



## LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES

### Risking Everything for Jesus

January 18, 2025

#### 1 PREPARING

##### A. THE SOURCE

**Daniel 12:3** • “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”

**Matthew 9:37, 38** • “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’ ”

**1 Corinthians 9:22** • “To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.”

**Mark 16:15** • “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’ ”

**1 John 4:4** • “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

**Revelation 12:11** • “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

**Matthew 10:27, 28** • “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear

in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

##### B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES”

God has placed a call on every Christian, young and old alike, to share His gospel with the world. When this task is finished, Jesus will return to take us home. Thus, we are to go into the highways and byways, into the halls and malls to share Christ’s love. God’s love can be shared in words and in more practical, tangible ways, such as feeding the hungry or helping those who have fallen victim to natural disasters, war, and poverty.

This is not always a fun or safe job, but it needs to be done. In addition to the perils and inconveniences that may await us on the outside, we will also have to wrestle with the selfishness that lies on the inside. We must be willing to step out of our comfort zones and do what God has asked with our whole hearts. There were people before us who were willing to serve God and share His message at all costs. It has cost some their lives, but many souls were saved as a result. Now it is our turn to step up. God promises that His Spirit will always be with us to give us courage, boldness, and peace.

### C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH "LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES"

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Understand their personal responsibility to show Christ's love through sharing the gospel and through helping those in need.
2. Discover ways in which they, personally, can participate in missions.
3. Deepen their awareness of religious persecution.

### D. MATERIALS NEEDED

**Beginning** • (Activity A) paper, pens, watch; (Activity B) large world map, index cards, pens, pushpins, blindfold.

**Connecting** • Bibles, student lessons.

**Applying** • Pens and handouts.

## 2 BRIDGING

### A. WHERE WE'VE BEEN BEFORE

**Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:**

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

### B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adult* at [www.realtimefaith.net](http://www.realtimefaith.net))
- >> Service project reports

## 3 BEGINNING

**NOTE TO TEACHER:** Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

### A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready** • Divide the students into two teams. Have each team select a scribe. The scribes need a pen and a sheet of paper. You will need a watch to keep time.

**Get set • Say:** Each team will have three minutes to make a list of words that are associated with missions or missionaries. The scribes will record the words. Each word is worth one point if the other team doesn't have it on their list.

**Go** • Start the time and instruct the students to begin. When the time is up, have each team read their lists. Tally the points to see which team won.

**Debriefing • Ask:** Why do you think we did this activity? (We are going to talk about missionaries.) Where do you get information about missions and missionaries? (church) What are the chances that you will become a missionary? Explain.

### B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

**Get ready** • You will need a large world map that can be attached to a wall. While blindfolded, students will try to pin a prayer on the map where the country they have chosen is located.

**Get set** • Give each student an index card. Have them look at the map and select a country other than the one they live in. **Say:** Write the name of your country at the top of your index card. Underneath the name of the

country, write a short prayer for the country. Your prayers can be for the government, the people, missionaries, churches, etc.

**Go •** When the students have finished writing their prayers, **say:** **Today we are going to play “pin the prayer on the country.” You have to pin your prayer on the map where your country is located. The only problem is that you will be blindfolded.**

Give each student a pushpin. Blindfold the students one at a time, and have them stand about eight to 10 feet from the wall. After they have turned around once, they can try to pin their prayer in the proper place. The object is to see who can get their prayer in or closest to their country.

**Debriefing • Ask:** **Though some of us couldn’t get our prayers to our country, we should have no problem getting them to God. What made you choose the country you prayed for?** (I’ve been there. I have family there.) **What types of things did you pray for?** (People who lost loved ones in earthquakes and wars; for the missionaries to be safe.) **Would you like to live in that country? Why or why not?** (No, because it is too far from my friends.)

**Say:** Jesus tells all His followers to share His love and His message with everybody, everywhere. To do this, we have to move out of our comfort zones.

### C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

**In your own words, tell the following story:**

Joanne was excited she would be traveling to a different country. She was going on a mission trip, but she had brought so much stuff the airline wanted to charge her an extra \$213. She sent some of her luggage home with her dad because she was saving her money for the international shopping spree she was planning. The chaperones thought she was going to be a big problem.

