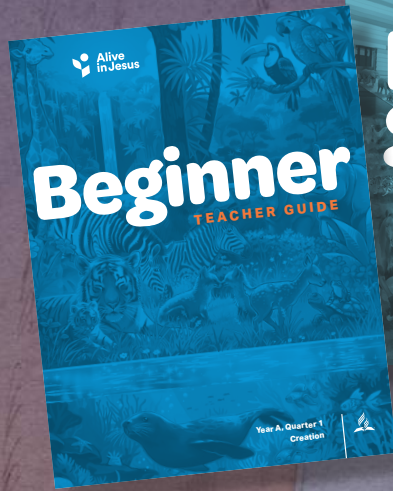
As Ellen White shares:

“Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on the merits of the Savior. By prayer, by the study of His Word, by faith in His abiding presence, the weakest of human beings may live in contact with the living Christ, and He will hold them by a hand that will never let go”

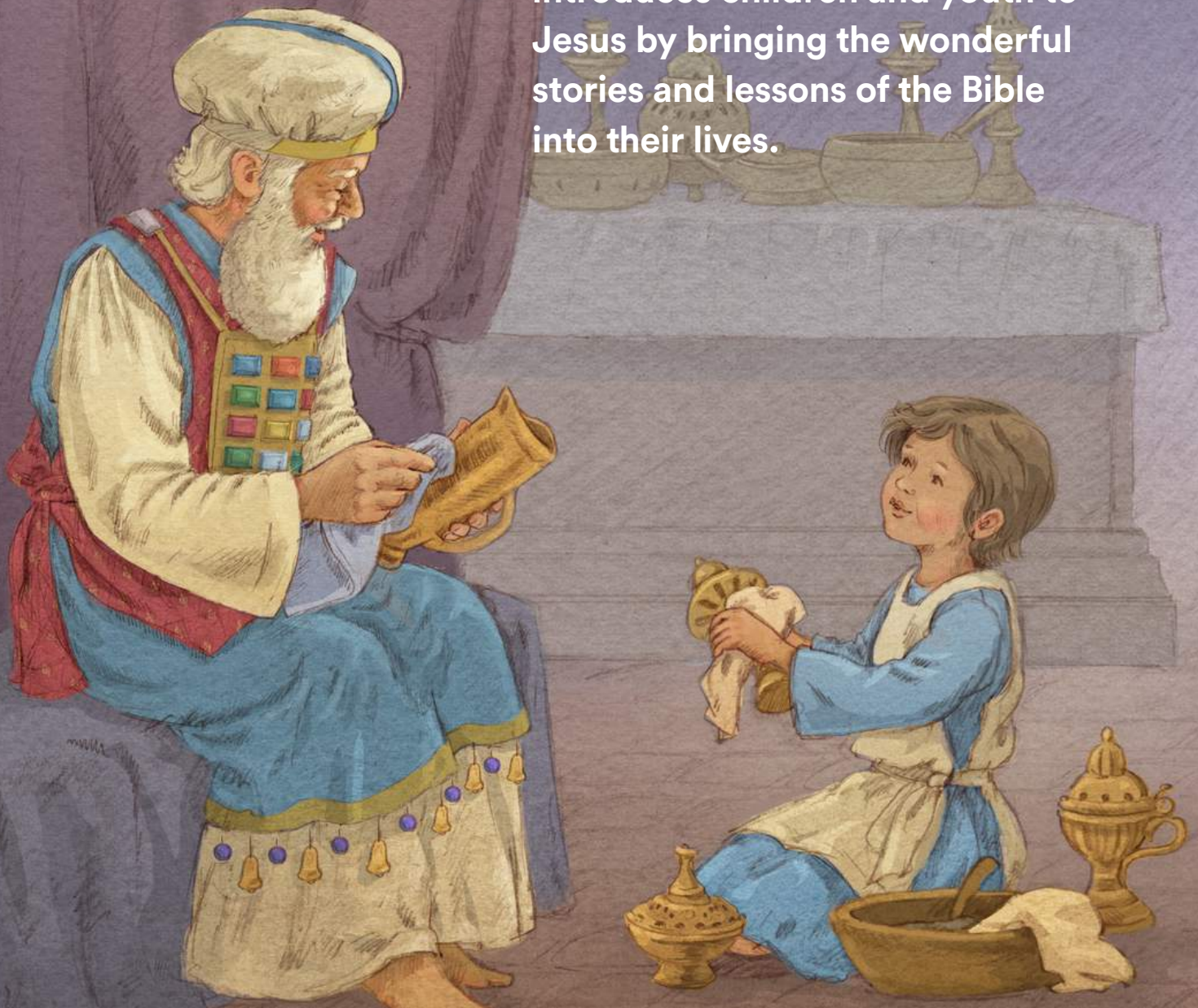
(The Ministry of Healing [Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1905], p. 182).

