

A Step in Faith



SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: *Phil. 2:5–11; Matt. 4:18–20; Acts 9:3–6, 10–20; John 21:15–19; 1 John 3:16–18.*

Memory Text: “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men” (*Philippians 2:5–7, NKJV*).

Jesus came to this world of suffering and death in order to reveal the Father's character of love, to win back the affection of the human race, and to redeem all humankind. “Never can the cost of our redemption be realized until the redeemed shall stand with the Redeemer before the throne of God. Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that He not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the risk of failure and eternal loss. Then we shall cast our crowns at His feet, and raise the song, ‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.’ Rev. 5:12.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 131.

The sacrifice that Jesus made for our salvation is incalculable. When we respond to His leading, accept His command, and unite with Him in reaching lost people for His kingdom, it calls for sacrifice. Although our sacrifices can never in any way compare to His, soul-winning ministry is a leap in faith for us, as well. It leads us out of our comfort zones into uncharted waters. At times, our Lord calls us to make sacrifices, but the joys He offers are far greater.

* Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, September 26.

Jesus' Self-Sacrificing Love

The apostle Paul encourages us to “let” or “allow” or “permit” the mind of Christ to dwell in us. This leads us to some fascinating questions. What was the mind of Christ like? What governed His thought patterns? What was the essence of His thinking?

Read Philippians 2:5–11. How do these verses reveal the heart of Christ's thinking and the pattern that governed His entire life?

From all eternity Jesus was equal with God the Father. Paul declares this eternal truth in these words, “who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God” (*Phil. 2:6, NKJV*). The word translated as “form” is the Greek word *morphē*. It means the very essence of a thing. It links two things that are of equal value. *The SDA Bible Commentary* puts it this way: “This places Christ on an equality with the Father, and sets Him far above every other power. Paul stresses this in order to portray more vividly the depths of Christ's voluntary humiliation.” —Volume 7, p. 154. Speaking of His eternal nature, Ellen G. White adds, “In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived.”—*The Desire of Ages*, p. 530.

Jesus, who was equal with God from all eternity, “made Himself of no reputation” (*Phil. 2:7, NKJV*). This also is a fascinating Greek expression. It literally can be translated “emptied.” Jesus voluntarily “emptied Himself” of His privileges and prerogatives as God's equal to take on the form of a man and become a humble servant of humanity. As a servant, He revealed heaven's law of love to the entire universe and, eventually, performed the ultimate act of love on the cross. He gave His life to save ours, eternally.

The essence of Jesus' thinking was self-sacrificial love. To follow Jesus means that we love as He loved, serve as He served, and minister as He ministered. Allowing Jesus through His Holy Spirit to empty us of selfish ambition will cost us something. It cost Jesus everything. But Scripture says of Jesus, “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name” (*Phil. 2:9, NKJV*).

Heaven will be worth any sacrifice we make on earth. There will be sacrifices along the way, but the joys of service will outweigh them today, and the eternal joy of living with Christ throughout all eternity will make any sacrifice we make here seem insignificant.

**When was the last time you truly had to die to self for Christ's sake?
What does your answer say to you about your Christian walk?**

Commitment's Call

Imagine that you are Peter and John. The sun has just risen on a beautiful Galilean morning, chasing away the chill of the night air. Your thoughts are on one thing: catching fish, a lot of them. The fishing has been good recently, and you are looking forward to another day of great fishing. Then in the early morning light you see Him approaching, Jesus of Nazareth. Little do you know that in a few moments your whole life will change. You will never be the same again.

Read Matthew 4:18–20. **Why do you think Peter and John were willing to make such a radical commitment to follow Christ? What in the text indicates that Jesus was calling them to a higher purpose than catching fish?**

From the gospel of John we learn that these men already knew something about Jesus for more than a year, yet had not made a full commitment to Him. Still, there must have been a divine demeanor about Christ, something about His appearance, words, and actions that indicated to these Galilean fishermen that He was inviting them to a divine calling. The reason they left their boats, occupation, and familiar surroundings to follow Him was that they sensed the call to a higher purpose. These ordinary fishermen recognized that they were called for an extraordinary purpose. In the same way, God may not be calling you to leave your profession today, but He is calling you to an extraordinary purpose: to share His love and to witness of His truth for the glory of His name.

