

Sabbath School Lesson

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# INSIGHTS

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Touch Point Ministry

SABBATH  
SCHOOL  
LESSON

2ND QUARTER  
APRIL | MAY | JUNE 2026

Adult Teachers  
Sabbath School  
Bible Study Guide  
April | May | June 2026

# GROWING IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

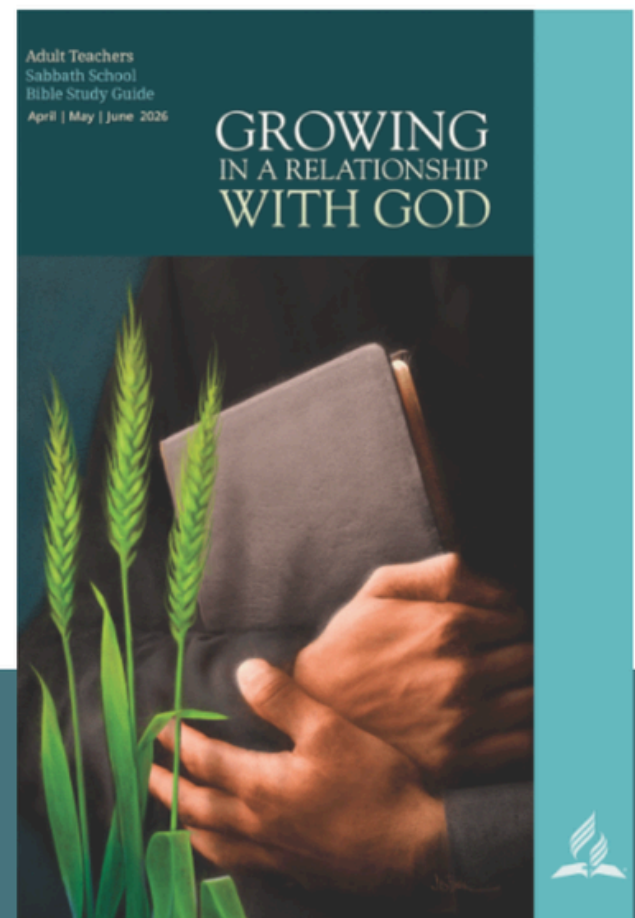
# GROWING IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



**SABBATH  
SCHOOL  
LESSON**

**2ND QUARTER  
APRIL | MAY | JUNE 2026**

# LESSON 1



# REALITY CHECK

**#GOD NEVER LETS GO**

# LESSON 1 - REALITY CHECK

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## MEMORY TEXT

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**"As the Father  
loved Me, I also  
have loved you;  
abide in My  
love'"**

**(John 15:9, NKJV)**

# LESSON 1 - REALITY CHECK

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## OPENING POINTS

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### Why do we want God?

**At one level, we want God because we know we need Him. Life exposes our limits, uncertainty, weakness, sin, and the inability to control outcomes. In those moments, we want help, guidance, and assurance.**

**In the deepest reality, we want what God gives more than God Himself: answer, peace, forgiveness, meaning, satisfaction, or security.**

**Do we want God for just who He is or only for our benefits, but even then, our God gives us the understanding and continue to reach out to us.**

# **INTRODUCTION**

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## **Transactional, conditional, or contactual**

**There are moments when our desire for God is not purely relational, but need-driven. We come to Him because we are:**

- **afraid, in pain, confused, in need of provision or forgiveness**

**At that level, our approach to God can feel transactional, we seek what He gives more than who He is. Yet this does not surprise God.**

**God fully understands the complexity of the human heart. He knows that our love is often:**

- **immature, mixed with self-interest, shaped by weakness and need**

**Over time, God gently leads us:**

- **from seeking blessings → to seeking His presence**
- **from asking "What can God give me?" → to "Who is God to me?"**
- **from dependence on gifts → to love for the Giver**

# Gospel THEMES

**God wanted to save everyone, yet He cannot save those who DO NOT CHOOSE TO BE SAVED by Him. God needs our choice to go back to Him, but all God can do is to invite us, but NEVER FORCE US.**

**“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” – James 4:8**

**“Return to Me, and I will return to you.” – Malachi 3:7**

**“Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” – Revelation 3:20**

# Gospel LIFE

**Even in our lukewarmness, Christ speaks not to condemn, but to call us back in love. God will never be tired of calling us back. He is not surprised by our lukewarmness. He totally understands our wayward hearts. God sees our true condition, yet still invites us to return and renew our relationship with Him.**

# **ANSWER TO THE MAIN QUESTIONS**

**Q: If you find it painful to look at yourself and your own spiritual condition, what hope is offered you in these verses for today?**

**ANSWER:**

**Many religious statements scare us of our lukewarm condition, and then manipulate our decisions, by making us scared of our condition, and so we run to God out of the fear of missing the mark.**

**However, Christ's correction is rooted in love, not rejection, not condemnation.**

**He does not turn away, He draws near and invites us back.**

**Our weakness does not close the door to God. Instead, it becomes the very reason He knocks, waits, and restores.**

## LESSON 1 - REALITY CHECK | MONDAY

### Rebuke, Repent, and Reward

# Gospel THEMES

rebuke → repentance → relationship → reward.