Jesus reaches out His hand to children and adults everywhere, and says, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). The goal of the *Alive in Jesus Sabbath School* curriculum is to make disciples who make disciples—to encourage young people around the globe to hold on to Jesus’ hand that will never let them go, to **know** truth as revealed in His Word and **grow** daily in their relationship with Him, to stand tall and worship the Creator alone in these last days, and to **go** and share this with others to make a difference for eternity.

By incorporating what is known about the stages of faith development and the important role of parents and caregivers in nurturing faith, best educational practice meets Bible narrative and truth, in order to grow faith and impart a clear Seventh-day Adventist worldview through the teaching and learning in this seamless 18-year scope.



The Alive in Jesus curriculum introduces children and youth to Jesus by bringing the wonderful stories and lessons of the Bible into their lives.





Foundation: The Bible

Just as the Bible becomes central to our lives when we abide in Jesus, so God’s Word also forms the heart of the Alive in Jesus curriculum. It is both the bedrock and the vehicle for achieving desired outcomes. In order to be alive in Christ, Jesus invites us to abide in His Word (see John 8:31; 15:7). When we choose Him, we trust Him, seek Him, and keep His Word as the central guiding principle of our lives (see 1 John 2:5). This Word is living, powerful, and sweet to our souls (see Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23; Psalm 119:103). Through its pages we commune with Jesus, who lovingly draws us into a saving relationship with Himself (see Jeremiah 31:3).

As Ellen White shares:

“The Word of God is to be the foundation of all study, and the words of revelation, carefully studied, appeal to and strengthen the intellect as well as the heart.”¹

The Alive in Jesus curriculum introduces children and youth to Jesus by bringing the wonderful stories and lessons of the Bible (including a clear Seventh-day Adventist worldview and the 28 fundamental beliefs) into

¹ E. G. White, *Mind, Character, and Personality* (Nashville: Southern Pub. Assn., 1977), vol. 1, p. 89.

our lives. This curriculum shows young people that the truths of the Bible are unchanging and trustworthy, equipping them to study the Bible meaningfully for themselves in order to ultimately share the timeless truths of the Bible with others. A key goal of the Alive in Jesus curriculum is to nurture a biblical worldview in the minds of our young people so that they can see that the Bible is a lamp to their feet and a light to their path (see Psalm 119:105), and that it can be trusted to give solid guidance to all aspects of their lives.

As Ellen White aptly states:

“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.”²

This foundation permeates the entire curriculum, with age-appropriate strategies and Bible study embedded in the student lessons. In Kindergarten, parents are encouraged to open their Bibles as part of the daily reading to show their children how to do so. In Primary, parents help children look up answers in their own Bibles in response to questions that are asked. And in Junior, the young people are taught the first principles of independent daily Bible study, which continues to deepen through Teen and Youth. Each level teaches the important life skill of meaningful Bible study.

The central purpose of using the Bible in such an intentional way in the Alive in Jesus curriculum is to draw children and young people into a growing relationship with Jesus, the Giver of the Word, that will last forever.



² E. G. White, *Steps to Christ* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1956), p. 90.



Pillars

1. GRACE

We are first made alive in Jesus by the gift and power of His grace, which flows from His heart of mercy and love (see Ephesians 2:4, 5). When we live in an abiding relationship with Jesus, we receive this grace and accept His love for us (see John 15:9). Such gracious love for the most unworthy of sinners has power to captivate the heart and create new spiritual life in the soul.

The Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum shows children and young people that Jesus loves them personally and that He offers grace and salvation to every person. This incredible gift is free, unmerited, and hard to comprehend. Yet when we accept it, it changes us and compels us to respond to God in love and obedience.

“God takes men as they are. . . . They are not chosen because they are perfect, but notwithstanding their imperfections, that through the knowledge and practice of the truth, through the grace of Christ, they may become transformed into His image.”³

The Alive in Jesus curriculum seeks to embrace, challenge, and strengthen children and youth in their personal walk with Him. It teaches Bible truth in a redemptive way, without assuming that all have chosen Jesus; while at the same time, not avoiding difficult questions.

