



VISITOR'S DAY **(Sabbath School Program)**

April 9, 2022

Florian Ristea, Director
Sabbath School and Personal Ministries
Inter-European Division

Visitor's Day

Sabbath School Program (ideas, suggestions, recommendations)

Suggested hymns

- No. 499 – “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”
- No. 186 – “I’ve found a Friend”
- No. 187 – “Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners”
- No. 522 – “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”
- No. 526 – “Because He Lives”

Preparation

- All Sabbath School groups in the church will be encouraged to set a goal of inviting at least a friend/visitor (other than Adventists) for the Sabbath of April 9, 2022. It is recommended that on the Sabbath of April 2 (one week before), at the end of the Sabbath School lesson in groups, each instructor should suggest his/her group members to invite at least one person to their group, for the next Sabbath. The announcement can be repeated from the pulpit, at the end of the Sabbath School, or at the church public announcements.
- Pastors and churches who, for objective reasons, cannot organize the Sabbath School Visitor's Day on the Sabbath of April 9, 2022, will reschedule it for a later date.

Program

- At the opening of the Sabbath School program, the leader will say “Welcome!” to all those present, and a sincere appreciation to the guests having responded to the invitation (if they cannot be present to the church, they can be suggested to connect through the internet). It will also be mentioned that April 9, 2022 (or the date it was rescheduled) is a special day

for the Sabbath School program, dedicated to our friends, whom we have invited to attend our program on this special day.

- For the program in the Sabbath School groups, we suggest choosing one of the following two options:
 1. To discuss the content of the weekly Sabbath School lesson.
 2. To discuss themes or topics proposed by our friends and guests.

Suggestions for the first option

- The Sabbath School teacher will introduce himself / herself and the group members to the guest(s), then ask the guest to introduce themselves (or they may be introduced by the person who invited them).
- To open, the Sabbath School teacher will ask the group members to answer the question, “What does a true friend mean to you?” Appreciate every answer!
- If you have a prayer list of the group, you might mention the names on the list and the reasons why you put them on the list, and then pray for those people and their needs. If you don’t have a prayer list, this would be the time to make it! That moment of prayer can also be an opportunity to pray for guests who have joined the group.
- Then, move on to the weekly lesson! During the discussion, the Sabbath School teacher will try to involve the guests as much as possible, without putting them in embarrassing situations.
- Sometimes, after a member of the group has given an answer to a specific question, the instructor will also ask for the guests’ opinions, appreciating their willingness to be involved in the discussion.
- At the end of the discussion, don’t forget to appreciate the involvement and answers of the group members, but also the presence and, possibly, the involvement of the guests!

Suggestions for the second option

- You might choose this option if at least one of the guests has a question or wants to clarify a topic in the spiritual area.
- If you all have agreed to this option, the guests will propose the topics for discussion, and the Sabbath School group members, along with the teacher will answer their questions. That means – only this time! – you give up the regular Sabbath School lesson to give an opportunity to clarify the guests’ questions.
- This should be an opportunity for guests (friends of the Sabbath School) to feel free to ask questions – it’s the Visitor’s Day, isn’t it? – and the group members, coordinated by the

teacher, indicate the biblical texts that contain the answers to their questions. So let us give them the opportunity to choose what to discuss if they have their own questions or topics!

- Be prepared to give them answers! When one of the group members will have an answer, we hope he/she will express it in a warm, not accusing, but constructive manner.
- At the end of the discussion, don't forget to appreciate the questions and topics brought into discussion by the guests, as well as the answers of the group members! Also, give thanks to all for their presence and involvement in the discussion!

Important!

- A special sermon has been prepared for the divine service, which follows the Sabbath School. It can be read or adapted by the speaker. It can be downloaded from the Sabbath School Department website: <https://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/special-sabbaths>
- During the sermon, before the conclusion, a special moment (marked in the text of the sermon) is suggested, dedicated to friends who visit us or attend church. It will be handled by the sermon presenter. For this special moment we suggest the following:
 1. The presenter will mention the name of each friend (asking him to identify himself by raising his hand or standing up) and will say a few words of appreciation.
 2. Each friend / visitor will be given a memory of the visit to our church, on the occasion of this special day. It might be: a Bible, a greeting card, a book signed with a biblical text, a souvenir with a personalized message, etc. (procure any of the desired options in advance).
 3. The presenter will offer a special prayer of thanks and intercession for all the friends present.
- If possible, after the end of the morning program, organize a meal of fellowship, inviting all friends / visitors who participated in the program!
- Take photos and send them to us to see! ([Insert email address here!](#))

Praying for a successful program,

Florian Ristea