The aspect of RELATIONSHIP should never be missed out. God wants you not because you need to be good and right for Him. But BECAUSE GOD WANTS A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU. GOD WANTS YOU, NOT JUST YOUR OBEDIENCE AND BEING RIGHT. GOD WANTS YOU SO BAD, BECAUSE YOU ARE GOD'S BELOVED CHILD.

# Gospel LIFE

In Jesus Christ:

- rebuke is not rejection
- correction is not condemnation
- exposure of sin is an invitation to a deeper relationship
- He does not walk away from the lukewarm, He knocks at their door. IN OUR LUKEWARMNESS, It is the place where grace begins to work more deeply. GOD REMAINS present, patient, and persistent.

## **ANSWER TO THE MAIN QUESTIONS**

**Q: Right now, Jesus is knocking. He is calling. You, though, have to make the conscious choice to open your heart to Him. How can viewing the Cross and thinking about what it means inspire you to make that choice?**

**ANSWER:**

**When we look at the Cross, we do not just see suffering, we see intentional love. In Jesus Christ, God did not remain distant from human weakness; He entered it, bore it, and carried it fully. The Cross reveals that Christ did not wait for us to improve before coming near, He came while we were still broken.**

**The Cross shows that God's heart toward us is not condemnation but sacrifice. At the Cross, we see the seriousness of sin, but also our inability to save ourselves. The One who knocks is the same One who was crucified.**

# Gospel THEMES

**God adapts His approach, but never His desire, to be close to humanity. (Gen. 2:7; 3:8-10) God formed humanity and walked with them. Even after sin, He still came seeking. God sustains close relationship with those who respond. God's presence does not just relate, it transforms.**

- **God initiates**
- **God adapts His approach**
- **God seeks relationship, not distance**

# Gospel LIFE

**Jeremiah 31:3 says: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."**

**God's love:**

- **is not based on our consistency**
- **is not cancelled by our failure**
- **continues to draw, rebuild, and restore**

**If the relationship is not growing, it is not because God has withdrawn, but because we are still learning to respond to the love that never stops pursuing us.**

## ANSWER TO THE MAIN QUESTIONS

**Q: What are the things in your life right now that, unless overcome, can and do hinder your relationship with God?**

**ANSWER:**

**Unforgiveness or bitterness - Holding grudges or unresolved anger. THIS IS THE PRIMARY BLOCKER IN HOW GOD CAN WORK IN THE HEART. THIS BLINDS OUR NEED FOR FORGIVENESS FROM GOD, PRONES US TO VICTIM MENTALITY, AND HARDENS OUR HEARTS TO THE TRUE CONDITION OF OUR BITTER HEARTS.**

**Pride and self-reliance - Relying on your own strength. WHEN WE HAVE SEEN OUR VALUE ACCORDING TO THE BEST WE CAN DO EVERYDAY.**

**PRIDE ALWAYS MAKES US BITTER, CRITICAL, AND RESENTFUL.**

# Gospel THEMES

ABIDE IS NOT FROM MY STRENGTH BUT GOD DRAWING TO ME. Abiding in Jesus is not about our strength or effort—it is God drawing us to Himself. IT HAS NEVER BEEN BECAUSE OF OUR DECISION TO GO TO GOD, IT IS NEEDED, BUT BEFORE WE CAN DO THAT, GOD HAS ALREADY BEEN DRAWING HIMSELF SO HE PROVIDED THE REASON FOR US TO RUN TO HIM, HE IS AVAILABLE.

# Gospel LIFE

IT IS NOT ABOUT OUR PERSONAL EFFORTS, DETERMINATION, DISCIPLINE, AND RIGID COMPLIANCE. IT IS OPENING OUR HEARTS TO ENTER INTO THE DOOR OF A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS. WHEN OUR HEARTS ARE GIVEN THE TASTE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP, IT IS THE BEST EVER BECAUSE, IT IS NOT ABOUT US BUT ABOUT WHAT GOD DOES FOR US MOMENT BY MOMENT. IT IS REALY ABOUT HIS WORKS FOR US

# Gospel THEMES

Abiding in Christ is not about our effort, it's about God drawing us and the Holy Spirit flowing through us. "For you have loved me with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3) and "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing" (John 6:63). True growth and fruitfulness come from His life flowing in us, not from our strength.