Every level of the Alive in Jesus curriculum points our young people to Jesus, who gives the gift of His transforming grace freely to all who come to Him.

2. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

When we live in an abiding relationship with Jesus and experience His grace, we allow Him to “prune” us when we need it (John 15:2), to bring about fruit (see verse 4) for His glory.

The Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum seeks to show all children that they are valued, loved, and accepted, while also showcasing the “fruit,” or Christlike character, that grows and develops in our hearts as we abide in Him.

Ellen White consistently emphasized the vital importance of character development:

“Character building is the most important work ever entrusted to human beings; and never before was its diligent study so important as now. Never was any previous generation called to meet issues so momentous; never before were young men and young women confronted by perils so great as confront them today.”⁴

“In our character building we must build on Christ. He is the sure foundation—a foundation which can never be moved.”⁵

These statements beautifully describe the basis for focusing on Christlike character development in the Alive in Jesus curriculum. The fruit that results from a living connection with the Savior leads to transformation in our lives, homes, and communities.

³ E. G. White, *The Desire of Ages* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1898, 1940), p. 294.

⁴ E. G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1903), p. 225.

⁵ E. G. White, *Child Guidance* (Nashville: Southern Pub. Assn., 1954), p. 166.



In the student lessons, the character development focus can, at a glance, be seen in the Big Idea (Beginner through Junior) and in the opening headline (Teen through Youth). This is the central focus of the weekly reading and emerges through the Bible narrative. At the lower levels the Word of the Week streamlines a key character focus (on either God or humankind) throughout the narrative, and parents and children are challenged to use and apply this new word each week in their daily lives.

The character focus is extended through the daily enhancement features in all levels of the curriculum, through the family discussion questions, intergenerational faith talk, and the object lessons or multiple intelligence activities that drive home memorable takeaways for the child or young person.

3. MISSION

When we are alive in Christ, we long for others to experience the same joy of salvation that we have received (see John 15:11; Psalm 51:12, 13).

The Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum seeks to foster a trusting, joy-filled, lifelong walk with Jesus that cannot be contained! It seeks to make our children active “influencers” for Jesus, who passionately share the great news of the gospel and our soon-coming Savior with others. Ellen White reminds us, “It is in service that our greatest joy and our highest education will be found.”⁶ It’s also in witnessing that our faith is strengthened, in response to sharing the gospel with the world.

This emphasis takes a different form at each level, but every lesson incorporates an active mission focus, such as helping in the home, serving others, sharing one’s faith, retelling a Bible story, or giving a Bible study to a friend or group of people. Ultimately, this curriculum seeks to train our young people to be active agents in the mission of the church.

⁶ E. G. White, *Education*, p. 309.

PILLARS RECAP

The Bible is the foundation and the method by which the goals of the curriculum are pursued. These three goals—grace, character development, and mission—are the foundational pillars of the Alive in Jesus curriculum, and feature in every student lesson and teacher’s guide.



Writing Objectives

The Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum aims to incorporate the “freshest thought, [the] best methods, and [the] most earnest effort”⁷ in its development, using best educational practice in the teaching of a biblical worldview. Each lesson is measured by the following writing objectives to ensure that this vision becomes a reality:

1. APPEAL

Write and design lessons that uplift Christ in a way that attracts, invites, and engages.

“With lovingkindness I have drawn you” (Jeremiah 31:3).

- Use warm descriptions and inviting language.
- Communicate the infinite love of Christ for every child, revealing that Jesus is their friend.
- Express a kind and loving approach to all, while not avoiding difficult issues.
- Provide parents with thoughtful encouragement, practical help, and instruction (Babies-Primary).
- Be sensitive to cultural diversity in lesson content and artwork.

2. CLARITY

Present stories and teachings of the Bible in a clear and accurate manner.

“Rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

- Present a true picture of God’s just and merciful character as revealed in Christ, in His goodness and glory.
- Use clear, easy-to-understand, age-appropriate language that resonates with children.
- Avoid using clichés unless accompanied by a simple explanation.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 186.

- Stay true to the biblical message, including key Adventist teachings (28 fundamental beliefs), while writing in a colorful and appealing style.
- Draw themes and lessons from the Bible rather than imposing a theme onto the text.
- Use the NKJV (sometimes ICB for Beginner through Primary), maintaining true dialogue in Bible stories.

