

True Stories Pointing to Jesus

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10 • 31 • 20



Guide[®]



We're all tired of hearing about death. So why devote an entire magazine to talking about it more?

Because we have good news to share!

Puzzle Issue

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OCTOBER 31, 2020 • VOLUME 68 • NUMBER 44

Guide® (ISSN 0017-5226) is a Christian story magazine primarily for readers ages 10-14. It is provided by Seventh-day Adventists and is published weekly by Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687-3193. Periodicals postage paid at Nampa, Idaho. Copyright © 2020 by Pacific Press® Publishing Association. Printed in U.S.A. SUBSCRIPTIONS: Order through your church's Sabbath School secretary, or call toll-free 1.800.447.7377. Yearly subscription: \$61.58. ADDRESS CHANGES: Supply old and new addresses eight weeks in advance to P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653-5353. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Guide* Circulation, P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653-5353. Unless otherwise noted, Bible texts in this issue are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved. 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. Unless otherwise noted, all prominent photos © 2020 Thinkstock.com.



4 Deadly Myths

Here are four myths about what happens when people die:

1. Good people go to heaven when they die.

2. When they die, good people become angels who watch over their loved ones.

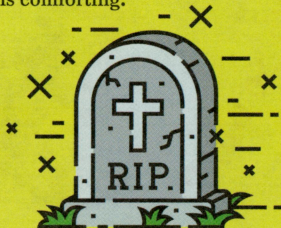
3. People who die become ghosts.

4. People who are alive can talk with people who have died.

This week's *Factory* gives some good factual comebacks you can use if you ever hear these lies.

While some of these beliefs may comfort people when their loved ones die, I find my greatest comfort in knowing that my loved ones and I will experience the journey to heaven together. When Jesus returns, "the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17, NIV).

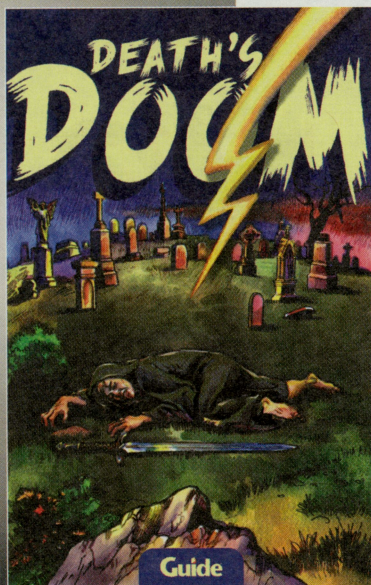
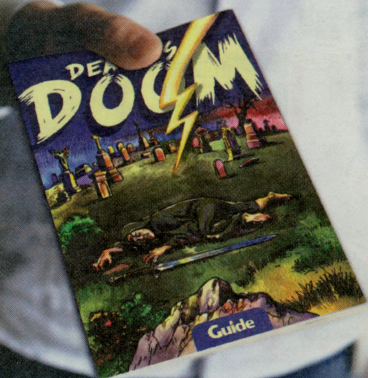
In this week's *Guide* magazine, we have put together some stories and facts to help you better understand and share the truth about death. I hope you find these truths comforting.



Your friend,

Laura

Laura Sámano, MANAGING EDITOR



What happens when you die? There's good news for everyone:

- Your neighbor who lost her grandfather to coronavirus
- The girl with terminal cancer
- The parents who lost their daughter in a car accident
- The boy who can't sleep because he's afraid of ghosts

Adventists have a hope-filled message that brings peace to those who are grieving. And *Guide* has a fun way to share that message.

Death's Doom is a 16-page sharing piece that uses puzzles and stories to teach the truth about death—and about the Savior who forever conquered death.

Order enough for your church, school, or Pathfinder club to share with your entire community!

www.guidemagazine.com/deathsdoom

Website going live on October 31, 2020.

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NO FEAR LLORONA L

By BERNARDO SÁMANO ❁ ILLUSTRATED BY KEVIN RECHIN

The Pathfinders didn't believe in the tales of the spirit crying for her children—but the townspeople did.



It was the night of October 31, and the Pathfinders were ready to go to the graveyard for some witnessing.

No, they weren't witnessing to the dead. Instead, they were preparing for the next couple days when the Mexican graveyards would be packed with visitors coming in for Day of the Dead celebrations.

Every November 1 and 2, many families in Mexico gather together and visit cemeteries. Some get drunk. Others have religious celebrations that include praying the rosary. A great number of them bring along the favorite foods of the deceased ones, thinking their loved ones will taste it again. Others hire professional musicians to play the favorite music of their relatives, thinking the

FOR OCA

dead will enjoy listening to them. Hundreds of thousands visit the cemeteries on those two days.

The Pathfinders were not afraid, because they knew the truth about the state of the dead. They did not believe the tale of Llorona Loca, dressed in white garments with long black hair covering her face. The legend, with several variations, says that this woman killed her children, and after she died could be seen at night crying, “¡Ayyyyy mis hijooooooooooooos!” which translates to “Oh, my children!” Just the thought of it would terrify many people, but not the Pathfinders, who already knew that “the dead know nothing” (Ecclesiastes 9:5).

That very night Pathfinders left churches armed with warm clothes, flashlights, tape, permanent markers, and hundreds of very nice invitation envelopes with brochures inside.

It was a special invitation to learn about the Christian hope of eternal life. The series of topics also included how to find



comfort in the middle of crisis, healthy living ideas, the promise of the second coming of Christ, and more.

"Are you ready for tonight?" one club's member asked another.

"Ready? Are you kidding? I've been looking at the clock all day!" The Pathfinders couldn't wait to go.

"This is going to bring in crowds!" The club's director was enthusiastic.

Everyone anticipated a great turnaround. They went on their way. With flashlights in hand, Pathfinders would find the name of the deceased ones written on the cross, the tombstone, the plaque, or wherever the name was found, then they would write on the envelope, "Dear surviving family of so and so." Last, they would tape the envelope on the cross, monument, or any other visible place, and then move to the next tomb and start over.

The cemetery was very large and fenced. The kids started their adventure at dusk. Everything went well for hours.

All went as planned until

around 5:00 A.M. when the tired Pathfinders' stomachs growled. Nobody had thought about packing breakfast.

