

**Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes**  
**Fourth Quarter 2023: *God's Mission—My Mission***  
**Lesson 6 “Motivation and Preparation for Mission”**

**Read for this week's study**

Luke 24:1–12; Luke 24:36–49; Acts 1:12–26; Hebrews 10:24, 25; Acts 2:1–41; 1 Corinthians 11:1.

**Memory Text**

“ ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me’ ” (Luke 24:44, NKJV).

**Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide**

- I. Introduction
- II. To Share the Good News
- III. A Prophetic Foundation
- IV. Waiting and Mission
- V. “Whom You Crucified”
- VI. A Picture of the Early Church
- VII. Further Study

**Questions and Notes for Consideration**

**Facilitator: Jon Paulien**

1. What did it mean to “preach Christ” in the First Century? What would be the equivalent today? (Sabbath Afternoon's Lesson)
2. Read Luke 24:1-12. What was the response of those who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead? What do you think was the basis for that response? The women bringing the report were excited because they were talking about their own personal experience. What is your own personal experience with Jesus/God? (Sunday's Lesson)
3. Read Luke 24:36-49. Why was this such a pivotal experience for the apostles? If Jesus now had a supernatural body, why did He ask the disciples for food? Prophecy played a major role in the disciples discovery of who Jesus is. What is the role of Bible prophecy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? (Monday's Lesson)

4. Read Acts 1:12-26. What were the disciples of Jesus, numbering 120 men and women, doing while they were waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit? How do we know when to wait and when to go? Why do you think they needed to replace Judas, why not just go ahead with 11? Who were these “disciples” that are not mentioned in the Gospels? (Tuesday’s Lesson)
5. Read Acts 2:1-41. What happened to the disciples after they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? What does it mean when the text says that the disciples were speaking in “other tongues”? Why does Peter’s explanation of what is going on focus on Joel 2:28-32? What is he doing with the Old Testament here? What evidence did Peter give that Jesus was raised from the dead? What evidence is there in the text that the gospel is for *everyone*? (Wednesday’s Lesson)
6. Read Acts 2:41-47. What did the fledgling church do with the newly baptized believers? What methods did they use to mentor the new believers as they grew in the faith? (Thursday’s Lesson)
7. Think of someone in your life who you wish was a believer. Pray every day for him or her to have a personal experience with God. (Thursday’s Lesson)
8. Who are you discipling currently? Look for ways to bring him or her into relationship with Jesus and fellowship with other believers. (Friday’s Lesson)
9. Based on your own life experiences, what could you tell other people about the goodness and love of God? (Friday’s Lesson)

### Thoughts from Graham Maxwell

There’s much talk these days, as the Great Controversy comes to its end, about the work of the Holy Spirit and how he will manifest himself. And many feel that he’s very active in the world today. We see this not only in our church, but even more in other communions, don’t we? What do we really expect to see under the latter rain when the Holy Spirit has more freedom to work than ever before?

What do you want the Holy Spirit to do for you? Do you want to speak in some unknown tongue that requires an interpreter? Now that’s not what happened at Pentecost. They didn’t need any interpreters, did they? The disciples spoke and everyone in the audience—they’d come in from all over the Mediterranean world said, “Say, each one of us hears and understands in his own tongue.” That’s the gift of communication that was given at Pentecost. What we see around us now is something else.

Well, what do you really want the Holy Spirit to do most? Do you want to be swept up into an experience of such excitement that you can’t think clearly and calmly about the truth and weigh the evidence on either side? Isn’t it dangerous to be swept off our feet into some of these eddies of excitement that we see around us.