3. DISCOVERY

Challenge thinking, promote deep learning, and encourage reflection.

“In whom [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

- Invite children to respond thoughtfully to higher-order discussion and to reflection questions.
- Create opportunities for children to internalize the story by sharing it in their own words.
- Offer diversity of response activities as well as extension facts, differentiation, and multiple intelligence options.
- Establish a strong connection between the Bible story, the memory verse, and the teacher’s program focus (including tips for teachers).
- Incorporate nature learning through object lessons and encouragement for children to be outside in nature.

4. CONVICTION

Speak to the heart, and foster a saving relationship with Jesus.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

- Be aware of the importance of how the biblical message is delivered and the process needed for spiritual life and growth.
- Include key takeaways that show how the biblical message relates to the reader.
- Offer developmentally appropriate messages and opportunities for personal reflection.
- Intentionally invite a heart response to what is explored.
- Encourage the use of the first person singular in responses (“I” rather than “we”).
- Offer prayer suggestions that connect to the daily reading and seek to build one’s relationship with God.

5. ACTION

Encourage a response to God’s call to grow, share, and do His will.

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22).

- Encourage personal ownership of ongoing commitment to God.
- Show how loving obedience to God brings peace, joy, and blessing.
- Relate God’s invitation through age-appropriate appeals to action.
- Promote active, age-appropriate involvement in witnessing and service.
- Encourage an awareness of the needs of others in the home and community.



Scope and Sequence

In the construction of the scope and sequence for each level, an understanding of the stages of faith, and developmental and cognitive development, has been incorporated. Narrative is a strong focus of the curriculum, particularly in the younger levels, while clear teaching and instruction is also used to share doctrine and beliefs, particularly in the older levels.

A thematic approach is used for **Babies** (birth-12 months), with one story per quarter. The Sabbath School program is included in the back of the Parent Book so that parents can use it at home. The simple repetition of songs, with short messages woven throughout, can be reinforced daily. The Parent Time handouts, used each week as part of the Sabbath School program, are specifically for parents—almost like a spiritual small group. Topics such as parenting with purpose and growing a closer relationship with God provide practical tips, parenting strategies, and spiritual encouragement to parents.

A thematic approach is used for **Beginner** (1-3 years old), with parents encouraged to read the weekly story every day. These simple, short, weekly stories are part of a quarterly theme. Activity ideas that enhance the message of the Bible story are shared for parents to do throughout the day, and a spiritual message for parents is also included.

A mix of a chronological and thematic approach is used for **Kindergarten** (4-6 years old) and **Primary** (6-9 years old). The goal is to share the narrative stories of the Bible in memorable and meaningful ways, with a focus on the whole family engaging in worship. A daily narrative portion is shared, along with family discussion questions, activities, prayer ideas, and mission challenges.

Kindergarten and Primary lessons follow the same scope and sequence so that parents with children in these age groups can choose which publication they would like to use for family worship, if desired. Quarters 1 and 2 follow themes and stories from the Old Testament, while Quarters 3 and 4 share New Testament stories.

Junior (10-12 years old) and **Teen** (13-14 years old) explore a more in-depth chronological narrative of the Bible over five years. In Junior the narrative spans from the war in heaven to the ascension of Jesus. This chronology continues in Teen through the great controversy lens, from the early Christian church through the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, Adventist history, and finally the new earth. Daily readings, such as engaging narrative, Bible study, key takeaways, reflection questions, journaling, prayer ideas, and mission challenges, are included.

A thematic approach is used for **Youth** (15-18 years old), with more complex young adult themes included (theological and practical) in the scope and sequence. A longer weekly reading is shared, which can also be broken into daily readings, along with deeper Bible study, key takeaways, reflection questions, journaling, prayer ideas, and mission challenges.

At all levels the Alive in Jesus curriculum aims to teach and intentionally build a child's relationship with God, and their Bible knowledge, through studying His Word. The narratives in the lessons are also enhanced with inspired insights from the writings of Ellen White, and each level encourages deep thinking and reflection, prayer ideas, mission challenges, and Bible memorization of promises.

**The Alive in Jesus Sabbath
School curriculum seeks to
foster a trusting, joy-filled,
lifelong walk with Jesus that
cannot be contained!**



Features and Foci

The **Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum** is full of special features that contribute toward establishing the overall goals of the curriculum:

FAITH DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

The primary goal of this curriculum is to intentionally build the faith of children of all ages. The structure, length, and narrative style have been set with this in mind. Lessons include a range of creative devices and enhancement activities, including witnessing, service challenges, Sabbath foci, and connection with nature to build faith. Parental engagement is also a key focus to reinforce faith development.