"I'm so hungry! My stomach feels so empty that it is going to stick to my back!" Luis exclaimed.

"I think my stomach's going to start eating my other organs!" Carlos complained.

"Your stomach was so loud, I think it will eat my organs!" Roberto replied.

"Can't we get something to

eat?" the club chorused. Complaints grew, and the club director didn't know what to do.

Suddenly, in the middle of the dark, a deep, strong,

**A DEEP,
STRONG,
AND LOUD
VOICE WAS
HEARD.**



and loud voice was heard: “*Bolillo, bolillo, bolillo!*”

In that part of Mexico, families eat fresh food. That includes bread. The bread is carried through the streets by vendors offering still-warm, fresh-from-the-oven bread called *bolillo*.

The director came up with a great idea. Why not buy fresh bread for everybody? The problem was the tall fence that divided the cemetery from the street. The solution? Find the tallest tomb and try to call the attention of the *bolillero* (the bread man).

So the club director, a great Christian woman who was very skinny, climbed onto one of the tallest tombs and began shouting, “*Bolillero!*
Bolillero!
Bolillero!”

The vendor thought that someone from one of the surrounding houses was calling him to buy bread from him. He looked here and there, but could not locate the origin of the voice, until, to his surprise, on top of a tall tomb there was a skinny woman with long hair calling and

motioning him. “Come! Come!”

You can imagine the terror on the face of this poor man, who thought the Llorona Loca was calling him over to the cemetery. Immediately he threw away his *canasta* (basket) filled with bread, and ran for his life.

After climbing over the fence, some of the Pathfinders went to the place this man had left his basket. They put all the bread back inside the basket and waited for a while to see if the man would come back for his bread. They waited a long time, but he never did return. Too bad. It would have been great to witness to him about the truth of the state of the dead so he would never need to fear Llorona Loca again. **G**

A Timely Message

Tonight many people will try to forget the fear of death that has filled their minds for much of the year, and entertain themselves by facing another fear—the fear of spirits.

But we have good news to share. We know that death is like sleep, and that Jesus Himself will wake us up if we die! This news is just too good to keep to ourselves. That’s why *Guide* has created this special issue with a sharing insert. Simply remove the inner half of the magazine, and you’ll have a sharing piece that you can pass along to a non-Adventist friend.

Don’t want to tear apart your *Guide*? Want to share it with more than one friend? Check out the ad on page 3 to find out how to order more.

Bible Answers for You!

Want to learn more about what the Bible says about **death** and dozens of other topics? Check out the **KidZone** Bible study guides. They're perfect to help you learn more about the Bible and to share with a friend.



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Lori Peckham, editor

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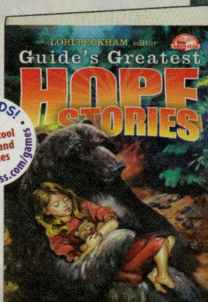
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DEATH'S DOOM



Guide

Grubers
Mars

GOOD NEWS AT THE HEART OF THE CROSS

By LORI FUTCHER

It's been a hard year. Maybe you know someone who's died. Maybe you're worried about what might happen to you.

It might be something you've never really thought much about before, but now with talk of death everywhere, you may be wondering, *What happens after someone dies? Will I be haunted by their spirit? What if I die? What's next?*

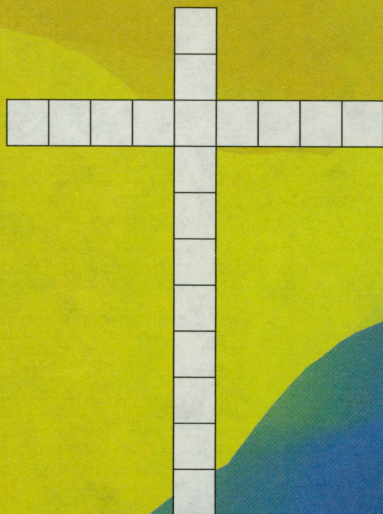
To answer these questions, let's start at the cross, where death first met its doom almost 2,000 years ago. Use the clues to fill in the crosses here. Then move the letters from the center of each cross to the appropriate blanks in the yellow box to find out what will happen to death when it meets its final doom.

Cross 1

Clues

Across: (two words) How Santiago feels about ghosts now that he has a genuine relationship with God (page H).

Down: (one word) Juliet didn't want to faint because she didn't want to become what? (page D).

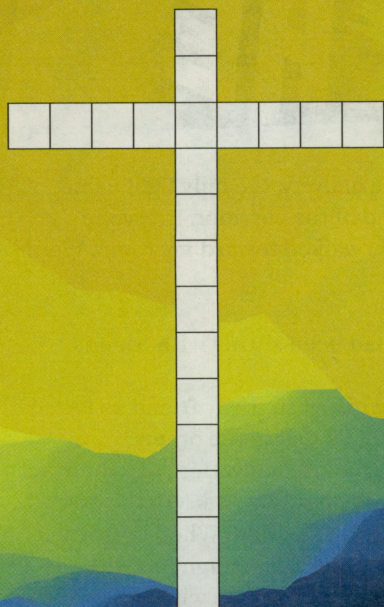


Cross 2

Clues

Across: (two words) The hope Christians have that we will do this is what gives us peace when someone dies (page J).

Down: (two words) This is one way we can keep ourselves from becoming unnecessarily frightened. The first word is another word for protect. The second word deals with an activity of the mind (page F).

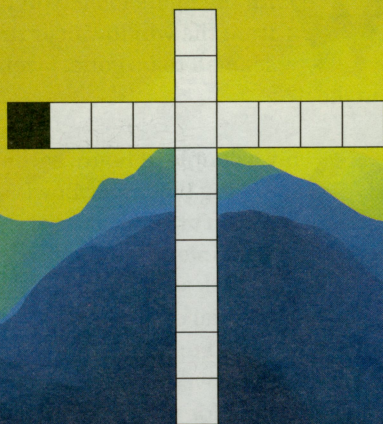


Cross 3

Clues

Across: (two words) _____
_____ us from death (page K).

Down: (two words) Before Plato's influence in the Christian church, early Christians knew there were _____
haunting gravesites (page H).



