

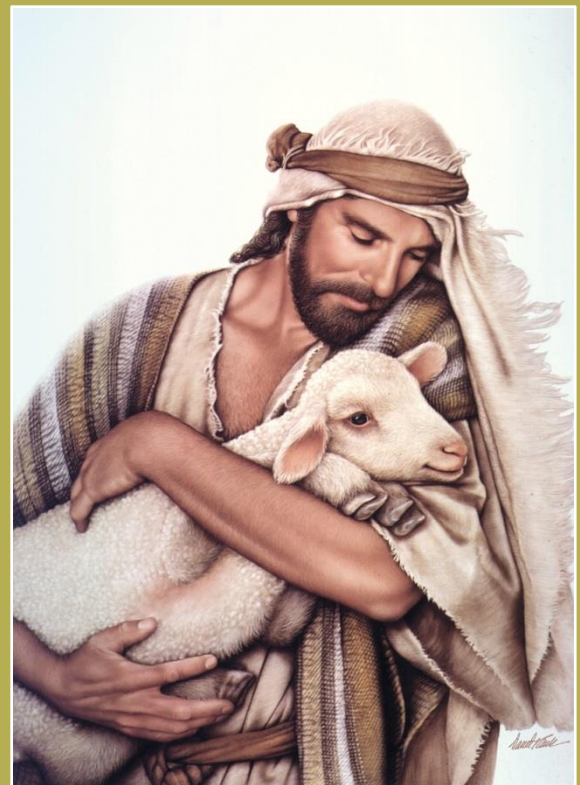
WEEK OF PRAYER

October 11-16, 2015

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THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD!

CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS MINISTRIES
INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION



ADVENTIST CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS DAY

October 17, 2015

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Psalm (ICB)

1

*The LORD is my shepherd,
I have everything I need.*

2

*He gives me rest in green pastures.
He leads me to calm water.*

3

*He gives me new strength.
For the good of His name,
He leads me on paths that are right.*

4

*Even if I walk through a very dark valley,
I will not be afraid, because you are with me.
Your rod and your shepherd's staff comfort me.*

5

*You prepare a meal before me
in front of my enemies.
You pour oil of blessing on my head.
You give me more than I can hold.*

6

*Surely your goodness and love
will be with me all my life,
and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.*

13 Promises from Psalm 23

First Promise

The Lord is my Shepherd! - Verse 1

Second Promise

I have everything I need! - Verse 1

Third Promise

He gives me rest! - Verse 2

Fourth Promise

He leads me! - Verse 2

Fifth Promise

He gives me new strength! - Verse 3

Sixth Promise

He leads me on paths that are right! - Verse 3

Seventh Promise

I will not be afraid! - Verse 4

Eight Promise

Your rod and your shepherd's staff comfort me! - Verse 4

Ninth Promise

You prepare a meal before me! - Verse 5

Tenth Promise

You pour oil of blessing on my head! - Verse 5

Eleventh Promise

You give me more than I can hold! - Verse 5

Twelfth Promise

Your goodness and love will be with me all my life! - Verse 6

Thirteenth Promise

I will live in the house of the Lord forever! - Verse 6

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

DECORATION

You can make a poster of the desired size with the title THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD with a picture of Jesus and the children.

You can also have a poster on the wall with the title and each day a sheep is added with the phrase of Psalm 23 that corresponds to that day. Add the sheep that each one will make in the activity of the first day.

Make sure the environment is attractive and allusive. Decorate the platform with pictures of sheep, shepherds, grass, and any additional thing that gives an idea of the shepherd's environment.

MISSION PROJECT

Three months prior to the week of prayer, enlist the help of the church secretary and the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School department to gather the names and addresses of all the children who have ever attended church, whether as a member or a visitor, and that for some reason are not attending. With the help of the children prepare a special invitation and if possible a visit for the week of prayer and the Adventist Children and Adolescents Day.

PREPARATION

Do not leave for the last minute the necessary preparation. Begin with prayer to choose the staff needed for the various activities. Ask the church for a special prayer for the children and adolescents who will be participating.

Do not forget to make the invitation posters and have this activity in the newsletters, radio and any other means available.

Prayerfully choose the children/adolescent preachers and give them the sermon/participation to preach for them to study and make it their own. They should be free to use visual illustrations to help present their topic.