At the younger levels, one goal is to support parents with these lessons so they can “thoroughly act their part, giving them line upon line, and precept upon precept, making their lessons short and interesting, and teaching them not only by precept but by example.”⁸ Experiential learning ideas are included in order to extend the learning, for “too much talk will lead them to loathe even spiritual instruction, just as overeating burdens the stomach and lessens the appetite, leading even to a loathing of food.”⁹

Research reveals that faith begins developing when children are very young, but Piaget explains that the first real logical operations occur at around the ages of 6 or 7.¹⁰ To strengthen faith development, clear teaching and thoughtful questions are woven throughout the curriculum as children grow older.

Each of the levels of the **Alive in Jesus** curriculum intentionally aims to develop faith and Bible knowledge, leading children on a seamless journey into a saving relationship with Jesus.

FOCUS ON NATURE

At all levels nature is a recurring feature, providing specific nature lessons and suggestions for how to encourage children and youth to be outdoors. “Many illustrations from nature are used by the Bible writers; and as we observe the things of the natural world, we shall be enabled, under the guiding of the Holy Spirit, more fully to understand the lessons of God’s Word.”¹¹ “The fields and hills—nature’s audience chamber—should be the schoolroom for little children. Her treasures should be their textbook. The lessons thus imprinted upon their minds will not be soon forgotten.”¹² Nature is incorporated in both the student lessons and the teacher guides.

RESOURCE KITS (younger levels)

In order to provide as much practical support to Sabbath School teachers as possible, an optional Resource Kit for teachers will be developed. Items may include: large cloth backdrops/murals on quarterly themes, wooden toys, and other kinesthetic resources to enhance the teaching of the biblical story for young learners. For the Babies level, a Resource Kit for the home is suggested so that parents can establish a daily worship routine.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

We know that busy parents face many joys and challenges, and we pray that this new Sabbath School curriculum will encourage parents and caregivers in their own spiritual

⁸ E. G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 34.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 35.

¹⁰ James Fowler, *Stages of Faith* (New York: Harper One, 1981), p. 56.

¹¹ E. G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 46.

¹² *Ibid.*, p. 48.



walk, as they love and nurture their children. Since discipleship and spiritual growth are the main goals of this curriculum, we also aim to provide opportunities for spiritual intergenerational dialogue between parents and children. “Children must see in the lives of their parents that consistency which is in accordance with their faith.”¹³

Ideally, this curriculum will provide a platform for parents to use as family worship. We are given this advice: “Take time to read to your children. . . . Form a home reading circle, in which every member of the family shall lay aside the busy cares of the day, and unite in study.”¹⁴ While this is particularly true for the younger levels, the Junior, Teen, and Youth lessons can also be used for family worship, discussion, and further reading study, based on what is provided, in addition to private study.

SYNTHESIS OF LEARNING/QUARTERLY CHALLENGE (younger levels)

The concept of “hear one, do one, teach one” in children’s learning is synthesized through a Quarterly Challenge; a culmination of weekly learning. This is brought together in the Welcoming the Sabbath (Friday night family time) activity for Kindergarten and Primary, and in a variety of other ways in the upper levels. The goal of this challenge is for the child to have a special family celebration on Friday night before the Thirteenth Sabbath, and to then share with their church family their ideas and discoveries of the past 13 weeks. For younger children, parents help lead this.

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Careful consideration has been made around the choice of illustrations and design, so that the lessons are brought to life through the pictures. Interpreting pictures is an important cognitive function, as nonverbals convey meaning and help us interpret the world around us. Different illustrators have been chosen for each level, so that the reader experiences “steps up” as the levels progress and the children grow. Teen and Youth draw on stock images with a more contemporary style. The artwork across all levels seeks to speak to a culturally diverse audience so that children and young people from across the world can relate to the lesson designs. From artwork to content, Alive in Jesus endeavors to speak to a diverse, global audience that is bound together by a shared mission and message.

MUSIC

New music is being created for the lower levels that specifically communicates the lesson’s messages. For Beginner, music will be a central part of the teacher’s guide, with both older, familiar songs included, and some new music. For Kindergarten and Primary, a theme song for each quarter will be created that focuses specifically on the quarterly theme.

