



**Young Adult Mentorship  
(Sabbath School Program)**

**June 20, 2020**

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**Suggested Songs**

*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* No. 555 “Shepherd of Tender Youth”

*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* No. 615 “Rise Up, O Church of God”

*Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* No. 548 “Now Praise the Hidden God of Love”

**Scripture Focus:**

1 Samuel 17:33–37

Jeremiah 1:4–8

1 Timothy 4:12

**Opening Hymn: No. 27 “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”**

The church is always one generation away from extinction. While evangelism, stewardship, ministry, and discipleship are crucial for the church, passing down leadership skills and practical Christianity to the next generation is one of the best ways to fulfill the Great Commission for another generation.

Though it may be popular to say that youth and young adults are the church of today and not the church of tomorrow, it would be improper to hand over the responsibility of the church and its mission to any young person. Just as any other category should not be a prerequisite for leadership, age is not any different. The work will not be finished only by “old” people or “young” people, but by “converted” people.

Young converted people are mentioned often in the Bible. Daniel, Joseph (of Genesis), David, Gideon, Ruth, Samuel, Esther, Solomon, Mary (the mother of Jesus) and Josiah were all called or used by God in their youth. After the times of the Bible, however, God has continued to use young people. Here are five times in Christian history.

1. The Reformation

Early 16th century European leaders such as Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin challenged and fought against the feudal errors and doctrinal errors of then-only Church. Utilizing the

momentum on the Universities of Wittenberg, Geneva, Zurich, and Toulouse (and many other), these professors, clerics, and university students created a movement that sought fidelity to the Bible.

## 2. The Puritans and Colonial America

Unhappy with the institutionalism of the Church of England, some dissenters traversed the Atlantic Ocean to find religious liberty in North America. There a spiritual reform movement was established, namely among the Puritans. They created “schools of the prophets” where the next generation of leaders, communicators, and believers would be trained.

The Puritans established Yale, Harvard, and Dartmouth, while the Church of England responded with William and Mary as well as Columbia and University of Pennsylvania. The Presbyterians established Princeton while Baptists started Brown. Founded in 1636, Harvard’s original mission statement was: “To be plainly instructed and consider well that the main end of your life and studies is to know God and Jesus Christ...” Every student had to read the Scriptures twice a day. Harvard’s motto was “Veritas Christo Ecclesiae,” or “Truth for Christ and the Church.” Their logo consisted of two books up and one book down, the latter represented the limitations of human knowledge.

Now many are known as the “Ivy League” and have largely shifted in their original focus. Harvard no longer retains their mission statement. The motto was shortened to “Veritas” or just “Truth” and the logo now turned the third book upwards, emphasizing human ability. But their original intent was to train and mentor the next generation of Christians.

## 3. The Pietists

This mid-17<sup>th</sup> century movement started in the German universities of Leipzig, Württemberg, and Halle. Leaders such as Philipp Spener and August Franke focused on teaching Bible study, prayer movements, small groups, accountability, and missions, similar to modern Sabbath Schools.

Their motto was “Be true to Christ; be kind to all people; and send the gospel to the world.” Its membership included royalty, leaders of the church, politicians, and many famous Europeans of that time that found their conversion experiences as young people.

## 4. The First Great Awakening

Two young brothers at Oxford University started a club that would meet to pray, fast, and study the Bible together in the early 1730s. One would become the famous hymnist Charles Wesley and the other John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement. Joined by George Whitfield, these young people would preach to over two million listeners (in a time when only one million lived in Colonial United States).

## 5. The Second Great Awakening

In 1844, James White was 23; Ellen Harmon was 17, Annie Smith was 16, J. N. Andrews was 15, and Uriah Smith was 12. They would eventually become the leaders and primary communicators within the early Advent movement.

Years later, the Adventist Youth Society would have been started in Michigan by two young people named Luther Warren, age 14, and Harry Fenner, age 17.

God has used young people throughout history. Furthermore, God has used not-so-young people throughout history too. One is never too young or too old when it comes to God's work. But what is most powerful is when the older mentor a young disciple and the duo is used by God. What better place to do that than Sabbath School? Won't you mentor a young person today? Won't you disciple the next generation of the leadership of tomorrow?

*1 Timothy 4:12 - Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

**Closing Hymn: No. 572 "Give of the Best to the Master"**