Finding Significance in the Meaning of Life
(Sabbath School Program)

April 8, 2023

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Est Central Africa Division

- Gather together three or four groups (or more if needed) of Sabbath School classes according to the members’ strengths in the church. Assign a reporter for each group to share the information discussed.
- The Sabbath school moderator will announce an introduction that will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the small group questionnaire.

**Questionnaire Introduction**
According to recent research, there is a raising rate of toxicomania, the overtaking of drugs and alcohol, throughout the world than previously thought.

“According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)’s World Drug Report 2022. Released today, the report ... details record rises in the manufacturing of cocaine, the expansion of synthetic drugs to new markets, and continued gaps in the availability of drug treatments, especially for women. According to the report, around 284 million people aged 15-64 used drugs worldwide in 2020, a 26 per cent increase over the previous decade. Young people are using more drugs, with use levels today in many countries higher than with the previous generation. In Africa and Latin America, people under 35 represent the majority of people being treated for drug use disorders. Globally, the report estimates that 11.2 million people worldwide were injecting drugs.”

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1[www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org) Vienna, Austria, June 27, 2022
Discussion of Questionnaire by Groups

1. According to you, what is the source of this increase in drug consumption?
2. Is there any trustworthy plan to help people decrease or stop their drug use? What is that plan?
3. Who is the main actor behind the curtain encouraging the increase of factories and drug markets that incite the excessive consumption of drugs?

At the end of five or ten minutes of group discussion, bring all the members back together to discuss the questions.

Next:

1. Listen to each group reporter.
2. Deduct from the different groups which answers appear common to all groups.
3. Discover sensitive elements about our spirituality.

After the above exercise, the moderator will introduce the biblical study in response to different questions that have been asked on the outlook of the great controversy:

1. **To the first question, the growing tendency of the consumption of drugs would be that for many persons it is due to hopelessness of everyday life. The word of God says:**

   “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken” (Luke 21:25-26).

   “For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water” (Jeremiah 2:13).

2. **To the second question, it is to know that there is a trustworthy plan that would let people cut down on their drug use in order to improve things, and two answers are right:**
b. God has already foreseen a means to straighten things up.

In Revelation the apostle John says:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:1-4).

Isaiah 66:22-23 says, “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.”

God promises new heavens and a new land in which troubles and sorrows will not be and in which suffering will end. The apostle Paul says:

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be reaveled in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now” (Romans 8:18-22).
3. To the third question, who is the main actor behind the curtain, encouraging the multiplication of factories and drug markets that incite the excessive consumption of drugs? It is Satan.

In Romans 8:20 we read “For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope.” Life’s chaos does not come up at random. There is a master of this hoax. Revelation 12:7-9, 12 reveals that the master of this hoax is Satan, who causes the great controversy. The good gospel to humanity is that “…For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8)²

When we comprehend these weapons of the universal ancestral conflict between Christ and Satan—between good and evil—we feel hopeful again within our hearts. Anxiety gives up its place to peace and certainty replaces doubt. Let’s go to Christ’s side, as He’s the one who will overcome, and He will prevail. God bless you!

**Sabbath School Closing Program:**
631—“When on Life a Darkness Falls” (*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*)

**Final Prayer**

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²Unless noted otherwise, all scripture references in the program are from the *King James Version* of the Bible.