When the group arrived, they were barraged

by little orphans selling trinkets. The children looked so hungry and their clothes were torn. It was a very different world from what the students were used to.

In the evenings the local church would have meetings, and people would come from far and near. Some of those orphans from the airport walked several miles to sing songs about Jesus and to get a meal. As Joanne served the children, she said she could see Jesus in their faces, and that made her cry.

When she came home, her suitcases were a lot lighter and they rattled. She had decided to leave all her clothes with the people she met because they needed them more than she did. As a matter of fact, the only thing she brought back, besides her toothbrush, was the suitcase full of trinkets that she bought from all the orphans.

**Debriefing • Ask:** **Why do you think Joanne changed?** (She saw how other people lived.) **Do you have to go to another country to get compassion like that?** (No, there are people to love here.) **How can we get that kind of love for all people?** (Only from God; by doing for others instead of ourself.)

## 4 CONNECTING

### A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

**Present the following ideas in your own words:**

Every kingdom has ambassadors. An ambassador is someone the king sends to a foreign country who represents the king and the kingdom. The Bible says that we are ambassadors for Christ. As an ambassador, or citizen, you are to carry out the wishes of the King.

Our King has commanded that we go into the world and tell of His love for all humanity. He has also commanded that we help the hopeless and love the unlovable. He wants us to live not for ourselves, but to live beyond ourselves, unselfishly giving of our time, our money, and our lives to those in need.

**Ask:** Since this call is to every believer, young and old alike, how can a young person be an ambassador and do as the King has asked us by helping others around the world? (Pray for those who are too far to reach. Go on mission trips. Feed the homeless. Visit the sick and those in need.) **Say:** There are also risks in being an ambassador. It can be dangerous if the place or people you are sent to don't want you there. What kinds of risks are there for God's ambassadors? (You could be thrown in jail; you could be in a place where you could get sick.)

## **B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION**

**Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's section of the lesson.**

**Ask:** Was Jonathan a missionary? Why or why not? (Yes, because he was sharing Jesus with others.) If you had to face the same situation as Jonathan, would you have made the same decisions? What would you have done differently? (I would stay in prison because I don't want to give up my faith.) **Why do you think Jonathan risked everything for Jesus?** (He thought of the big picture, of helping other people to be saved, and doing what God required of us even when it is dangerous.)

## **C. CONNECTING TO LIFE**

**Pose the following scenario:**

You are on a mission trip with your youth group. You and your partner go from house to house sharing Christian books and inviting people to church meetings in the evening. At one house a woman becomes very angry with you for talking about Jesus. She says the last person who talked to her about Jesus is in jail. She threatens that the same will happen to you if you don't stop this Jesus talk in her city. When you get back to camp, your partner acts sick so she doesn't have to go out anymore, because she is scared.

**Ask:** What would you do—join her and stay back at camp, or continue to share the gospel? **Why?** (I would tell my sponsor what happened, but I would still go out.) **What would influence your decision the most?**

(I know that the group would pray for my safety.) **What, if anything, could make you want to continue sharing even if it was possible you would be put in jail?** (encouragement from friends, praying to God for strength)

Have students take turns reading aloud the verses from Wednesday's section of the lesson.

**Say:** We have a duty to share Jesus, even if we face hardship and persecution for it. Colossians 4:5 tells us to be wise in the way we act with people who are not believers, making the most of every opportunity.

**Ask:** How would you show wisdom in dealing with the woman who threatened you because you were witnessing? (Try not to make her more upset by arguing with her, but still share your books with others in the community.) **How could you make the most of this opportunity?** (By praying that God would move her heart and praying for or with the individual that had to go to jail for sharing their faith.) **If you were in prison for sharing your faith, which verse from the lesson would mean the most to you and why?**

**Present the following ideas in your own words:**

The threat of jail or getting beaten up for telling people about Jesus is very real. People all over the world are being persecuted for their faith. Governments are going out of their way to make sure new Christian churches are not started. **Say:** Let's read Matthew 24:14 to find out why that is so troublesome. Have a student read the verse aloud.