# Gospel LIFE

**Only Jesus holds us to the Vine.**

**We stay because He holds us.**

**Jesus sticks us to the Vine; we can't do it ourselves.**

**No Vine, no life, only Jesus connects us.**

**We cling because He holds us fast.**

## **ANSWER TO THE MAIN QUESTIONS**

**Q: Read this list again. How can each aspect of what the Holy Spirit does impact your relationship with God?**

### **ANSWER:**

**The Holy Spirit shapes our relationship with God by:**

- **Comforting us - giving peace and assurance of God's presence (John 14:16-18).**
- **Revealing Jesus - helping us know Him more deeply (John 15:26).**
- **Convicting of sin - showing us where we need to repent and grow (John 16:7-8).**
- **Guiding into truth - helping us understand God's Word and will (John 16:13).**

# LESSON 1 - REALITY CHECK

*Reminder*

**Gospel Reality!**

**GOD IS LOVE  
AND THERE IS NO  
OTHER MUCH  
BIGGER REALITY!**

*takeaway*

**GOOD NEWS**

**#GOD  
NEVER LETS  
GO**

takeaway

# HEART of the Gospel

## #GOD NEVER LETS GO

- **God never lets go, He holds us close, always.**
- **Even when we falter, His hand remains firm.**
- **No matter the trial, God's grip on our hearts never loosens.**
- **We may drift, but He will never release us.**
- **His love is relentless; He keeps us anchored in Him.**

# HEART of the Gospel

**We really cannot cling to Jesus on our own, our strength is weak, our efforts fail, and our hearts often drift, but God truly can. He is the Vine, and it is His life flowing through us that keeps us connected, nourished, and growing.**

**Even when we stumble, feel dry, or try and fail, His love holds us firm. Abiding in Him is not about what we can do; it is about trusting that He never lets go, that His Spirit flows in us, bringing life, fruitfulness, and steadfast connection to the Source of all life.**

# LESSON 1 - Reality Check

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## ANSWERS TO FRIDAY'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Q1 : Reflect back over your life. Can you identify any life events that have lulled you into a Laodicean spiritual condition? What events have drawn you closer to God?**

### **ANSWER:**

**Life events often shape our spiritual condition. Moments of comfort, success, or routine can lull us into a Laodicean state, where we feel self-sufficient, lukewarm, or distant from God. Conversely, trials, loss, or challenges can draw us closer, reminding us of our dependence on Him and deepening our faith. Reflecting honestly on these experiences helps us recognize patterns, repent where needed, and respond by choosing to abide more fully in Jesus.**

# LESSON 1 - Reality Check

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## ANSWERS TO FRIDAY'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Q2 : Ellen G. White talks about "a constant receiving of His Spirit." How often do you pray for the Holy Spirit? What might change if you received the Holy Spirit every day?**

### ANSWER:

**Ellen G. White emphasizes a constant receiving of the Holy Spirit, reminding us that spiritual life is sustained by daily connection with God. How often do we truly ask for His presence? If we received the Holy Spirit every day, our hearts would be more sensitive to God's guidance, our love for Him and others would grow, and we would bear fruit even in trials. Daily prayer for the Spirit transforms ordinary moments into opportunities for growth, obedience, and deeper intimacy with God.**

# LESSON 1 - Reality Check

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## ANSWERS TO FRIDAY'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Q3 : What might change if we, as a church, were to pray for the Holy Spirit more earnestly and more regularly?**

### ANSWER:

**If we, as a church, prayed for the Holy Spirit more earnestly and regularly, our collective life would be transformed. God's presence would guide our decisions, unite our hearts, and empower us to serve with love and boldness. We would see greater spiritual growth, deeper fellowship, and more effective witness to the community, as His Spirit strengthens and directs us in everything we do.**

# LESSON 1 - Reality Check

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## ANSWERS TO FRIDAY'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Q4 : Be brutally, even painfully, frank with yourself over your relationship with God. What conscious choices do you need to make in order to have the closeness with Him that He wants but that you hinder?**

### ANSWER:

**Being honest with ourselves can be uncomfortable, but it is necessary for spiritual growth. Consider which habits, distractions, or attitudes are keeping you from closeness with God, whether it's pride, busyness, unforgiveness, or lukewarm devotion. The conscious choices we need to make might include daily prayer, surrendering control, seeking forgiveness, prioritizing God's Word, and relying fully on His Spirit. True intimacy with God begins when we stop holding back and let Him shape our hearts.**