Consider the call of Matthew, the tax collector, in Matthew 9:9. **What do you see in this passage that is quite remarkable?**

Tax collectors in the Roman world were often extortionists who used their official power to oppress the common people. They were some of the most hated and despised characters in all of Israel. Christ's invitation, " 'Follow Me,' " presupposes that Matthew had heard of Jesus and in his heart had a longing to follow Him. When the invitation came, he was ready. He was amazed that Christ would accept him and invite him to be one of His disciples.

Deep within all of our hearts there is a longing for something more in life. We, too, want to live for something worthwhile, for a grander, nobler purpose. Hence, Christ calls us, like Matthew, to follow Him.

Think about what people have had to give up to follow Jesus. Why, in the end, will it always be worth it?

Paul: God's Chosen Vessel

When Paul accepted Christ, his whole life was radically changed. Christ gave him an entirely new future. He led him out of his comfort zone to experiences he could hardly have imagined. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance, the apostle Paul proclaimed the Word of God to thousands throughout the Mediterranean world. His witness changed the history of Christianity and the world.

Read Acts 9:3–6, 10–20. How do these verses reveal that Jesus had a divine purpose for Paul's life?

Jesus often chooses the most unlikely candidates to bear witness to His name. Think of the demoniacs, the Samaritan woman, a prostitute, a tax collector, Galilean fishermen, and now a fierce persecutor of Christianity. These were all changed by grace and then sent forth with joy in their hearts to tell the story of what Christ had done in their lives. Each never tired of telling the story. What Christ had done for them was so marvelous that they had to share it. They could not be silent.

Compare Acts 28:28–31 and 2 Timothy 4:5–8. What indications do we have in these verses that Paul never wavered from his commitment to give his entire life to Christ in soul-winning ministry?

At the end of his life, while under house arrest in Rome, Paul affirmed that “ ‘the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!’ ” (*Acts 28:28, NKJV*). The record says that he received all who visited him and preached the Word to them (*Acts 28:30, 31*). At the end of his life, he urged Timothy to do the work of an evangelist, and Paul could say of himself, “ ‘I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith’ ” (*2 Tim. 4:7, NKJV*).

Although our call may not be as dramatic as Paul's, God is calling each one of us to participate with Him in His work of changing the world. It is obvious that despite all the hardship he had faced over the years (*see 2 Cor: 11:25–30*), Paul stayed faithful to his calling in the Lord. The story of how this former persecutor of the followers of Jesus became the most influential and consequential advocate of the Christian faith (with the exception of Jesus) remains a powerful testimony to what the Lord can do through someone who dedicates his or her life to the work of the Lord.

What has God called you to do? Are you doing it?

The Demands of Love

Love always manifests itself in action. Our love for Christ compels us to do something for lost humanity. Paul stated it clearly when he said to the church at Corinth, “For the love of Christ compels us” (*2 Cor. 5:14, NKJV*). Christianity is not primarily giving up bad things so that we can be saved. Jesus did not “give up” bad things in heaven so that He could be saved. He gave up good things so that others could be saved. Jesus does not invite us merely to give our time, talent, and treasures to His cause; He invites us to give our lives.

In a morning meeting with the disciples on the shores of Galilee, Jesus brilliantly outlined the demands of divine love.

Read John 21:15–19. What question did Jesus ask Peter three times, and what was Peter’s response? Why did Jesus ask Peter this particular question three times?

Peter denied his Lord three times, and Jesus elicited a response of love from Peter’s own lips three times. In the presence of the disciples, Jesus was rebuilding Peter’s confidence that he was forgiven by divine love and that Jesus still had work for him to do in His cause.

Read John 21:15–19 again, this time especially noting Jesus’ response to Peter’s affirmation of his love for Christ. What did Jesus tell him to do in response?