**Ask:** What must happen for Jesus to come? (The gospel has to be preached to the whole world.) **What do we have to do to make this happen in places where it is against the law to preach the gospel?** (We still must find a way to share it with people.)

## 5 APPLYING

### A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

This exercise will help the students think of practical ways to impact their community. Each student will need a handout from page 29 and a pen.

**Present the following ideas in your own words:**

There is a part for each of us to play in making this a better world and helping people know about Jesus. Right now, you are going to figure out your part. Take some time to fill out this handout, and we will share our answers when you have completed it. As you fill this out, keep in mind Jesus' command to share His gospel with those who don't know it.

When they have finished, **ask: What type of problems did you try to tackle?** (homelessness, crime, poverty) **What were some of the solutions you came up with?** (Make sandwiches to give out in the park; donate my allowance to a shelter.)

Go around the class and let each person share what task they underlined for question seven. After each student has answered, **ask: What could hinder you from accomplishing your task?** (too much homework, no money, no car) **What will help you do it?** (Someone to remind me. My mom gives me a ride.) **How committed are you to actually doing it?**

### B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Who is a missionary?
2. What are some ways you can be a missionary in the place you live?
3. Why do you think God is calling us to share the gospel?
4. How would you overcome the challenges of being a missionary in a far-away land?
5. How can you face the challenges of being a missionary in your community?
6. How will you be a witness for Jesus?
7. How will you become the missionary God wants you to become?

## 6 CLOSING

### SUMMARY

**In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:**

The Bible says that when this gospel is preached to the whole world, the end will come. The time of Jesus' return is somewhat dependent on how long it takes us to do what Christ has asked. As ambassadors for Christ, we must go out to our neighborhoods, cities, and to far-away places and make sure everyone knows that Jesus died for their sins, so that they can live with Him.

This is a risky task. The world is often hostile and mean to Christ's ambassadors. This should not stop us. We should trust in God's promise and protection, that He will never leave us alone. We must choose to no longer live for ourselves, but to live for Christ and reach out beyond ourselves.

## FOR LESSON THREE:

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR THE APPLICATION ACTIVITY.

### Mission Possible

1. List five needs that exist in your community.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Circle three that your church could do something about.

3. Underline two of those that you could help with.

4. Rewrite here the one that you chose:

\_\_\_\_\_

5. List five things that could be done to meet the needs in your community.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

d. \_\_\_\_\_

e. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Circle two that you would be able to do.

7. Underline the one that you will do.

(Adapted from the Ideas Library.)





## STUDENT LESSON

### LIVING BEYOND OURSELVES

#### Risking Everything for Jesus

January 18, 2025

#### Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 13, The Remnant and Its Mission:** “The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days . . . a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. . . . Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 31-35

#### RISKING EVERYTHING FOR JESUS

In the years following World War II the Adventist Church in Europe experienced a renewed commitment to spread the gospel. Many young people eagerly joined efforts to sell and distribute Christian literature both in their neighborhoods and in more distant towns and cities.

Jonathan was a young literature evangelist who went long distances in his zeal to sell and distribute Bibles and Adventist literature. His

ventures were not without risk. At that time it was forbidden to sell Christian literature.

One day as Jonathan was in a town far from home, someone reported him to the authorities. Pretty soon the police came and found Jonathan carrying and selling Christian literature. He was arrested. After some questioning Jonathan was beaten and placed in prison.

When the members of his home church heard the news, they prayed fervently for his release. The conditions in the prison were harsh. In his prison cell Jonathan had only bare wooden planks to rest on. There was no comfortable bed, no pillow, and no warm blankets. Yet in spite of the unfriendly conditions of prison life, Jonathan felt great peace in his heart. He felt honored to suffer for his Lord and felt his Savior especially close during that trying time. In fact, years later Jonathan recalled that he has never slept as soundly as when he had nothing but wooden planks to rest on.

After a number of weeks had gone by, the prison guards called Jonathan to appear before the authorities once again. To his great surprise and joy, Jonathan was granted freedom. He was released from prison on a Saturday morning. With his heart overflowing with joy and gratitude to God, Jonathan went straight to the closest Seventh-day Adventist church. As he opened the door and quietly entered in, he found the congregation kneeling and praying. He bowed his head and started listening to the prayers. To his astonishment, the people in the congregation were praying for his release from prison. At the close of the prayer time it was the church's



turn to be astonished as they witnessed a most tangible answer to their prayers!