And if we want the Holy Spirit to do his work for us, how can we best cooperate with him? And how can we know if we're coming under the influence of the Spirit of God or the power of the enemy who has shown such skill in counterfeiting the work of God? {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, PUC Teacher's Conference, #8 "He Walks These Grounds", recorded April 1974, Angwin, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link: <http://pkp.cc/8MMPUCTEACH>*

But the most impressive illustration of how God seeks to convince us—not on authority and power, but on the basis of truth—was provided by Jesus Himself on the road to Emmaus. And that's described in Luke 24, on the Bible Reference Sheet. I wish we could read the whole story:

[But] while they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him [they didn't know Christ was walking with them]. And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding?" [You see, they were having a conversation about God (as we are) on the road to Emmaus.] And they stood still, looking sad. . . . And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself. . . . Later, when he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him. (RSV)

Why did He not reveal who He was at the beginning, and say, "What are your questions? You know that I will give you authoritative answers, and I will expect you to believe them." He did not reveal who He was until He had led them to an intelligent confidence based on the unquestionable evidence of Scripture. Then He revealed who He was. If the Infinite One will do that, how dare we presume to take any shortcuts? {Graham Maxwell. Excerpt from the audio series, Conversations About God, #4, "God's Way of Restoring Trust" recorded February 1984, Loma Linda, California} *To listen to the entire audio of the above reference, click on the following direct link: <http://pkp.cc/4MMCAG>*

### **Further Study with Ellen White**

During His ministry, Jesus had kept constantly before the disciples the fact that they were to be one with Him in His work for the recovery of the world from the slavery of sin. When He sent forth the Twelve and afterward the Seventy, to proclaim the kingdom of God, He was teaching them their duty to impart to others what He had made known to them. In all His work He was training them for individual labor, to be extended as their numbers increased, and eventually to reach to the uttermost parts of the earth. The last lesson He gave His followers was that they held in trust for the world the glad tidings of salvation. {AA 32.1}

God has recorded many narratives in His Inspired Word to teach us that the human family is the object of the special care of heavenly angels. Man is not left to become the sport of Satan's temptations. All heaven is actively engaged in the work of communicating light to the inhabitants of the world, that they may not be left without spiritual guidance. An eye that never slumbers nor sleeps is guarding the camp of Israel. Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of angels are ministering to the needs of the children of men. Voices inspired by God are crying, This is the way, walk ye in it. If men will hear the voice of warning, if they will trust to God's guidance and not to finite judgment, they will be safe.... {HP 103.2}

In all ages God has given human beings divine revelations, that thus He may fulfill His purpose of unfolding gradually to the mind the doctrines of grace. His manner of imparting the truth is illustrated by the words, "His going forth is prepared as the morning." He who places himself where God can enlighten him, advances, as it were, from the partial obscurity of dawn to the full radiance of noonday. {ML 109.4}

As we contemplate the great things of God's word, we look into a fountain that broadens and deepens beneath our gaze. Its breadth and depth pass our knowledge. As we gaze, the vision widens; stretched out before us we behold a boundless, shoreless sea. {Ed 171.2}

Such study has vivifying power. The mind and heart acquire new strength, new life. {Ed 171.3}

God is the author of truth. He enlightens the darkened understanding and gives to the human mind power to grasp and comprehend the truths which He has revealed. {SL 49.1}

The Bible is full of knowledge, and all who come to its study with a heart to understand, will find the mind enlarged and the faculties strengthened to comprehend these precious, far-reaching truths. The Holy Spirit will impress them upon the mind and soul. {FE 449.2}

The Lord did not lock the reservoir of heaven after pouring His Spirit upon the early disciples. We, also, may receive of the fullness of His blessing. Heaven is full of the treasures of His grace, and those who come to God in faith may claim all that He has promised. (RH June 4, 1889). {3BC 1152.4}

The same Spirit that in His stead was sent to be the instructor of His first co-workers, Christ has commissioned to be the instructor of His co-workers today. "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20), is His promise. {Ed 96.1}