DEATH WILL _____ E _____ E!
1 2 3

Answers found at guidemagazine.org/deathsdoom

BY JULIET BROMME

DOWN THE D

With the lights flicked off in the hallway, the only light came from the window near the end of the corridor. Everyone seemed to be gone. I wobbly walked toward my room. Would I make it?

Only a couple of hours earlier I had been sitting with friends watching the Super Bowl.

“I don’t think I can eat it,” I whispered to my friend as I eyed the pizza I held in one hand and the soda I fisted in the other.

“You don’t look so good,” she commented casually. Her gaze returned to the commercial on-screen. “Maybe you should go back to the dorm.”

I quickly stood up and left the football fans behind. When I returned to my room, a wave of nausea and lightheadedness caught up with me. I made a beeline for my bed. My roommate stared at me with concern. “Is the game over?”

“No, but I think my day is,” I replied weakly. I tried to sleep, but with my head throbbing and stomach aching, I didn’t succeed. While lying in bed, I tried to convince myself that I wasn’t really sick. However, moments later as I left the bathroom and started down the vacated hall to my room, I realized how wrong I was.

Suddenly the ground beneath me seemed to swell like water, and the walls warped into distorted waves. I squinted into the distance, fighting the



black curtain falling over my consciousness, hoping to see my door before succumbing to whatever was beginning to wash over me. I didn't want to faint! If I did, how long would I be unconscious, and who would help me?

Jesus, please help me get to my room! I floated and fought my way to my doorknob and twisted it open. I swayed in the doorway as my roommate yelled, "Juliet!" Then I fell to the ground. All went black.

I woke to my roommate peering over me, still calling out my name. I had no recollection of the past few minutes and was relieved that I had made it to my room.

Collapsed and alone in a dark hallway was not how I would want to spend my Sunday evening, but at the peak of my fatigue, I called out to God, and He heard me. ©

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO DIE?

It's probably not much different than it was like for Juliet to faint.

Jesus described death as a sleep (see John 11:11-14). Just as Juliet couldn't remember anything from the time she spent unconscious, Ecclesiastes 9:5 tells us "the dead know nothing."

But in what felt like an instant to Juliet, she heard her roommate calling, and opened her eyes. Likewise, "the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His [Jesus'] voice and come forth" (John 5:28, 29).

THE HAUNTED CABIN

Santiago didn't want to admit he was scared.

AS TOLD TO JULIANA MARÍN ❁

ILLUSTRATED BY STEVE BJORKMAN

▪ ▪ knew it was a bad idea to go to the old abandoned cabin at night. I grabbed a machete from
▪ ▪ the shed and noticed Fabio slip a rosary and a Bible down his shirt.

“Come on, Santiago,” Laura said eagerly, tugging at my arm. “You’re not scared, are you?”

“I’m the oldest, aren’t I?” I snapped. “I’m carrying the machete, and I’m in charge of protecting all of you.” I strode forward, slashing at the bushes in my way.

That brave speech was more to convince myself than any of the others. Next I started telling ghost stories. My secret strategy was to scare them enough to turn back.

It backfired. By the time we could see the haunted cabin, I’d thoroughly spooked myself out.

“Hey, guys, let’s rest awhile,” I suggested, playing for time. I really didn’t want to get any closer. Laura smirked, but she sat down next to Andrés and me. Only Fabio kept going.

“Santiago!” Fabio’s voice came in a loud, hoarse whisper. I turned my head. He stood at the top of the hill, as if in a trance. “Look, Santiago, look!” Fabio breathed. “The blessed virgin Mary! She has come to us!”

The back of my neck started to tingle.

Laura scrambled to him. “What is—” She couldn’t finish her sentence.

I got up and peered over the hill. There, illuminated by the full moon, stood a tall white figure with long slender arms, surrounded by a hazy glow.

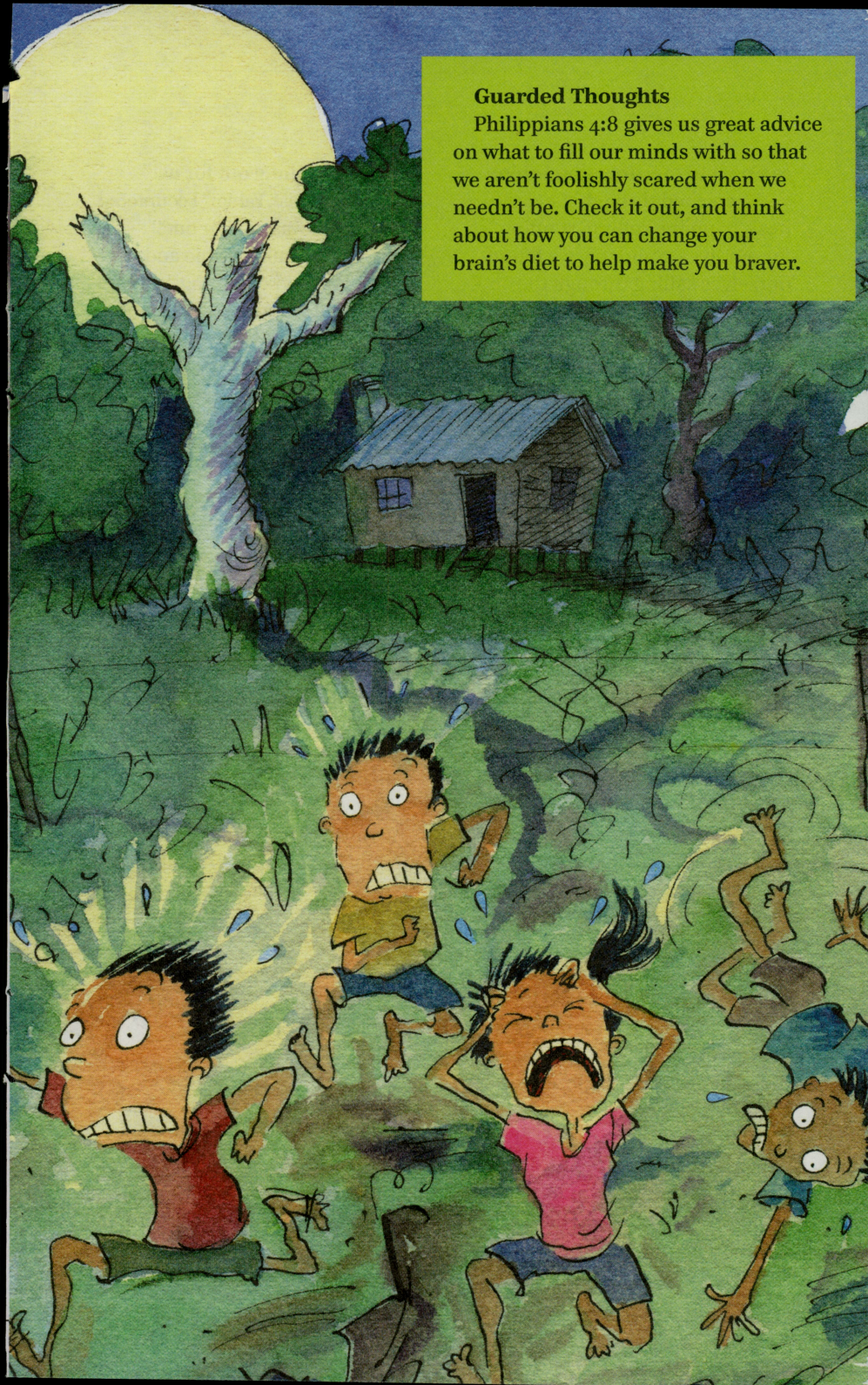
I panicked. “Run!”