Divine love is active, not passive. Genuine love is more than a warm feeling, more than a nice idea. It involves commitment. Love compels us to act. It leads us to reach out to a lost world of God’s children in desperate need. When Jesus said to Peter, “ ‘Feed My lambs,’ ” it was both a command and a comforting reassurance. The Master called for a response to love, and He also encouraged Peter that He still had a work for him to do even despite Peter’s truly shameful action when Jesus had been arrested. Peter not only denied knowing Jesus, exactly as Christ had told him that he would, but Peter also denied it with curses, as well.

The point? You may have desperately failed your Lord. You may have denied Him by your actions more than once. The good news is that grace is still available, and God is not done with you yet. There is still a place in His work for you if you are willing.

Like Peter, have you ever “denied” the Lord? If so, what does the story, not only of Peter’s denial but also of Christ’s words to Peter here, say to you?

Love's Commitment

At the end of the conversation between Peter and Jesus, we see two men walking on the beach. As the waves lap at the shore, Jesus tells Peter about the cost of discipleship. He wants Peter to know clearly what he will face if he accepts Jesus' invitation to "feed My sheep."

Read John 21:18, 19. What did Jesus tell Peter about the cost of discipleship? Why do you think Jesus revealed something so startling to Peter at this point in his life?

In these words, Christ foretold the martyrdom that one day Peter would experience. His hands would be stretched out on a cross. In this revelation, Christ offered Peter a choice. He offered him life's greatest joy: seeing souls won for the kingdom of God. On the day of Pentecost he would see thousands come to Christ. He would perform miracles in Jesus' name and glorify Him before many more thousands. He would have the everlasting joy of fellowship with Christ in His mission.

But that privilege would come with a price. It would demand a sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice. Peter was asked to make the commitment with his eyes wide open. For Peter now knew that no sacrifice was too great to join Jesus in His mission to the world.

Read 1 John 3:16–18. For John, love is more than a vague abstraction. How does John define love's ultimate sacrifice?

In eternity, nothing we have ever done will seem like a sacrifice. Our investment of time and effort, the investment of our lives, will seem overabundantly rewarded. Yet, what a joy it is to turn love into action, to turn intentions into commitment. When we respond to divine love by holding nothing back as we reach out in service to witness to others as ambassadors of Christ, we fulfill the purpose of our lives and experience life's greatest joy. As Jesus so aptly put it, " 'If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them' " (*John 13:17, NKJV*). Life's greatest joy and lasting happiness come when we are fulfilling the meaning of our existence by glorifying God by the way we live and share His love and truth with the world.

It's hard to grasp the idea of eternity, when all we know is a tiny bit of time. But, as well as you can, try to imagine eternal life, an eternal *good* life—better than anything we can have here—and, thus, why nothing here, in this short spurt of time, would be worth losing the promise of eternal life that we have in Jesus.

Further Thought: “Those who have the spiritual oversight of the church should devise ways and means by which an opportunity may be given to every member of the church to act some part in God’s work. Too often in the past this has not been done. Plans have not been clearly laid and fully carried out whereby the talents of all might be employed in active service. There are but few who realize how much has been lost because of this.

“The leaders in God’s cause, as wise generals, are to lay plans for advance moves all along the line. In their planning they are to give special study to the work that can be done by the laity for their friends and neighbors. The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers.

“The salvation of sinners requires earnest, personal labor. We are to bear to them the word of life, not to wait for them to come to us. Oh, that I could speak words to men and women that would arouse them to diligent action! The moments now granted to us are few. We are standing upon the very borders of the eternal world. We have no time to lose. Every moment is golden and altogether too precious to be devoted merely to self-serving. Who will seek God earnestly and from Him draw strength and grace to be His faithful workers in the missionary field?

“In every church there is talent, which, with the right kind of labor, might be developed to become a great help in this work. That which is needed now for the upbuilding of our churches is the nice work of wise laborers to discern and develop talent in the church—talent that can be educated for the Master’s use.”—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, pp. 116, 117.