When we come to know Jesus, an amazing transformation takes place in our lives. The real joy of knowing Jesus will show in everything we do. Our priorities change. Our lives receive true meaning and purpose. Our number-one mission is to share Jesus everywhere—in the family, at school, in our community, and, if necessary, even before government officials.

### Sunday

## RESPONDING

- » Read Jeremiah 23:3.
- » Several churches in your community have donated food, money, and clothing to go overseas. Your youth group has been chosen to distribute these supplies in Afghanistan. The government says that while you are there you cannot talk about Christianity or Jesus. Some people think the trip should be canceled. They feel it is not a mission trip if you cannot share Jesus.
- » Do you think the trip should be canceled? Why or why not? Can you have a mission trip without sharing Jesus? In what ways would you still be able to share Jesus?

### Monday

## BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE REMNANT AND ITS MISSION

- » Read Revelation 14:6-12; 2 Peter 3:10-14.
- » “What are you doing, dear youth, to make known to others how important it is to take the word of God for a guide, to keep the commandments of Jehovah?” (Ellen G. White, *Messages to Young People*, p. 199).
- » Fill in the crossword puzzle, matching the words found in the list below with the clues shown. There are no spaces between the names.



See activity at the end of this lesson.

### Tuesday

## REFLECTING

- » Read Colossians 4:5, 6.
  - » How are you like a missionary? Have you shared with others your love for Jesus?
- 
- » If we would take some time to get off the phone, leave our electronic devices, or get out of the mirror, we would see the needs of the world around us. We would realize that many people do not know about Jesus and the joy He brings. This is true in faraway lands and right in our neighborhoods.
  - » “The greatest want of the world is the want of [men and women] . . . who will not be bought or sold, . . . who in their inmost souls are true and honest, . . . who do not fear to call sin by its right name, . . . whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, . . . who will stand for the right though the heavens fall” (Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 57).
  - » People desperately need to know about Jesus. Our Savior has asked us to tell them. Even if it is not always an easy, popular, or safe task, but we have to think beyond ourselves. When we live for Jesus, God will bless our efforts and empower us to welcome souls into His kingdom.
  - » God’s love can be shared in words and in more practical, tangible ways such as feeding the hungry or helping those who have fallen victim to natural disasters, war, and poverty. When you decide to live for Jesus, you decide to really live!



Wednesday

## BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Match the Bible verse with the phrase from the text. All Bible passages are taken from the New King James Version.



See activity at the end of this lesson.

Thursday

## CONNECTING

- » Read Isaiah 6:8.
- » Review the memory text.
- » Wanted: an adventurous, brave young person who will answer the call of the gospel, to GO! Your mission is to go into the highways and byways, the halls and the malls, and share Jesus. You can share Him as you dare to be different and live a life pleasing to God. You can share Him as you tell others about Jesus when the subject comes up. You can bring up the subject whenever the opportunity comes.
- » "How great is the responsibility placed upon the disciple of Christ. How imperative the duty to reflect the light of heaven upon a world enshrouded in darkness" (Ellen G. White, *In Heavenly Places*, p. 312).
- » This call to share is not just with your friends and neighbors; it may take you to faraway places. Everybody needs to hear the gospel, and many need your help. There are so many people who have not been as blessed as you are. For some people, you will be the blessing. Giving of your time, your money, and your heart will be worth more to them than anything money can buy.

- » It is not going to be easy, but God promises to send His Holy Spirit to give you the words to say. He promises that His love will take your fear away and His grace will make up whatever you lack. You just have to be bold enough to trust Him and obey Him!