In addition to this, other program songs, such as a welcome song, prayer song, and goodbye song, are included in the teacher guides to make the Sabbath School hour memorable for the children.



¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 482.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 38.

MEMORY VERSES/SCRIPTURE SONGS

As the Bible is the basis for faith development at all levels, Scripture memorization has been embedded into the lessons in developmentally appropriate ways. In the Beginner, Kindergarten, and Primary levels, Scripture songs have been created from the memory verses. “Let the more important passages of the Scripture connected with the lesson be committed to memory, not as a task, but as a privilege . . . the habit will prove a most valuable aid to religious growth.”¹⁵

WORD OF THE WEEK (Kindergarten and Primary)

In these two levels, which have narratives that align with each other, a Word of the Week is shared that also threads throughout the weekly narrative. Since modeling is so important at this

age and stage for children, parents are encouraged to model and use the Word of the Week in everyday life.

VARIETY In all levels, having a variety of activities and application modes in both the student lessons and the teacher guides is an important goal. The Sabbath page of each lesson incorporates a variety of fascinating lessons from nature, archaeology, culture, science, and health that teach us about God, as well as interesting mission and Adventist history stories. In every case the weekly focus is maintained and applied through all activities and teaching points to strengthen a growing faith.

15 E. G. White, *Signs of the Times*, May 19, 1887

From artwork to content,
Alive in Jesus endeavors to speak
to a diverse, global audience that
is bound together by a shared
mission and message.

WEEK 2
Life In God's Garden
Big Idea: God is loving. He created me.

Memory Verse
“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).

Word of the Week
“Loving” - When you are loving, you show kindness and care for others. Loving people make others happy. Who is loving in this story?

This week's lesson
This week's lesson is based on Genesis 1:25-31; 2:7-9; 1:5-24, and Psalms and Prophecy, pp. 44-47.

Sunday
Good Morning, Friday!

Five whole days had come and gone since God had started creating the new world. Now it was the sixth day. The golden sun shone brightly over the colorful gardens. Birds flitted between trees, singing happy songs. What a beautiful world!

God could see that it was good, but He wasn't finished yet. What did He do next? Read **Genesis 1:24, 25**.

God spoke—and it happened. Just like that! When God's powerful voice spoke, all kinds of different animals were created. Some animals had soft, silky fur. Others had tough, rough skin. Some had huge ears, and others had teeny, tiny tails.

God made a male and female (boy and girl) of every kind of animal: two barking dogs, two big elephants, two galloping horses, two fast leopards, and two mooing cows. God then commanded the animals to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:22).

He wanted all the pairs of animals to have cute baby animals, and for their families to grow bigger. Yes, God thought of everything! What did God think of all that He had made?

Read **Genesis 1:25**. God had created something good, because He is good, and He is loving and kind and so very generous. Now it was time to make the most exciting

I Wonder

Prayer Idea
Thank God for being so powerful and creative and for making all the animals in our world.

I Do
This week, learn about some animals that you might not have heard of before: dugong, oye-oye, dumbo octopus, gerenuk.



Beginner curriculum illustration



Junior curriculum illustration



Teaching Framework

We are told that the “all-important thing” in education “should be the conversion of . . . students, that they may have a new heart and life. The object of the Great Teacher is the restoration of the image of God in the soul, and every teacher in our schools should work in harmony with this purpose.”¹⁶ As such, the role of the Sabbath School teacher is to facilitate the growing environment for the Holy Spirit to transform children into faithful disciples of

Christ. For the younger levels, there is also a natural opportunity to support spiritual growth in the lives of the parents of young children. With this in mind, the Alive in Jesus Sabbath School Curriculum Teacher Guides have a focus on process (how we teach) as well as content (what we teach). This also aligns with our goals for the weekly take-home lesson study.

The five general principles below reflect the general approach to the teacher guides.



HOOK

In addition to making all children feel welcome in Sabbath School, this segment sets the scene for the weekly lesson by engaging students from the outset to elicit the interest of students and establish the context for the lesson. “True education is not forcing instruction on an unready and unreceptive mind. The mental powers must be awakened, the interest aroused.”¹⁷



HEAD

God appeals to His people to seek Him first and to love Him above all else. We are to hide His words in our hearts that we might not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11) and to teach these words “diligently” to our children, to “talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deuteronomy 6:7).