Through the visible ascension of Christ all their views and contemplation of heaven are changed. Their minds had formerly dwelt upon it as a region of unlimited space, tenanted by spirits without substance. Now heaven was connected with the thought of Jesus, whom they had loved and revered above all others, with whom they had conversed and journeyed, whom they had handled, even in His resurrected body, who had spoken hope and comfort to their hearts, and who, while the words were upon His lips, had been taken up before their eyes,

the tones of His voice coming back to them as the cloudy chariot of angels received Him: “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” {6BC 1054.3}

Heaven could no longer appear to them as an indefinite, incomprehensible space, filled with intangible spirits. They now looked upon it as their future home, where mansions were being prepared for them by their loving Redeemer. Prayer was clothed with a new interest, since it was a communion with their Saviour. With new and thrilling emotions and a firm confidence that their prayer would be answered, they gathered in the upper chamber to offer their petitions and to claim the promise of the Saviour, who had said, “Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.” They prayed in the name of Jesus. {6BC 1054.4}

They had a gospel to preach—Christ in human form, a man of sorrows; Christ in humiliation, taken by wicked hands and crucified; Christ resurrected, and ascended to heaven, into the presence of God, to be man’s Advocate; Christ to come again with power and great glory in the clouds of heaven (3SP 262, 263). {6BC 1054.5}

To those who in humility of heart seek for divine guidance, angels of God draw near. The Holy Spirit is given to open to them the rich treasures of the truth. {COL 59.3}

We all have many difficulties to meet, many perplexing problems to solve. But we have an all-powerful Helper, who will listen to our requests as willingly and gladly as He listened to the requests of those who, when He was on this earth in person, came to Him for help. . . . {HP 124.2}

By maintaining a connection with God, we shall be enabled to diffuse to others, through our association with them, the light, the peace, the serenity, that rule in our hearts. The strength acquired in prayer to God, united with persevering effort in training the mind in thoughtfulness and care-taking, prepares one for daily duties and keeps the spirit in peace under all circumstances. {MB 85.2}

To us today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who on the day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word.—*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 20. {ChS 250.1}

The promise of the Holy Spirit is not limited to any age or to any race. Christ declared that the divine influence of His Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. From the day of Pentecost to the present time, the Comforter has been sent to all who have yielded themselves fully to the Lord and to His service.—*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 40. {ChS 250.2}

God does not ask us to do in our own strength the work before us. He has provided divine assistance for all the emergencies to which our human resources are unequal. He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illuminate our minds and

purify our hearts. . . . There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. . . . Christ declared that the divine influence of the Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. {ML 37.4}

Divine wisdom will order the steps of those who put their trust in the Lord. Divine love will encircle them, and they will realize the presence of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. {OHC 324.6}

The Holy Spirit was sent as the most priceless treasure man could receive. {ML 36.5}

The Holy Spirit imparts love, joy, peace, strength, and consolation; it is as a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. The blessing is free to all. {FLB 53.7}

These scenes are to be repeated, and with greater power. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was the former rain, but the latter rain will be more abundant. The Spirit awaits our demand and reception. Christ is again to be revealed in His fulness by the Holy Spirit's power. {COL 121.1}

God does not ask us to do in our own strength the work before us. He has provided divine assistance for all the emergencies to which our human resources are unequal. He gives the Holy Spirit to help in every strait, to strengthen our hope and assurance, to illuminate our minds and purify our hearts. {8T 19.1}

God has given to each of his messengers his distinctive work; and, while there is a diversity of gifts, all are to blend harmoniously in carrying forward the great work of salvation. They are only instruments of divine grace and power. {8Red 74.1}

In all the Lord's arrangements, there is nothing more beautiful than His plan of giving to men and women a diversity of gifts. The church is His garden, adorned with a variety of trees, plants, and flowers. He does not expect the hyssop to assume the proportions of the cedar, nor the olive to reach the height of the stately palm. Many have received but a limited religious and intellectual training, but God has a work for this class to do if they will labor in humility, trusting in Him.—Letter 122, 1902. {Ev 98.3}