Three weeks before, summon them to start practicing what they have learned and to give the final details.

DURING THE WEEK

Remember that as a leader you represent the Good Shepherd. Treat the participants and those attending the program with kindness, patience, encouragement and appreciation.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

DAY 1 - Jesus is my Shepherd

Material Needed:

Disposable plates, cotton balls, gray card stock paper, colored pencils, scissors, and any other item needed.

**Activity:**

Have an example ready for the children to see. Allow them to cut the gray card stock paper to form the face, tail and legs. The eyes can be painted with black and white markers or get the eyes that are sold in craft stores. The nose and mouth can also be drawn.

On one of the strips each child should write their name. This craft should be kept in the room all week as an indication that they are the Lord's sheep.

DAY 2 - Keychain of hope

Material Needed:

Bibles, pieces of paper 2 inches x 1 inch, regular markers or fine point markers, glue, acrylic paint, glitter glue, a key ring and a piece of formica to which a hole has been drilled on one side. (It's possible to obtain free samples in many stores that sell construction/decorating materials).

Activity:

For this activity give each child a piece of formica, a piece of paper 2 x 1 and a marker. Allow the children to work in pairs to look for their favorite Bible verse. After writing the verse and decorating it as they prefer, they should glue it onto the formica and put the key ring into the hole on the formica. They can carry this keychain with them or place it in a place where they can read it when they feel afraid.

DAY 3 - Aluminum lamps

Material Needed:

Clean aluminum cans, which have had all the labels removed and have no sharp edges, hammers, different sized nails, and votive candles.

Activity:

Give each child an aluminum can and a marker. Have the children draw a simple design on the side of the can, like a cross, a heart, a star, flower or shape of a dove. Teach the children how to hold the can between their legs and gently tap a nail to make a small hole around the

contour of the pattern. Make this hole every half-inch. Repeat the process on the other side of the can. When they finish with the cans place a votive candle inside.

While they work explain that long ago the churches were lit with candles. They were made like the ones we are doing and they decorated the church in a special way and they looked very nice.

We too can be lights to show others that the Lord is our Shepherd and that He will keep us at all times with the light of His love.

These candles can be used to decorate on Sabbath and then the children can take them home.

DAY 4 - Security Briefcase

Material Needed:

Card stock paper, scissors, ribbon, and stapler

Activity:

Give each child a sheet of card stock paper and ribbon. After folding the card stock in half and closing the sides with a stapler and leaving it in the shape of a rectangular briefcase, ask the children to staple the ribbon side by side on the back, which will serve as the handle. Ask the children to say what things they would tell others about Jesus. Write down what they say. Make a photocopy of the paper and cut it into pieces to give each child to place inside the briefcase. Encourage the children to hand out these pieces (personal tracts), where Jesus is described, among their families, friends and neighbors.

DAY 5 - Candy Centerpieces

Material needed:

Scotch tape, decorating ribbon, scissors, an 8 – 10 inch candle, and 6 candy canes for each child.

Activity:

The children should work in pairs. To make each centerpiece, start by gluing a candy cane downwards to the candle. Continue gluing the other sticks around the candle at $\frac{1}{2}$ inch intervals. The curve of the candy canes must be leveled on the table for good support. Tie a ribbon around it to make it look nice.

Tell the children that God is preparing a table to celebrate our arrival in heaven. A table where we will rejoice with Him.



DAY 6 -

My Favorite Verse



Material needed:

Card stock paper, paper, scissors, markers, ribbon, glue, and stickers.

Activity:

Provide the material needed so that the children can make a bookmark with their favorite verse from Psalm 23.

Take the time to ask them why it is their favorite verse. (All the answers are special.)

ADVENTIST CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS DAY

- The Sabbath School and Divine Worship program can be found at the end of this manual.
- Have the craft exhibition with the corresponding name of each child.
- Prepare something special for the visiting children and adolescents who may come on that day.
- Try to involve all the children and adolescents in one way or another.
- Prepare a good lunch for them and make sure to have a special talent program on Sabbath afternoon and a social program that night. You can have a fair or something interesting and fun for them.



THEME SONG

The Lord is My Shepherd

The Lord is my Shepherd;
I'll walk with Him always.
He leads by still waters;
I'll walk with Him always.

Always, always,
I'll walk with Him always.