The goal of this segment is to build on what our children may already know and what they have studied at home during the week. While this segment is primarily teacher-directed, students are invited to discover, explore, and interact with what they learn in different ways, for “teachers should lead students to think, and clearly to understand the truth for themselves. It is not enough for the teacher to explain or for the student to believe; inquiry must be awakened, and the student must be drawn out to state the truth in his own language. . . . This may be a slow process; but it is of more value than rushing over important subjects without due consideration.”¹⁸



HEART

As we share the stories and truths of the Bible, the Holy Spirit can move upon our open hearts to transform us. Hosea 6:3 says it this way:

*“Let us know,
Let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.
His going forth is established as the morning;
He will come to us like the rain,
Like the latter and former rain to the earth.”*

¹⁶ E. G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education* (Nashville: Southern Pub. Assn., 1923), p. 436.

¹⁷ E. G. White, *True Education* (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 2000), p. 28.

¹⁸ E. G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1948), vol. 6, p. 154.

Regarding the importance of heart conversion, we are told: “The mere knowledge of truth is not enough. We may possess this, but the tenor of our thoughts may not be changed. The heart must be converted and sanctified.”¹⁹ For indeed, “[Jesus] spoke directly to every mind and appealed to every heart. He watched the faces of His hearers, marked the lighting up of the countenance, the quick, responsive glance, which told that truth had reached the soul.”²⁰

The goal is to bring our children to the feet of Jesus through worship, reflection, object lessons, and discussion so that they will not only gain knowledge but also be personally convicted of what has been learned.



HAND

The natural response to a heart conversion is to take action. James 1:22 says, “Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (NIV). Ellen White states, “Love and loyalty to Christ are the spring of all true service. In the heart touched by His love, there is begotten a desire to work for Him. Let this desire be encouraged and rightly guided.”²¹

Every child will be given the opportunity to learn how they can contribute to their families, their church, their communities, and the broader mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The goal is to involve all children in the mission of the church through inspirational mission stories and practical opportunities to serve others, as a result of the story or lesson theme.

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!”²²



HOORAY!

Educational research tells us that learning is more effective, and more likely to be retained, when it’s accompanied with joy. “People learn more, and learn to love learning—when they enjoy the process.”²³

Children will be given an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate what they have learned about God from His Word, or what He has done for them or someone else (in the context of mission). This may take the form of children praising God for what He has done, acknowledging the children for what they have learned, or a short theme-based application that brings joy to the children.

The inclusion of this final segment aims for the children to leave Sabbath School with clear application to their own lives, in the form of joy, since “the joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

19 E. G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1900, 1941), p. 97.

20 E. G. White, *Education*, p. 231.

21 *Ibid.*, p. 268.

22 *Ibid.*, p. 271.

23 Thom and Joani Schultz. *The Dirt on Learning* (Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1999), p. 169.



Alive in Jesus Sabbath School Curriculum Overview

The Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum seeks to facilitate a growing love for Jesus and His mission through supporting families and individuals in the daily study of God’s Word. The goal of the Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum is to make disciples who make disciples.



BABY STEPS
Birth-12 months



BEGINNER
1-3 years



KINDERGARTEN
4-6 years

WRITING OBJECTIVES

APPEAL

Write and design lessons that uplift Christ in a way that attracts, invites, and engages.

“With lovingkindness I have drawn you” (Jeremiah 31:3).

CLARITY

Present stories and teachings of the Bible in a clear and accurate manner.

“Rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

PILLARS

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Alive in Jesus teaches children that they are valued, loved, and accepted, while also showcasing the “fruit,” or Christlike character, that grows and develops in our hearts as we abide in Him. This character development focus can be seen in the Big Idea and opening headline and emerges through the Bible narrative. It is extended through the daily enhancement features in all levels of the curriculum, through the family discussion questions, intergenerational faith talk, and the object lessons or multiple intelligence activities that drive home memorable takeaways.

THE BIBLE: The Foundation

With the Bible as its foundation, the Alive in Jesus curriculum introduces children and youth to Jesus by bringing the wonderful stories and lessons of the Bible into our twenty-first-century lives.



PRIMARY
7-9 years



JUNIOR
10-12 years



TEEN
13-14 years



YOUTH
15-18 years

DISCOVERY

Challenge thinking, promote deep learning, and encourage reflection.

“In whom [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

CONVICTION

Speak to the heart, and foster a saving relationship with Jesus.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart” (Deuteronomy 6:5).

ACTION

Encourage a response to God’s call to grow, share, and do His will.

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22).