Andrés spun around and flew down the hill. Laura



Guarded Thoughts

Philippians 4:8 gives us great advice on what to fill our minds with so that we aren't foolishly scared when we needn't be. Check it out, and think about how you can change your brain's diet to help make you braver.



ran next to me, dragging Fabio.

We crashed through the darkness, tripping, rolling, running for our lives. Suddenly we found ourselves sailing through the air. I heard only screams as the earth came up to meet us. We were in a huge ditch. The sides were steep, and the dirt loose, and we kept slipping and knocking each other down. I finally managed to scramble out with the rest of them.

"Let's go!" Andrés hollered. We flew on. Suddenly someone called out, "Barbed wire! Careful, guys, the fence!"

Andrés screamed as we slammed into it. "My face!" he cried. I yanked him up. The other two lifted him and essentially tossed him over the fence. The rest of us cleared it in one leap.

"We're safe," I moaned.

"Why did you pull me away?" Fabio sobbed. "The holy virgin appeared—"

"That wasn't no holy virgin, you nut case!" I said. "That was a ghost!"

Andrés' scratches from the barbed wire turned out to be minor, but then I remembered something else. Clutched rigidly in my fingers was the long un-sheathed machete.

"Oh, wow," I whispered. "I could have killed all of us. How is it possible that none of us got cut? When we fell into that ditch—"

"You see! It was the virgin Mary!

She was watching out for us!"

"It was a ghost, Fabio!" I countered.

"Maybe it was neither one!"

Laura cut in, pulling Fabio and me apart. "We saw something, but who knows what it really was? The only way we'll find out is if we go back."

The three of us nearly had a fit. "Go back? Are you crazy?"

"In the daytime," she added.

"I'm going to find out what we saw."

Are we getting close to where we saw . . . you know . . . ?" Andrés asked.

"We should be able to see the place as soon as we top this rise."

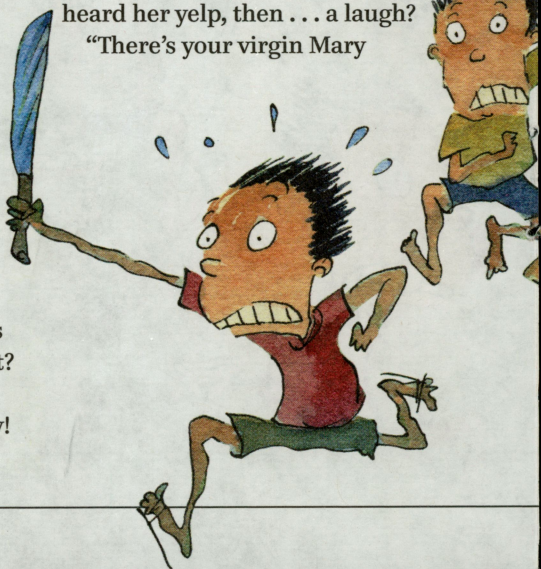
Just before we crossed the hilltop, we stopped. "It won't come out in daylight, will it?" Andrés asked apprehensively.

No one answered.

"OK, so I'll go!" Laura yelled.

"Wait!" I hollered, but she'd already bounded up the hill. We heard her yelp, then . . . a laugh?

"There's your virgin Mary



and your ghost!” she called. We moved forward and stared.

“A tree!” Laura shouted gleefully. “Nothing but a dead tree in the moonlight!”

“I saw a ghost,” I muttered as my face turned red.

“Sure you did,” Laura crowed. “Because your mind was in a spooky, haunted state, so your brain made up the details.” She turned to Fabio, “And you saw the virgin Mary because you’ve always craved a supernatural experience.”

A few years later I began attending a church that taught me about a genuine relationship with God. Since then I’ve stopped filling my mind with horror movies and stuff like that, and I’ve become braver and more relaxed.

Most important, I’m not scared of ghosts—or dead trees. **G**

This story was condensed from a story that first appeared in the February 27, 2016, issue of *Guide*.



Find the emoji that shows how Santiago felt when he thought he saw a ghost. It’s hiding somewhere in this magazine.



Q. If the Bible teaches that death is like a sleep, why do so many Christians believe they can interact with spirits of the saints?

A. Jesus, Daniel, and Paul compare death to a sleep and promised that in the future the dead will be raised to life (see John 11:11-13, Daniel 12:2, 1 Corinthians 11:30, 1 Thessalonians 4:14).

The earliest Christian writers after the apostles also considered the soul to be mortal, not immortal. So when the earliest Christians went to gravesites, they knew there were no spirits of the dead there.

But slowly, over time, influenced by Greek philosophers—especially Plato—some Christians began to speak of the soul as immortal, and eventually that came to be the predominant view among Christians. Once Christians accepted the idea of the immortality of the soul, it seemed natural for them to make requests of those whom they believed were the saints in heaven.