Always, always,
I'll walk with Him always.

The Lord is my Shepherd;
I'll live for Him always.
The Lord is my Shepherd;
I'll live for Him always.

Always, always,
I'll live for Him always.

Always, always,
I'll live for Him always.

FIRST DAY

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

MEMORY VERSE

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need”. Psalm 23:1

FIRST CHILD:

(You should speak with a loud and lively voice.)

You have to see a true shepherd guiding his large flock!

In order to tend sheep, the shepherd wears clothing made of strong and comfortable fabric. He dresses like a shepherd. *(Puts on a dark baptismal robe over his clothes and ties it at the waist with a cord. Have a cane or staff somewhere on the platform.)*

The shepherd is a person who is committed to each of his sheep. He provides service and personalized attention to each one. He is responsible for their safety, care and feeding. He is loving with all his flock, lavishes love on the stubborn and obstinate sheep, to the young ones, the rebellious ones and the playful babies.

Let us all repeat the first verse together:

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need”.

Psalm 23:1

For this to work well, the same person should take them out of the corral every day and take them to the field to graze and because they have an exquisite palate, they do not eat grass that has been trampled on previously, thus forcing their shepherd to walk greater distances each day. In addition, the shepherd must be brave.

In reading the story of the young shepherd David, we see how on various occasions he had to run after the bear or lion when they stole a sheep from the flock and wounded it. The Bible story tells that David, with his own hands, would take the lamb out of their mouth.

In Hebrew families, the work of shepherding the sheep corresponded to the younger son. That's why when the prophet Samuel goes to the house of Jesse to anoint a new king, young David was in the field tending to his father's flock.

I want to know right now, how many of those present are the youngest son or daughter of your family? Please raise your hand.

I know! There are many shepherds who could go to the fields to tend to the sheep.

Now we will learn a little about what sheep are like.

- ✓ They are completely dependent for their food.
- ✓ They cannot be alone, fear paralyzes them and they do not know how to defend themselves.
- ✓ If they become entangled in a thorn bush they are not capable of getting out of it.
- ✓ They drink a lot of water, but it must be clean and calm. If the water moves, they get scared and cannot drink it.

When speaking of Jehovah as our Shepherd and seeing how He cares for and protects His flock (us), can you tell me: what is the earthly figure that also fulfills or should fulfill the functions of a Shepherd? *(Allow time for them to respond.)* Exactly! YOUR PARENTS. God has chosen them to take care of you, to guide you and to protect you.

Beloved and respected parents, you have been appointed by God Himself to be the priests of the home, "the Shepherd of your family".

The affection that unites the "Shepherd" with His "Sheep", the many hours they spend together, form a close relationship:

- ✓ Lamb – Shepherd (You and God)

That same close relationship should exist between:

- ✓ You – Your shepherd (You and your parents and the other family members)

SECOND CHILD: (Dressed as a shepherd.)

If an earthly shepherd, a human, can take such good care of his flock, such good care of his family, can you imagine how our heavenly Shepherd does it?

“The Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need”.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| ✓ Do you lack food? | – | Make the Lord your Shepherd. |
| ✓ Do you lack money? | – | Make the Lord your Shepherd. |
| ✓ Do you lack health? | – | Make the Lord your Shepherd. |
| ✓ Do you lack happiness? | – | Make the Lord your Shepherd. |
| ✓ Do you lack work? | – | Make the Lord your Shepherd. |

At this moment, the Lord, your Good Shepherd, tells you:

- ❖ Son, do not struggle alone, let Me help. I want to be by your side. We will do it together.

Tonight, I would appreciate it if everyone would stand and repeat after me: Lord, I want to be Yours, Yours forever; I want You to be my Shepherd!

LET'S PRAY:

Lord, all the children, youth and adults, we want You to be our Shepherd.

Help us to stay close to You.

Keep the wolf Satan away from our side.

We are little sheep of Your pasture.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

SECOND DAY

HE GIVES ME REST

MEMORY VERSE

“He gives me rest in green pastures, He leads me to calm water”. Psalm 23:2

FIRST CHILD:

Let us repeat this verse together: (Everyone repeats Psalm 23:2)

Have you ever felt tired?

When you run too much on your grandfather’s farm or when you go to the beach, your body becomes exhausted and the time comes when it is necessary to sleep to recharge your energy.