GRACE

Alive in Jesus shows students that Jesus loves them personally and that He offers grace and salvation to everyone. This incredible gift is free, unmerited, and hard to comprehend. Yet when we accept it, it changes us and compels us to respond to God in love and obedience. Bible truth is taught in a redemptive way, without assuming that all have chosen Jesus; while at the same time, not avoiding difficult questions.

MISSION

Alive in Jesus fosters a trusting, joy-filled, lifelong walk with Jesus that cannot be contained! It seeks to make our children active “influencers” for Jesus, who passionately share the great news of the gospel and the Seventh-day Adventist end-time message with the world they live in. Every lesson incorporates an active mission focus.

Including a clear Seventh-day Adventist worldview and the 28 fundamental beliefs, this curriculum shows young people that the truths of the Bible are unchanging and trustworthy, equipping them to study the Bible meaningfully for themselves.



Global Input

It's no small task to create a curriculum for a global audience with many varied needs and contexts. We are committed to the representation and inclusion of all people and have several rigorous oversight processes in place to achieve this. All lessons are sent through a paid review process by a range of specialists from around the world, and all receive input from the Biblical Research Institute. In addition to this, lower-level and upper-level steering committees give guidance to the development of the Alive in Jesus curriculum. These committees have global representation from Children's Ministries Division directors, Youth directors, curriculum specialists, educators/teachers, and parents, along with a few from the General Conference (GC) Sabbath School and Personal Ministries (SSPM) Department.

GLOBAL PILOT

In January 2023 a global pilot was conducted of four of the seven levels of this new curriculum: Beginner, Kindergarten, Primary, and Junior. All divisions were invited to be part of this pilot. Globally, 55 churches in 15 regions participated, in 18 languages. Churches were provided with full sets of student and teacher guides and all associated resources. Feedback from this global readership at the grassroots level has helped refine the curriculum.

More than 826 total responses were received to the post-pilot survey. More than 95% of the respondents indicated they found the new curriculum to be good, great, or excellent. The positive feedback indicates that the goals of the curriculum are being met. As a result of the feedback, small changes have been made to strengthen the lessons.

Appreciation was expressed for many aspects of the curriculum:

"It is very educational, inspirational, interactive, and an interesting curriculum. It has really improved our spiritual growth."—Parent, West-Central Africa Division

"I found the lesson very dynamic, a very practical and simple way of telling the story. I managed to hold my daughter's attention for longer. And our family loved the weekly activities, we did them all with great joy. As a mother I am very satisfied with this new curriculum." —Parent, Inter-American Division

"Love that we had something meaningful to read every day. As parents, we will miss this material!"—Parent, Chinese Union Mission

"The images are appropriate. I like the colors and shades that were used. My 2-year-old boy was very attracted to it. He learned new words. I am very impressed by everything he learned from the book and his teacher."—Parent, South American Division

"The illustrations are AMAZING. The focus on involving all family members, instead of just the one child reading the guide, was my absolute favorite part."—Parent, North American Division

"My son and I, we really appreciated the pictures and the design. The inclusiveness of the children's pictures in the Beginner book is great! There's dark-skinned children (not commonly seen previously), disabled children, and children playing with animals and nature. Very well done!"—Parent, Inter-European Division

“The stories are more interesting than the old curriculum. Very interesting questions for you to think about. We use our Bibles more. It’s interactive, and you can talk to your friends about it.”—Junior child, Southern Asia-Pacific Division

“So much variety of activities. Object lessons were fantastic! Having the craft laid out for us was awesome.”—Sabbath School teacher, South Pacific Division

“Taught me new teaching possibilities.”—Sabbath School teacher, Trans-European Division

“There are plenty of activities, suggestions, and instructions to run a wonderful program for children—even if a person has had little or no experience as a teacher.”—Sabbath School teacher, North American Division

“It made me realize the importance of religious education for children and motivated me to teach my children properly.”—Sabbath School teacher, Northern Asia-Pacific Division

CURRICULUM LAUNCH DATES



Our Role

Today we have one of the greatest opportunities in history—to love, teach, guide, and nurture our children into a lifelong relationship with Jesus, based on the solid truths of the Bible, so they can be living witnesses to a dying world.

May the Lord be able to say of every child, young person, and parent who shares or studies this curriculum:

*“I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people”
(2 Corinthians 6:16).*



A resource brought to you by the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department
of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
Copyright © 2024 by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Version 2.0