Friday

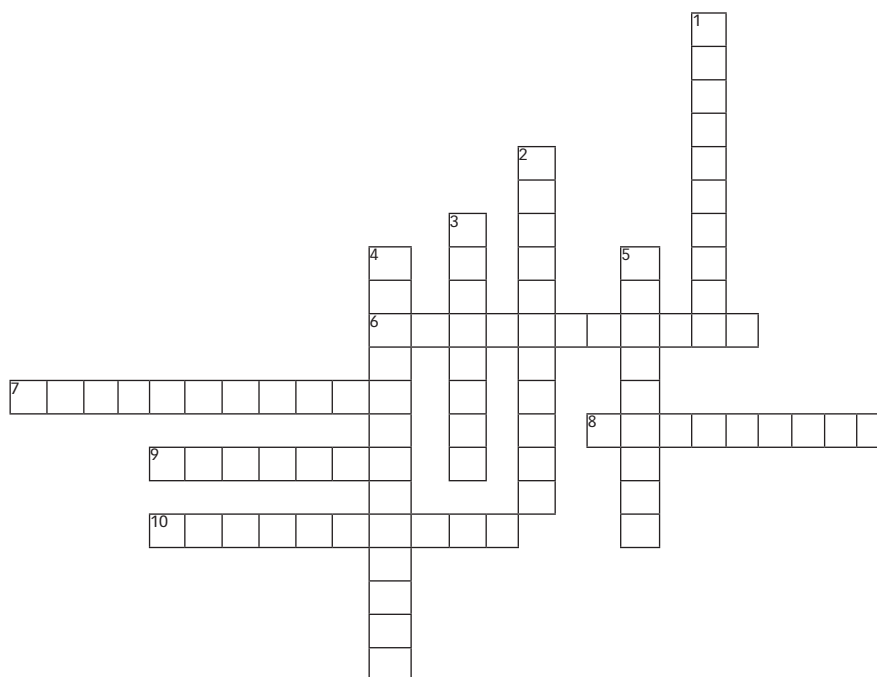
## APPLYING

- » Read Luke 10:2.
- » "The soul that turns to God for its help, its support, its power, by daily, earnest prayer, will have noble aspirations, clear perceptions of truth and duty, lofty purposes of action, and a continual hungering and thirsting after righteousness" (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 85).
- » In what ways does the church participate in spreading the gospel of God's love?
- » It is time to get started with your mission work right now. Although there are some places you can't reach on your feet, you can reach them on your knees. Take some time and write a prayer for people who need the gospel. Pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith. Also, pray that God will show you how He wants you to work for Him.

## Monday activity

### BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE REMNANT AND ITS MISSION

- » Fill in the crossword puzzle, matching the words found in the list below with the clues shown. There are no spaces between the names.



H.M.S. Richards   Pathfinders   Ana Stahl   Anna Knight   C. E. Bradford  
J. N. Andrews   Dr. Harry Miller   Eric B. Hare   Uncle Arthur   John Tay

#### Across:

6. In 1929 he began the oldest continuously run radio program in America.
7. He wrote *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories* and *The Bible Story* books.
8. Some people called him Dr. Rabbit. He traveled to Burma as a missionary and later became a writer of children's stories.
9. First Seventh-day Adventist missionary to Pitcairn Island, August 4, 1891.
10. African American nurse who served as a missionary to India.

#### Down:

1. God has used this African American evangelist to bring thousands to Christ all over the world.
2. A community service-oriented youth organization.
3. With her husband, she served as a missionary in Bolivia, Peru, and Brazil.
4. The doctor who founded the Taiwan Adventist Hospital in 1955.
5. Who was the first Adventist missionary?



**Wednesday** activity

**BIBLE INSIGHTS**

» Match the Bible verse with the phrase from the text. All Bible passages are taken from the New King James Version.

- |                           |       |   |
|---------------------------|-------|---|
| 1. 1 Peter 3:14           | _____ | A. "Then the end will come."              |
| 2. Micah 2:12             | _____ | B. "Be ready."                            |
| 3. 2 Timothy 4:2          | _____ | C. "According to what he has done . . ."  |
| 4. 1 Chronicles 16:23, 24 | _____ | D. "Preach the gospel."                   |
| 5. 2 Corinthians 5:10     | _____ | E. "Declare His glory among the nations." |
| 6. Mark 16:15             | _____ | F. "I will put them together."            |
| 7. Matthew 24:14          | _____ | G. "You are blessed."                     |