Discussion Questions:

- 1 What is the main thought of the Ellen G. White quote above? What impact can it have on your personal witnessing and your church’s outreach?
- 2 How is genuine love always manifested? What are counterfeit forms of love that have little to do with genuine love?
- 3 In class, talk about the sacrifices that people have made for the Lord, including the loss of life. What can you learn from these stories?
- 4 Think about your answer to the question at the end of Sunday’s study, about what you have sacrificed for Christ. What, in fact, have you sacrificed? Why did you do it? Was it worth it? How could you explain to someone who is not a Christian what you did and why you did it?

Pregnant for Two Years

By ANDREW McCHESNEY

Fanta Camara was excited when she noticed a bump on her belly. But as the bump grew bigger, she began to feel ill. She felt so terrible that she went to the hospital in Conakry, Guinea.

A physician examined her belly. “You aren’t pregnant,” he said.

Fanta didn’t believe the physician. She asked a relative, who was a nurse, to take a look. “You are pregnant,” the relative said. “There is a baby in your belly.” Fanta beamed with joy. But she still felt ill, and the relative wasn’t sure how to help. She went to another hospital. “You aren’t pregnant,” the physician said. Fanta visited a third hospital. “You are pregnant,” the physician said. But he didn’t know how to help.

As the weeks passed, Fanta’s health worsened. She could barely walk.

Five months after Fanta noticed the bump on her belly, a stranger appeared in her bedroom. He had the feet and legs of a man but the chest and face of a leopard. She was scared. “You will not have that child in your belly,” the stranger said, and, turning, seemed to walk out through the bedroom wall.

The next night, the stranger again appeared in the bedroom. “You will not have that child in your belly,” he said. Every night he visited Fanta.

A year passed. Two years. As the third year started, Fanta was still pregnant and miserable. Then she remembered Tranquille Fassinadouno. She had ignored him because he was the only Christian in their neighborhood, but now she was desperate. After hearing her story, Tranquille, a Global Mission pioneer, prayed and fasted for three days, asking God for wisdom.

Then he went to Fanta and, opening his Bible, read Ephesians 6:12, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (NKJV).

He spoke to unseen spiritual hosts in the house. “All evil spirits who do not confess the name of Jesus Christ leave immediately in the name of Jesus Christ,” he said. Turning to Fanta, he said, “If you see that evil spirit again, just command it to leave in the name of Jesus.”

That night, Fanta was lying in bed when the evil spirit appeared. Before he could speak, she said, “Leave in the name of Jesus Christ.” The evil spirit immediately disappeared in a cloud of smoke, never to return.



Three days later, Fanta gave birth to a healthy baby girl. “I believe in Jesus now,” Fanta said.

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that will help people in Guinea and elsewhere in the West-Central Africa Division learn about Jesus.

Key Text: *Philippians 2:5–11*

Study Focus: *Matthew 4:18–22, 2 Corinthians 5:10–12, John 21:15–19.*

Part I: Overview

Genuine faith always leads to action. Biblical faith is so good that it works. The New Testament church was a church that was passionate about witness. Sharing Christ was the natural outgrowth of their relationship with Him. They were prepared to make the supreme sacrifice for His cause. Many of them suffered persecution, imprisonment, and even death. No sacrifice was too great for the Jesus who gave so much for them.

Their commitment to Christ often led them to take a leap of faith. Christ called them out of their comfort zones. The task before them was far beyond their ability to accomplish. It was far too great for them to accomplish—but not too great for God to accomplish. They grasped the promises of God and in faith went out to change the world.

The task before the church today is far beyond our capacity to accomplish. Christ is calling us to take a leap of faith. In this week’s lesson, we will review the life-changing commitment of the New Testament church in the light of Christ’s commitment to redeem us. Jesus was completely surrendered to the Father’s will. The single-minded focus of His life was the salvation of humanity. No sacrifice was too great to accomplish that goal. Our study this week explores how His sacrifice is an example to us. He invites us to take a leap of faith in giving our lives in service to Him and in ministry to others.