—Dennis Pettibone,
Adventist church historian



PEBBLES

**THE SISTERS COULDN'T BELIEVE SOPHIA'S
PRECIOUS HAMSTER WAS GONE!**

By GABRIELLE NAPPI

There's something wrong with Pebbles!" We gathered around Pebbles' home, peering in to see the small, still form.

Pebbles had become a member of our family two years earlier when I had given him to Sophia as a birthday present. Sophia had spent hours making mazes for him to explore and letting him scamper around

her room for daily exercise. On sunny afternoons you could find the two of them outside, Sophia watching him frolic about through the lawn.

Pebbles had never shown signs of tiredness or illness. Looking down at him now, still as death, I couldn't believe it.

Sophia reached into the cage to draw him out, her hand trembling from the sobs that slowly began to build. Between sobs Sophia

passed the tiny bundle to me and hurried back to her room.

I made my way to the kitchen, where the light over the sink dimly illuminated the lavender blanket Pebbles was wrapped in. I peeled back the corner of the blanket that covered his head to say one last goodbye.

"I'm so sorry, buddy." The pit in my stomach tightened at the finality of it.

Am I going crazy? Pebbles was stiff, but it looked as though he twitched for a second. *Can hamsters twitch when they're dead?*

"Sophia!" I called out, a frantic tone laced through my voice. I dared not move as I waited for her. "Sophia! Come help me!" *This must be a trick of shadows.*

Sophia hurried toward me, the grief still clear on her face.

"Sophia, I think Pebbles moved. Come look at him." Sophia flicked the light switch on as I fully uncovered his body.

"How?" Sophia breathed as she watched. "I don't understand. He was dead!" She took Pebbles from my hands. "He is breathing! He's warming up! He's alive!"

We soon learned Pebbles' "death" had been a hibernation brought on by a particularly chilly November. With this news Sophia packed Pebbles' cage with mulch, vowing her beloved friend would never be cold enough to scare her that way again. ☺

THE DIFFERENCE HOPE MAKES



Imagine how differently Gabrielle and Sophia would have felt had they realized right away that Pebbles was hibernating. They might have been sad that Pebbles couldn't play with them. Maybe they would have been eager for Pebbles to wake up from his hibernation. But they wouldn't have experienced the deep heartache of thinking that they would never see their friend again.

This is why Christians grieve differently from those who have no hope. Yes, we miss those who have died. We are eager for the day to come when we will see them again. But the hope that we will meet again gives us peace as we wait for that amazing day.

By RON REESE ❁ SIDEBARS

By LORI FUTCHER

Get up! Get out of the house! The house is on fire!”

It took Carolyn a few seconds to get her bearings. She was just about to reach into the closet to grab some clothes.

“No! There’s no time to get your clothes!” warned her mother. “Get out before the fire burns the house down!”

Carolyn ran out with her sisters. Mother stood outside holding 1-year-old Lamar. Father ran up behind them. As Carolyn turned back to look, part of the roof of their house was already caving in because of the flames.

Riley, their hired hand, had awakened Carolyn’s mom. He lived in a small one-room shack next to their house. He could have gotten out some of his belongings, but instead he ran over and pounded on doors and windows until he finally woke up Carolyn’s family. Then he stayed to make sure everyone was out. By that time his small house had caught on fire, and he lost everything he had, just as Carolyn’s family had.



*A fire turned her life
upside down, but
Carolyn wasn't alone.*

Rescued

There is one final death. It will come in the form of a fire. But just as Carolyn’s family was rescued by Riley, who gave up everything for them, we have a Rescuer who gave up everything to save us from that final death.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

God saves us from death!

WRE!



Clothed

Those of us who are rescued from that final fire will be taken to live with Jesus in heaven. But did you know that heaven has a dress code? Those who go there are expected to be clothed in righteousness. To be righteous means, well, basically you have to be perfect. But get this: Jesus wants to give you His robe of righteousness as a gift! All you have to do is take it! No strings attached!

But Jesus gives us a warning in the parable of the wedding feast for what happens when one makes the unfortunate decision of refusing this gift (see Matthew 22:1-14).



That night the family stayed with Carolyn's grandmother down the street. When Carolyn awoke the next day, she and her family looked up the road toward where their house had stood the day before. It was gone! It had burned to the ground!

Carolyn and her sisters couldn't go to school that day. They had nothing to wear. The only clothes they had were the nightgowns they had been wearing the night before. So Carolyn did the only thing she could do. Like her mom and her sisters, she wore her nightgown around Grandma's house all day long.

But then that evening before supper there was a knock on the door. As Grandma opened the door, Carolyn peered out from behind the corner and saw her friend Vivian and her mother standing in the doorway.

In her arms Vivian held two dresses. They weren't old, worn-out dresses, either. Vivian held out two brand-new beautiful dresses that her mother had just made her.

"I thought that you could use these, Carolyn." Her friend looked caring as she held them out.

"Oh, but I couldn't," Carolyn objected. "Those are your newest dresses. Those are your favorite dresses!"

"Carolyn, I wouldn't feel right about giving you my old dresses,"

explained the girl. “Here now! You take these!”

Carolyn didn’t know what to think. But she really didn’t have any options. She didn’t have anything left to wear except her nightgown—and she couldn’t wear that to school. So with misty eyes she hugged her friend and took those garments.

A short time after that, her uncle helped her and her family move to his warehouse. He had

put up some partitions to make the family more comfortable. While they were living there, he and many volunteers helped her father build their family a new home.

For the rest of her life, Carolyn never forgot the kindness of those who helped her escape the fire and rebuild her life after the devastation. Without a doubt their kindness had been a reflection of the character of God. **G**

Housed

If your home has ever been destroyed by a disaster, you know how difficult it can be to stay in a temporary housing while waiting on arrangements for a permanent home.

But Jesus doesn’t have any second-rate housing arrangements in mind for those He rescues. “In My Father’s house are many mansions . . .” He promises. “I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).

I don’t know about you, but I can’t

wait to see the place Jesus is preparing for me!



