



**THE BIBLE AS A GUIDE OF LIFE  
(Sabbath School Program)**

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**Scripture Focus: Psalms 119:105**

**Suggested Hymns:**

- No. 286 “Wonderful Words of Life”
- No. 290 “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”
- No. 457 “I Love to Tell the Story”
- No. 518 “Standing on the Promises”

**Opening Hymn: No. 272 “Give Me the Bible”**

**Preparation.** This program is about the value of the Bible for our contemporary personal lives, combined with a Bible quiz.

*[Put together a ten question Bible quiz and project it on the screen or pass it out to the congregation. A sample Bible quiz is included at the end of this program. The purpose of a Bible quiz is to awaken interest and focus attention on the topic of the program.]*

The program that follows is organized as a panel discussion. You can also organize it as an interview or as a conversation between a group of people. You could also have someone who is an expert on the Bible make a presentation.

The information is taken from *In Step With Jesus*, “The Journey Begins,” lesson 9. *In Step With Jesus* is the series of discipleship Bible study guides developed by the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department of the General Conference. It is designed for new Adventists but provides good guidance for all of us.

**Welcome:** Welcome to Sabbath School this morning. Since the Bible was written thousands of years ago, how can it be a guide for our lives today? Is there any help in the Bible for the issues we face today? Do we need a college education to understand the Bible? Well, let’s see!

**Moderator** – In the Bible you will find your values, your purpose in life, and how to follow Jesus. But there is one small problem between your desire to use the Bible as a guide for your life and your ability to do so: the Bible is no ordinary book. In fact, it is composed of 66 books, written across a span of 1,500 years, and the last book was written just over 2,000 years ago. In some places in the world, the geographic and cultural settings for the books of the Bible are familiar. In other places they are far removed from what people are familiar with. How can these gaps be bridged?

**Panel member** – It really does matter where you live. From beginning to end, the Bible is the story of how God interacts with human beings. A question that confronts all of us is, “What should I do with my life?” In His teaching and in His interaction with others, Jesus often quoted Scripture. It is difficult to be precise, but it is estimated that He quoted from more than 20 Old Testament books. He was thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures.

**Panel member** – Let’s look up John 7:14, 15 (*read or have offstage voice read*). Obviously, Jesus had studied the Scriptures a great deal. What the people meant by this comment is that Jesus had never formally studied in the Jewish school system of the time. It is still true that whatever our cultural background is, it is not necessary to have an advanced education to learn and understand the Scriptures.

**Panel member** – I would like to quote something from Ellen G. White on this topic. “We all need a guide through the many straight places of life, as much as the sailor needs a pilot over the sandy bar or up the rocky river; and where is this guide to be found? The one book that is essential for all to study is the Bible. Studied with reverence and godly fear, it is the greatest of all educators. Its pages are filled with truth. Would you gain a knowledge of God and of Christ, whom the Father sent into the world to live and die for sinners? An earnest, diligent study of the Bible is necessary in order to gain this knowledge” (*Signs of the Times*, March 21, 1906).

**Moderator** – How can the Scriptures help you know and follow God’s will? By now you know that there is no way you can look in an index or do an electronic search through the Bible to find direct answers to questions such as, Should I marry so-and-so? Should I stay in my current job? or issues like that.

**Panel member** – You have to learn how to correctly interpret the Bible. Sometimes a person who wants to have a specific answer from God to a particular question will ask the question to themselves, open the Bible to a random place, lay a finger on the page, and then look to see what they think God has told them. This method is definitely not recommended. It has more in common with gambling than discovering the will of God. You can use a single text in such a way that it actually goes against the will of God. Some people keep doing this until they find a text they like and call it the “will of God.”

**Panel member** – That’s true. To know God’s will for your life, you need to be familiar with the Bible. You need to know what Jesus teaches. Some things are very plain. In fact Jesus Himself summed up all the teachings of the Scriptures into two commands. What are those commands? Let’s read Matthew 22:35 - 40 (*read or have offstage voice read*). You can know that your decisions need to be made within the boundaries of these two commands.

**Panel member** – Ok, but I have a question. What should you do if all the options of a decision are within the boundaries of these two commands? It is the consensus of many mature Christians that there are three things that work together to help a Christian make a decision within the will of God:

- (1) Passages of Scripture
- (2) Impressions of the Holy Spirit
- (3) Circumstances (including the counsel of other believers)

When all three of these indicators lead to the same conclusion, you can have more confidence that the decision is the right one.

**Moderator (summary and conclusion)** - Few of us hear God speak to us audibly, but we know that the Bible, as it is impressed on our minds by the Holy Spirit, is the Word of God to us. According to Jesus, what advantage comes from following Him? Let's read John 8:12. (*Read or have offstage voice read*). Careful Bible study really is essential for a successful Christian life.

**Closing Hymn:** No. 534 "Will Your Anchor Hold?"

### Sample Bible Quiz

1. Who was the first person in the Bible to say, "I am afraid?" (Adam – Genesis 3:10)
2. What common household animal is never mentioned in the Bible? (Cat)
3. In what kind of tree was Absalom hung by his hair? (Oak – 2 Samuel 18:9)
4. How long was Jesus with the disciples after the resurrection? (40 days – John 1:3)
5. Who rode to her wedding on a camel? (Rebekah – Genesis 24:61)
6. What man lived longer than his father, but died before his father? (Methuselah – Genesis 5:21 – His father was Enoch, who never died!)
7. What is the shortest chapter in the Bible? (Psalms 117)
8. Where does the Bible say that three wise men came to visit the baby Jesus? (It doesn't mention "three." – Matthew 2:1)
9. What was the first real estate deal mentioned in the Bible? Who was the buyer and who was the seller? (Genesis 23:9 – Abraham bought a burial site from Machpelah.)
10. What is the longest verse in the Bible? (Esther 8:9)

### Bible Quiz

<b><u>Question:</u></b>	<b><u>Answer:</u></b>
1. Who was the first person in the Bible to say, "I am afraid?"	
2. What common household animal is never mentioned in the Bible?	
3. In what kind of tree was Absalom hung by his hair?	
4. How long was Jesus with the disciples after the resurrection?	
5. Who rode to her wedding on a camel?	
6. What man lived longer than his father, but died before his father?	
7. What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?	
8. Where does the Bible say that three wise men came to visit the baby Jesus?	
9. What was the first real estate deal mentioned in the Bible? Who was the buyer and who was the seller?	
10. What is the longest verse in the Bible?	

### Bible Quiz

<b><u>Question:</u></b>	<b><u>Answer:</u></b>
11. Who was the first person in the Bible to say, "I am afraid?"	
12. What common household animal is never mentioned in the Bible?	
13. In what kind of tree was Absalom hung by his hair?	
14. How long was Jesus with the disciples after the resurrection?	
15. Who rode to her wedding on a camel?	
16. What man lived longer than his father, but died before his father?	
17. What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?	
18. Where does the Bible say that three wise men came to visit the baby Jesus?	
19. What was the first real estate deal mentioned in the Bible? Who was the buyer and who was the seller?	
20. What is the longest verse in the Bible?	