Part II: Commentary

Philippians 2:5–11 is one of the most magnificent passages in the entire Bible on the condescension of Christ. Some authors call this passage “The Song of Christ.” The entire book of Philippians focuses on three major themes—rejoicing, humility, and faith. Philippians 2 highlights the theme of humility. Jesus left the magnificent glories of His exalted state in heaven, divested Himself of the privileges and prerogatives as God’s equal, entered the realm of humanity as a servant, and died the lowliest of deaths on the cross. The apostle Paul uses this example of Jesus as a model for Christian living. Christ’s sacrificial life of unselfish

ministry is the model for all Christian faith. He left the celestial realms and came to earth as the “unwearied servant of man’s necessity . . . [to] minister to every need of humanity.”—Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 17.

Commenting on this passage in the introduction to the book of Philippians in the *Andrews University Study Bible*, the author states, “Christians give up claims of equality and serve one another in love and humility to prevent the spirit of competition from flaring up. Through this act of self-lowering, Christians also distinguish themselves from the people of the world, who seek their rights and engage in struggles to achieve equality with their peers and superiors.”—(Berrien Springs, MI: Andrews University Press, 2010), p. 1552. A careful analysis of Philippians 2:5–11 reveals gems of truth for our lives today. The passage begins with these memorable words, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (*Phil. 2:5, NKJV*). The apostle has presented the need earlier in the chapter for unity and unselfish humility. Now he focuses on Christ as our example of sacrificial living and ministry. The mind of Christ is the mind of service.

Jesus was totally committed to ministering to the needs of those around Him. Jesus was in the form (*Phil. 2:6*) or the very essence of God. He had by His very nature all the eternal characteristics and qualities of God. According to *The SDA Bible Commentary*, “This places Christ on an equality with the Father, and sets Him far above every other power. Paul stresses this in order to portray more vividly the depths of Christ’s voluntary humiliation.”—Volume 7, p. 154. According to the apostle Paul, Christ did not think it “robbery” to be “equal with God.”

In other words, He recognized His eternal nature and His oneness with the Father but voluntarily in love surrendered His position at the Father’s side to make “Himself of no reputation.” This phrase in Philippians 2:7 is literally translated that He “emptied Himself.” He divested Himself of all the kingdom glory. All the inherent characteristics and qualities that were His by His eternal nature and oneness with God were surrendered for our sake. He came not in a kingly palace, the son of royalty, but as a humble, obedient servant.

The Greek word for servant is *doulos*, meaning bond servant or slave. It is obvious that Paul is contrasting two estates: the form of God and the form of a servant. Jesus went from the highest position to the lowest position, all for us. He surrendered His divine sovereignty for a life of sacrificial service. To have the mind of Christ is to have the mind of loving self-sacrifice for the salvation of others. The mind of Christ is one of ministry and service. It is one of mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and grace.

Christ’s death on the cross reveals His heart of love. Genuine love

always leads us to make sacrifices for the ones we love. Love is not a superficial, emotional feeling, although feelings are associated with love. Love is a commitment. It is a choice to always seek the best for others. Love compels us to make sacrifices in our lives for the kingdom of God. It leads us to step out in faith to use the gifts He has given us to bless others.

The Demands of Love

After His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus met a small group of His disciples on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus' goal in that early morning hour was to rebuild a man. Peter had denied Him three times. Jesus was there to evoke a response of love from Peter's heart and give him a new sense of forgiveness, acceptance, and purpose. After a night of fishing where these experienced fishermen did not catch a single fish, Jesus worked a divine miracle. Their nets were full to overflowing with a wonderful catch. Sitting around the campfire that Galilean morning, Jesus asked Peter this pertinent question, " 'Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?' He said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' He said to him, 'Feed My lambs.' " (*John 21:15, NKJV*). In the original language of the text, there are two words for "love." When Jesus asks Peter the question, He asks, " 'Do you love [agape] Me?' " In some contexts, the word *agape* refers to love that flows from the heart of God. A love like that is of divine origin. It is a pure unselfish love.

When Peter responds to Jesus, he does not use the word *agape*. He says, " 'Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.' " The word Peter uses is the Greek word *phileo*. This refers to a deep human bond. For example, the name *Philadelphia* means "brotherly love." Jesus' response is " 'Feed My lambs.' " In other words, give your life in self-sacrificial service. Go to work for Me. Minister to others.