Excessive exhaustion generates many symptoms and health problems in the human body including stress and low defenses in our organism to react positively against invading microorganisms.

- ✓ If you want good memory, you should rest.
- ✓ If you want good health, you should rest.
- ✓ If you want to grow, you need to rest.

Rest is very important. We should sleep seven to eight hours each night.

Can you imagine a sunny afternoon and you lying in the grass under the shade of a beautiful tree, looking at the shapes that the clouds have or watching the stars on a dark night?

Our Shepherd offers us rest and says it is "in green pastures." Moreover, I believe that He sits down and then invites us to lean up against Him. This is really relaxing! And if we are thirsty He offers us water, lots of mineral water from the storehouses of heaven.

The Lords’ flock needs to go to calm waters; these waters do not scare the sheep.
(Show a picture of calm waters and another where there is a storm.)

Have you ever been very thirsty, and felt that if you did not drink water you would fall to the ground?



When Ryan Hreljac, a Canadian boy, was six years old, he started a campaign to build safe water wells in Uganda.

My story is very simple, he says. One day in January 1998 I was sitting in my classroom. My teacher explained that there were people who got sick or died because they had no water. He told us about how adults and children in Africa walk hours to get dirty water.

I only had to take ten steps to the water fountain at my school to drink clean water. After that day, I decided that I wanted the whole world to have the same possibility.

When he got home, he told his parents that he needed to get money to drill wells in Africa. His mother told him that he had to earn the money, and gave him simple chores in exchange for a few coins.

After a few weeks, he got US\$75.00. Then he went to a company where they explained that to install a water purification unit water it would cost \$2,000.00 (two thousand dollars). He asked for help from teachers, classmates and neighbors. Quickly they built the first clean drinking water well in a primary school in Uganda.

Up to today they have opened more than 500 clean drinking water wells, quenching the thirst of more than half a million people in Africa.

SECOND CHILD:

Yes children, water gives us life, it is a needed constituent for the body. Oh, but there are people who do not like to drink enough water or they drink very little.

How can we drink this water?

Besides drinking the water that the Shepherd offers us, we can share the water of life with other children and their parents.

Look how easy it is:

- ✓ When we visit those who are sick, we drink water!
- ✓ When we share the toys, we drink water!
- ✓ When we help out at home, we drink water!
- ✓ When we obey God and our parents, we drink water!
- ✓ When we go to church, we drink water!

And what is written in John 4:14 is fulfilled:

“But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wants to give us that purified water, delicious to the palate when we go to church and we worship Him as our Savior. He wants the Sabbath to be a peaceful day. He wants our life to be calm. But you know what? He doesn't make us stay in the calm water. He invites us! You decide what to do: calm waters or rough waters?

Many love to get in the mud of the rough waters (fights, quarrels, theft, lies, disobedience, shouting, gossip). Satan is happy when you spend time doing these things. But today, Jesus, your Shepherd invites you out of those black waters contaminated by sin and wants to bathe you in the calm waters where He will shepherd us, care for us, protect us.

APPEAL

How many want to say to the Lord: "From this moment You are my Shepherd, I need You. Watch over us, protect us and manifest Yourself in our lives so that everyone can see that we have been with You, our Shepherd. "

I invite you to stand for prayer.

PRAYER

THIRD DAY

HE GIVES ME NEW STRENGTH

MEMORY VERSE

“He gives me new strength. For the good of His name, He leads me on paths that are right.” Psalm 23:3



FIRST CHILD:

What does it mean to comfort?

It means to encourage a person, especially if they have pain or problems. That is, if you, my friend, who are listening to me tonight, have a problem, a difficulty, some sadness, you must come to Jesus. He is the only one who can give us what we need for us to be happy and at peace.

In the home of Paul and Mary it seemed that everything was going to collapse. Every day their father and mother understood each other less. The children were watching as their parents fought and argued. They felt fear, much sadness and great anguish that did not allow them to concentrate on their studies.

You know children, when adults fight they give us a bad example and they also expose themselves for Satan to continue tempting them. The home of these children was a complete disaster.

(Present in first person.)

One day, Mrs. Judy came to the house, the same lady who had been my mom's babysitter. My sister and I felt safe. Every night she had worship with us before going to sleep and she prayed for each of us and our parents. She helped us with our homework and our grades began to improve.