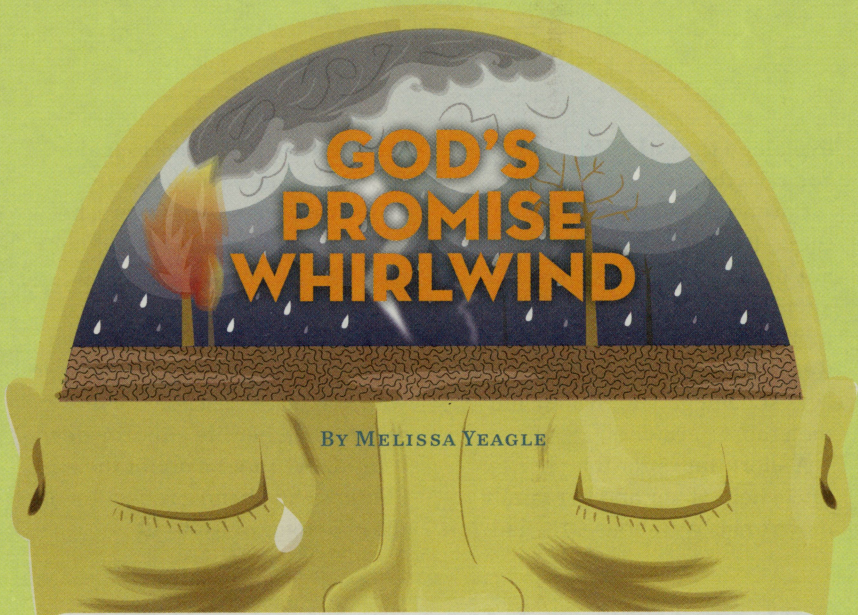
Answers God’s Promise Whirlwind, p. 0:

Promise 1: God is with you during this hard time (see Deuteronomy 31:6).

Promise 2: Nothing can happen to you that will separate you from God’s love (see Romans 8:35-39).

Promise 3: God will comfort you (see Isaiah 49:13).

Promise 4: God will help you (see Psalm 121:1, 2).

An illustration of a person's face in profile, looking down. Inside the head, there is a scene of a storm with dark clouds, rain, a lightning bolt, a tree, and a candle. The title 'GOD'S PROMISE WHIRLWIND' is written in large, bold, orange letters across the storm scene.

GOD'S PROMISE WHIRLWIND

BY MELISSA YEAGLE

When someone we love and are close to dies, it can be devastating. To have someone who is a big part of your world taken out of it suddenly can throw anyone's life into a tailspin. There is a whirlwind of emotions to deal with: overwhelming sadness over the loss, anger as to why it happened, anxiety as to what is going to happen next, and much more. We need to cling to God's promises when we are going through this.

Here are four of God's promises, but they have gone through a whirlwind. Can you put the words in order so they make sense? For the last two, we gave you an extra challenge and combined them together.

Promise 1: with you God is during this time hard

Promise 2: to that will separate you you from God's love Nothing can happen

God you comfort will you will God help

Promise 3: _____

Promise 4: _____



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Answers on p. N

COVERT OPERATIONS

The artist named Herkomer was born in Europe's Black Forest. While Herkomer was a gifted artist, his father was only a simple woodchopper. As Herkomer's fame spread, he moved to London and continued to work. And he soon sent for his father to join him. His father was so proud of the gifted artist his son had become. Jokingly he would often attribute his son's success to a genetic trait.

The old man would try to make artifacts out of clay, and while they were often quite good, they were not the quality of his son's work. Still, the father and son worked together and made a good living as artisans in the London area. As time went on, the old man's abilities decreased, and the quality of his work diminished. Sometimes it was clear on his face how

disappointed he was in himself and in the quality of his work.

Herkomer felt sad about his aged father's condition and would often notice the flaws in his handiwork and want to do something to help him. So when his father would go upstairs to bed, Herkomer would stay up late and begin his covert operations. He would shape and fashion the artifacts that had defects until they were perfect. He would then smile as he retired, knowing that the next day his father would hear the people remark about the quality of his work. And when people did comment, the unsuspecting old man would beam with a sense of value. Herkomer knew that his father's dignity and pride were all that he had in his old age, and he wouldn't allow those to be taken away.

EARLITEEN SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

November 7, 2020
Lesson study for
Oct. 31-Nov. 6



realtimefaith.net

LESSON 6: SECRET GOODNESS

SABBATH Read this week's Real-Time Faith story.

Memory Text: "Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly" (Matthew 6:2-4).

Our Beliefs, no. 12, The Church: "The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word revealed in the Scriptures. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head."

Read *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 80-83.

SUNDAY Read Acts 2:44, 45.

Brenda secretly made a plate of cookies for a man who lived on her street. He seemed old and lonely. She thought that knowing someone cared might cheer him up. She left the plate on his doorstep with a note of encouragement and left quietly.

The next day she received a small loaf of freshly baked bread on her porch with a note. She thought, *He must have seen me leave the cookies, and now he knows it was me.* Then she read the bottom of the note, which said, "PS: I saw how kind you

were to that man and just wanted you to know that it made an impact on me. But I'm not telling you who I am either." The secrecy continued around the neighborhood. Which is more important, the secrecy or the act of kindness?

Which part of the experience has an impact on the giver? Which has an impact on the receiver? What is the kindest thing someone has done for you as a secret? How did it make you feel not knowing who it was?

MONDAY Read Acts 2:44-47; 5:23-26; Colossians 1:17, 18; 1 Peter 2:9.

One of the distinguishing marks of the church is Christian service to the needs of the community. We are to minister in loving service to those around us, taking care of their physical and spiritual needs.

"Sincerity of purpose, real kindness of heart, is the motive that Heaven values. The soul that is sincere in its love, wholehearted in its devotion, God regards as more precious than the golden wedge of Ophir. We are not to think of reward, but of service; yet kindness shown in this spirit will not fail of its recompense" (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 81).

Read Psalm 139:1-3 in different versions of the Bible (go to Biblegateway.com) and write down your favorite.

Find the Bible text in the maze below. You may go up, down, forward, backward, and diagonally. The last letter of the word touches the first letter of the next word. It is one of the three texts listed here: James 2:14-17; Matthew 6:2-4; Psalm 139:1-3. It is from the New International Version.



TUESDAY Read Matthew 10:8.

"Christ has linked His interest with that of humanity, and He asks us to become one with Him for the saving of humanity" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 504).

Treating others with kindness, with no strings attached, is what God wants us to do for others.

Give secret kindness a chance to shape the way you live every each day.