Jesus asks Peter the same question in John 21:16 and using the same words, but the third time in John 21:17, Jesus changes the word for "love" when He asks the question. We do not see this in most languages, but it is clear in the original language of the New Testament. Jesus no longer asks Peter, do you love Me with the divine *agape* love? He asks, do you *phileo* Me? It seems as if Jesus is saying this—"Peter, I know that your love for Me flows through the weak channels of your humanity. You have denied Me three times, but I forgive you. My grace is yours. Begin where you are. Go to work for Me, and your love for Me will grow and expand into a deep divine love for others." Peter failed Jesus at a very critical moment in Christ's life; yet, that did not disqualify Peter from serving. Jesus sent a forgiven, changed Peter out to work for Him.

Like Peter, our love for Christ will grow in service to others. The more we love Jesus, the more we desire to share that love with the people around us. The more we share His love with the people around us, the more our love for Jesus will grow. Ellen G. White shares this eternal truth in *Steps to Christ*, page 80: “The spirit of unselfish labor for others gives depth, stability, and Christlike loveliness to the character, and brings peace and happiness to its possessor.” When we take a leap of faith and become actively involved in witnessing, we grow spiritually. Life’s greatest joys come from sharing the love of God with others. As we daily seek opportunities to share what Christ means to us, we will see providential opportunities open before us. The Holy Spirit will lead seeking people into our lives.

Part III: Life Application

There are many people who fail to witness because they are unsure of what to say. Others are fearful of rejection or embarrassment. What are some of the most common reasons you think some people are hesitant to witness? Discuss with your class their thoughts on why many church members are not actively involved in sharing their faith.

We have come to the end of our lessons this quarter. What is the most significant thing that you have gotten out of the lessons? Is there some insight that you have grasped that is going to make a significant difference in your life?

There is a wonderful statement by God’s last-day messenger that we can take with us as we finish our class this quarter: “Our confession of His faithfulness is Heaven’s chosen agency for revealing Christ to the world. We are to acknowledge His grace as made known through the holy men of old; but that which will be most effectual is the testimony of our own experience. We are witnesses for God as we reveal in ourselves the working of a power that is divine.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 347.

Notes

Proverbs 9:10 says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (*NKJV*). All true knowledge, wisdom, and understanding have their source in the Lord. Christian education should direct our minds toward the Lord and His revelation about Himself. Through nature, the Written Word, and the revelation of Christ in that Written Word, we are given all we need to have a saving relationship with our Lord and to love Him with all our heart and soul. Nature speaks of God’s goodness and character when studied through the perspective of Scripture. The Bible is the perfect standard of truth, the greatest revelation we have of who God is, what He has done, and what He is doing for us. The Bible and its message of Creation and Redemption must be central to all Christian education.

Christian education must help students better understand the light that God offers us from heaven. What good is a great education in science, literature, economics, or engineering if, in the end, you face the second death in the lake of fire? The answer is obvious, isn’t it? This quarter, we will explore what it means to have a “Christian education” and how we, as a church, can obtain it.

Lesson 1—Education in the Garden of Eden

The Week at a Glance:

SUNDAY: **The First School** (*Gen. 2:7–23*)

MONDAY: **Intrusion** (*Gen. 3:1–6*)

TUESDAY: **Missing the Message** (*Gen. 3:4–6*)

WEDNESDAY: **Regaining What Was Lost** (*2 Pet. 1:3–11*)

THURSDAY: **The Despisers of Authority** (*2 Pet. 2:1–17*)

Memory Text—*Job 36:22, NKJV*

Sabbath Gem: “Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students.”—Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 20.

Lesson 2—The Family

The Week at a Glance:

SUNDAY: **The First Family** (*Gen. 1–3:15*)

MONDAY: **The Childhood of Jesus** (*Luke 1:26–38, Luke 1:46–55*)

TUESDAY: **Communication** (*Prov. 10:31, 32; 1 John 3:18*)

WEDNESDAY: **The Role of Parents** (*Eph. 6:4, Prov. 31:10*)

THURSDAY: **Lest Ye Forget** (*Deuteronomy 6*)

Memory Text—*Proverbs 1:8, NKJV*

Sabbath Gem: Life itself is a school, in which we are always learning.

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