Those who want to run a marathon have to train. Training in the spiritual life is not much different. God does not claim that this disciplined way of life is easy. But He promises that it is full. He guarantees that your life will be exciting. But it does take exercise. So take the tiny steps today to follow through on an act of kindness, and see for yourself how rewarding it is to live for Jesus as you serve others. You will be back for more.

WEDNESDAY**Fill in the blanks.**

Look up the following texts and fill in the blanks. When you have finished this activity, choose a text to share with your class and explain what it means to you. Texts are from the New International Version.

1. "I the Lord _____ the heart and _____ the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their _____ deserve" (Jeremiah 17:10).
2. "A _____ given in _____ soothes anger, and a bribe concealed in the cloak _____ great wrath" (Proverbs 21:14).
3. "_____ you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the _____, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ _____ are _____" (Colossians 3:23, 24).
4. "All the believers were _____ and had _____ in common. They sold _____ and _____ to _____ to anyone who had _____" (Acts 2:44, 45).
5. "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have _____ but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is _____ clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; _____ warm and _____ fed,' but does _____ about their _____ needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by _____, is dead" (James 2:14-17).

THURSDAY**Review the memory text.**

"Acts of kindness performed in secret will bind hearts together, and will draw them closer to the heart of Him from whom every generous impulse springs" (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 82).

God has many gifts to give you—love of family members, success, even a few moments of sadness to remind you of a better world coming. When we give gifts of unselfish service to others, we get a "sneak peek" into how God must feel when He gives to us. Selflessness is God's outstanding characteristic, and it draws others to Christ. But how can anyone get a glimpse of God's selflessness other than through us, His children? Think about it.

No, actually, most people have already thought about it. Go beyond thinking about it. Try it.

Think about your answers to these questions:

1. Name some of the gifts God has given you.
2. What are some ways you could show kindness to others? (What's your plan?)
3. When you're trying to show kindness to someone, what is most important to remember: to keep it a secret, or just do good for someone? Explain.
4. Why is it suggested that we "do good" in secret?

FRIDAY**Read Romans 12:9-13.**

It is essential to plan acts of kindness thoughtfully. Start with one or two that are manageable. It is also extremely important to be open to spontaneous opportunities that spring up around you.

The checkpoints for planned kindness are the same ones to use for more spontaneous acts of kindness.

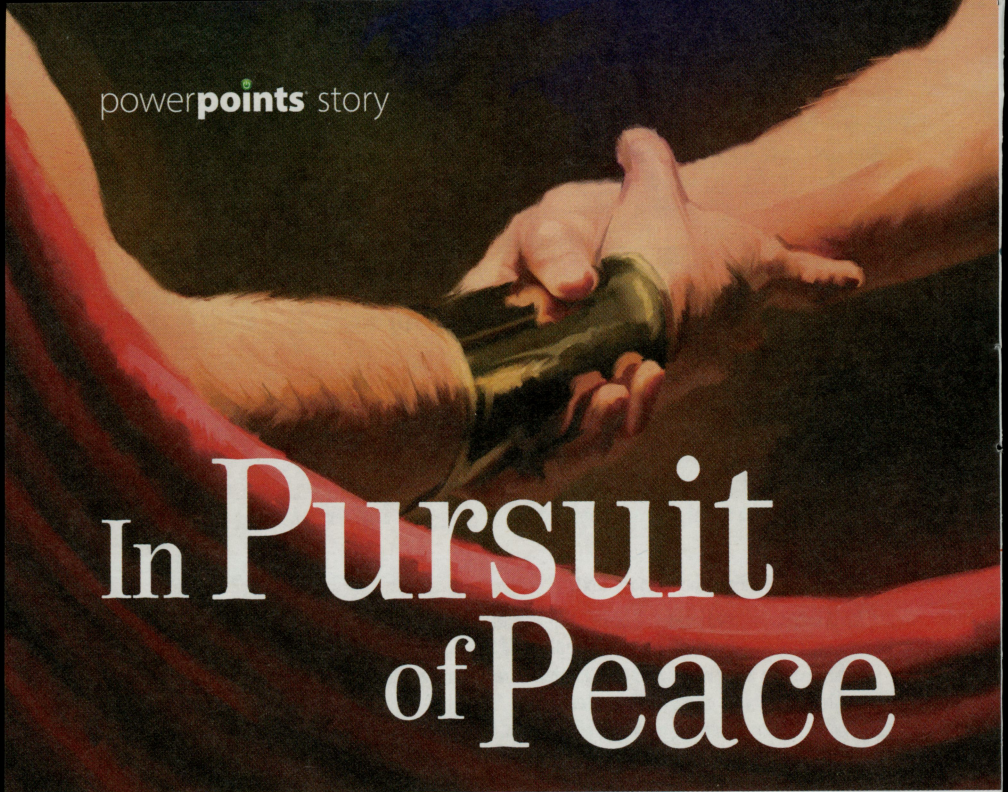
Below is a series of questions to help you. Reflect and write out your experiences this week.

The criteria:

- Who is someone who has a need?
- What can you do to respond to that need with no strings attached?
- How can you avoid being recognized as the source of help?

Planned _____

Spontaneous _____



In Pursuit of Peace

Is there a peacemaker in your family? Someone who steps in when people are having a great debate and things begin to get unpleasant? After Absalom's death King David found himself in a situation in which he had to be the peacemaker, and it wasn't easy.

With the rebellion over, David thought about returning home to his palace in Jerusalem. But there was still plenty to worry about first. The Bible says, "Throughout the tribes of Israel, all the people were arguing among themselves" (2 Samuel 19:9, NIV). Some unhappy Israelites still sympathized with the rebels.

How can God bless us if we don't get along? the king mused. We can't call ourselves followers of God and hate one another.

David paced back and forth in his chambers and prayed.

Then the king had a brilliant but risky idea. "I want to put Amasa [AM-a-sa] in charge of all my soldiers," he announced.

David knew that Amasa was a good man at heart. If entrusted with responsibility, he would rise to the occasion and be loyal to his king. Amasa was too valuable to be put away and shunned.

David was right. Kindness did win the heart of his former enemy, and Amasa gained many

supporters for the king.

Finally David decided it was time to move back to Jerusalem. The journey began, and his long caravan soon reached the east shore of the Jordan River. *Who is that person coming across the river? Could it be Shimei [SHIM-ee-i], that troublemaker?* Sure enough, it was Shimei, the one who had cursed the king when he was running from Absalom [AB-sah-lum]. He jumped off his horse, bowed down to the ground, and pleaded, “May my lord not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong on the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king put it out of his mind. For I, your servant, know that I have sinned, but today I have come here as the first from the tribes of Joseph to come down and meet my lord the king.”

“Shouldn’t Shimei be put to death for this?” asked Abishai, son of Zeruiah [zuh-Roo-yah]. “He cursed the Lord’s anointed.”

“Should anyone be put to death in Israel today?” David asked in reply. “Don’t I know that today I am king over Israel?”

As king David could have had Shimei executed immediately. Instead he held out his hand to Shimei and said, “You shall not die” (verses 19-22, NIV).

Later David resolved a bitter argument between two important people. Ziba [ZY-buh]

had accused his master, Mephibosheth [me-FIB-o-sheth], of disloyalty to the king, and as a result Ziba was given his master’s inheritance. When David returned to Jerusalem, however, he listened to Mephibosheth’s side of the story; Mephibosheth claimed to be innocent and wrongly accused by his servant. The king sought to find a solution to their conflict, and as a result he divided the land equally between them.

David’s influence continued to spread throughout the nation until unity was largely restored. Although he made many mistakes, he also learned to be a peacemaker. He knew that working to get along with others is an important part of following God and leading His people.

Within the Godhead the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is characterized by unity. The relationship between husband and wife is also built on unity of purpose and action. God’s desire for us is to live and work together in unity. This can be accomplished—by the power of God—only when the members of the church relate to each other with Christian love and respect. It is a great blessing to pursue peace with one another and to build harmonious relationships that lead to unity.

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity at guidemagazine.org.

Sunday

READ Read 2 Samuel 19:1-8 and this week's lesson, "In Pursuit of Peace."

CREATE Create a picture of sowing and reaping. Include this week's power text in the picture.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be a peacemaker.

Monday

READ Read 2 Samuel 19:9-30.

THINK Try to remember a victory celebration that was ruined by someone's bad attitude about the victory. How did it make you feel? Was Joab justified in his rebuke of David's response to their victory? Why or why not?

THINK Think of a situation in which you should have reacted more as David did toward Shimei. If this situation still exists, contact the person involved and try to solve the problem by being forgiving.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you reconcile your relationships that need healing.

Tuesday

READ Read 2 Samuel 19:31-43.

THINK It had not been unusual for David to deal harshly with his enemies. Why did he react so kindly in this case?

WRITE Explain in your own words why it is not a sign of weakness to forgive others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you always have a forgiving spirit toward others.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 5:9. What promise do peacemakers have from God?

FIND Look for information on the peacemaking negotiations that are going on between two nations.

THINK How are the issues that those nations face similar to those of two teenagers who dislike one another? How are they different?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you develop traits in your character to make you a peacemaker.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 18:21, 22.

THINK Think about the mathematics involved in the verses above (check the margin in NIV). Do you think Jesus meant that if a person has hurt you 70x7+1 times, you no longer have to forgive them? Explain your answer.

ACT Act out the Bible story at family worship tonight.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you have a forgiving spirit.

Friday

READ Read Jeremiah 33:8.

THINK A clean slate is a familiar way of describing how it feels when you've been forgiven of something. Think of other word images and symbols that help represent what forgiveness means to you.

CREATE Sketch, draw, or paint your own illustration of something that reminds you of the meaning of forgiveness. Place it in your room where it will serve as a reminder of God's forgiveness in your life.

SAY Repeat the power text, James 3:18, by memory.

PRAY Thank God that He forgives you every time you ask Him. Praise Him, for His mercy knows no limit.

juniorpowerpoints.org

Lesson 6
November 7, 2020
Lesson study for
Oct. 31-Nov. 6

Key References: 2 Samuel 19; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 745; *Our Beliefs*, nos. 14, 11, 7.

POWER POINT

We reflect God's grace by solving conflicts peacefully.

POWER TEXT

"Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness" (James 3:18, NIV).



THOUGH ABSALOM'S UPRISING IS OVER, THE PEOPLE ARE FAR FROM UNITED.



KING DAVID'S ARMY GENERAL, JOAB, PERSUADES HIM TO GO OUT AND ENCOURAGE HIS TROOPS.

DAVID MAKES A RADICAL MOVE TO UNITE THE NATION, ASKING THE COMMANDER OF ABSALOM'S ARMY TO NOW SERVE HIM.



Say to Amasa, "Are you not my bone and my flesh? I want you to serve as commander of my army now, in place of Joab."

INSPIRED BY HIS OPEN-HEARTEDNESS, THE PEOPLE RALLY TO THEIR KING.

AS DAVID RETURNS TO JERUSALEM, HE IS MET BY SHIMEI, WHO HAD CURSED AND JEERED HIM JUST DAYS BEFORE.



My lord, do not hold me guilty. Do not remember how your servant did wrong the day my lord the king left Jerusalem. May the king put it out of his mind.

Shouldn't Shimei be put to death for this?

He cursed God's anointed.

What does this have to do with you?

Should anyone be put to death in Israel today?

Don't you know that today I am king over Israel?

Shimei, I pledge to you, you shall not die.

STEP BY STEP, KING DAVID WORKS TO RESTORE PEACE AND UNITY TO ISRAEL.

MORE NEXT WEEK!





Factory Focus

Around 58 percent of Americans believe that places can be haunted by spirits or ghosts. —blogs.chapman.edu

Death is referred to as “sleep” more than 40 times in the Bible.
—biblestudytools.com



Deadly Myths and Facts



Ecclesiastes 9:5 says, that “the dead know nothing.” Adventists believe that death is a sleep until the return of Jesus, when believers will be resurrected. —Adventist.org

Ellen White says that Satan “has power to bring before men the appearance of their departed friends. . . . Many are comforted with the assurance that their loved ones are enjoying the bliss of heaven, and without suspicion of danger, they give ear ‘to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.’ ”
—*The Great Controversy*, pp. 551, 552



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There are hundreds of movies and shows about ghosts, including more than 20 “reality” shows that attempt to prove that ghosts are real. —wikipedia.com