Mrs. Judy was a blessing for my sister and I. She comforted us and with wise advice, she guided my parents to seek God, and very soon we were all attending the same church with Mrs. Judy. She did her best so that we were happy and at peace.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, does the same thing. If we are sad or discouraged, He encourages us. If we are worried about something He embraces us and says, "Child, cheer up. I am with you, do not be afraid ".

How good to know that someone greater than ourselves, cares about us. This gives us the assurance that nothing and no one can steal our happiness while we are united and together with our Shepherd. Nothing and no one can take away our peace while we are holding His hand.

If we make Jesus our model we can see how He was as a child. The Bible says: "He grew in wisdom and grace with God and men." This is wonderful. If He could, you can too, with His help, you can. We can be bearers of comfort as was Mrs. Judy.

It is possible that at school, or in your neighborhood you need to act by helping somebody, encouraging a discouraged classmate, or it could be that you have to put your arm around the shoulders of a sad person walking through this world as if he were already dead: curved back, eyes downcast, languid paralyzed arms and accompanied by dragged and graceless footsteps. Yes, walking corpses. This is what Satan wants, but you and I can make a difference. For such a time the Lord has called us.

SECOND CHILD:

A very special moment, when we experience the refreshing of our soul, is when we ask forgiveness for our sins, when we apologize for the wrong things we have done. Then we feel peace, joy. We come back to life! It seems that the sun shines brighter than ever.

So it is, brothers and sisters, when we confess our sins, God refreshes our soul.

- ✓ When we hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, God refreshes our soul.
- ✓ When we read the Bible, He refreshes our soul.
- ✓ When we sing, He refreshes our soul.
- ✓ When we pray, He refreshes our soul.
- ✓ When we go to church, He refreshes our soul.

And thus we will be safe in the paths of righteousness. God and God alone will control our walk, if we so choose.

APPEAL

Those who need the refreshing and forgiveness of their souls, please stand.

LET US PRAY

“Lord, here are Your children. We thank you because You are our Shepherd. Guide our lives. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

FOURTH DAY

THE LORD WILL KEEP ME

MEMORY VERSE

“Even if I walk through a very dark valley, I will not be afraid, because you are with me. Your rod and your shepherd’s staff comfort me.” Psalm 23:4



FIRST CHILD:

When winter comes, you have to move the sheep that are grazing in the mountains to the valleys; and it is a very dangerous feat. The sheep can give a misstep and fall over the edge, they can be attacked by a wild beast that carefully follows them from behind, or they could be swept away by flash floods.

Once in the valley, since it is winter, the days go by slowly. The rain and snow are intense and the mountains that surround them block the sun.

The cold is paralyzing, the sheep are organized into groups to keep each other warm.

Overcrowding, little action and low oxygen bring death. Different infections transmitted in several ways, invade the stables and corrals of that time. But there we see the shepherd vaccinating, sorting and separating the sick sheep from the healthy ones. He gives them serum and medicine. He is aware of his entire flock day and night.

Jesus, our Shepherd, does the same. In this old corral called world, the virus of sin is circulating and it is so evil that it leads us to death.

When it's time to go to church we can get from a mild headache to a migraine headache. At other times it seems that it attacks the entire bone and muscle system and it paralyzes us so that we are not able to take a step (and less if it is to go to church). This virus is implanted in the brain and in the heart, hardening and blocking reason and good judgment. We are left unprotected by the spiritual defense system and are vulnerable. Soon the spiritual apathy takes hold of the whole body and this widespread infection leads to death. Unless we allow the Shepherd of all shepherds, Jesus Christ, to apply the necessary medicine. We should take it as indicated on His prescription:

- ✓ Get out of bed and have your devotional.

- ✓ Pray without ceasing.
- ✓ Make Jesus your best Friend.
- ✓ Love your neighbor.

Do this every day and for the rest of our lives and Jehovah-Nissi will victoriously take His flock out of the valley of the shadow of death.

SECOND CHILD:

"Your rod and Your shepherd's staff comfort me."

In reading the story of David, the shepherd boy, we see how he used his rod and staff: "Every tenth animal that passes under the shepherd's staff". (Leviticus 27:32) The rod is also used to scare the dogs or animals that could harm the sheep.

It's great to know today that:

The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.

Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

Psalm 110:2 (NKJV)

But the rod was also used in another way. All the victories that God had given the family were recorded on it. A victory, a line! A mark on the rod to remember that victory for all generations to come.

The rod served as a written testimony to the power and care of God. Thus we see that Aaron's rod was in the Ark of the Covenant, because on it was recorded all God did for the people during their 40 years in the wilderness.

That is why David says, "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" because he could look back on every time that God had been with him and had delivered him.

Do you remember and thank God for the wonderful way that He takes care of you every day? For the air you breathe, for your heart that works, for food, for your family, your home, work? Do you thank God for every aspect of your life?

Children, do you thank God for each of His blessings? For your father, mother, brothers, uncles, aunts, grandparents, school, home, the neighbors, the car, etc.?

Today is the day to begin to be thankful.

(Please have 2 or 3 children prepared to give thanks for a miracle. Give each child a stick with a mark made for this miracle or for them to mark the blessings received to serve as a remembrance for their entire life of the loving care God has for us.)

APPEAL

Raise your hand, all those who tonight, before bedtime, will give thanks and count all the good they have received from God.

LET US PRAY.



MEMORY VERSE

“You prepare a meal before me in front of my enemies. You pour oil of blessing on my head. You give me more than I can hold”. Psalm 23:5

FIRST CHILD:

Dear children, we will continue painting the picture of Psalm 23 tonight with a great banquet.

The banquet is in the open field. The starry sky is the roof and thousands of stars will light up the event. But there is more. The Shepherd Himself is setting the table, putting on the tablecloth, the dishes, the silverware and cups. The table is beautiful, it's perfect.

But as He looks up, He sees that there are stones on the grass and poisonous plants, so He rolls up His shirt sleeves and starts pulling out all the poisonous plants. Then He puts beautiful potted flowers of various colors there and carefully collects each of the stones that can hurt you.

Once all is finished, the Shepherd, your Shepherd, Jesus Himself, brings us to the table. He indicates where you should sit down and then the banquet begins. Good food, good music, lots of joy and fellowship.

But ... while this happens, wild animals are around among the rocks, glaring at the flock that is at the banquet with hatred and hungry.

This is how the Lord takes care of us and feeds us. In the presence of the enemy!

Look how He prepares the table: He takes out time, planning everything without haste, He does everything slowly and calmly; He spends time with us, He doesn't hurriedly dismiss us from the banquet. On the contrary, He wants to spend a lot of time with us.

There's a banquet! A celebration! There are balloons, a piñata and cake!

It is one of the many ways we can testify to the world, to neighbors and family that the Lord is our Provider, our Sustainer. So that the enemy sees that God is our friend, in addition to preparing the banquet, He takes great care what you are going to eat, and to top off what He has done, He gives us gifts also. It is a testimony to others, because just as you have food, others also can have, if you take refuge under the care of the Shepherd, the Victorious.

SECOND CHILD:

"You give me more than I can hold".

Oil was something very, very important at the time. Having an abundance of oil was a sign of wealth. You could mix olive oil with sulfur and some spices to protect the sheep from insects, prevent skin infection and prevent complications. When throwing a banquet, the guests of honor were anointed with aromatic oil. We must remember that anointing was to separate, set apart, and in the Bible we read that the kings and priests were anointed. (2 Kings 11:12; 1 Samuel 16:13).

That's right my friends, the Lord has anointed you, and He has separated you so you take the good news of the kingdom to all your family, your neighbors and friends. You are special, you are a prince or princess of the Heavenly Court.

Friends, we have been separated to do great things for the Lord. (*Show two cups, one empty and the other filled with water.*) When the cup is full, it spills, it overflows.

Let us now think a little. We will list the good things that are in the cup of our life:

(Pour some water into the cup with each phrase until it overflows.)

1. We have a home
2. We have siblings
3. WE have parents
4. We have friends
5. We have food
6. We have health
7. We have toys
8. We have clothes
9. We have sun and rain
10. We have Jesus

(Allow your audience to help you mention some of them.)

Jesus wants our cup to overflow with joy because we know Him.

A poor woman and her son lived in a very humble room. One day the mother became sick. The son worked hard to get money to buy food.

One day he brought his mother a gift wrapped in red paper.

Mother, I brought this for you!, he said. When the mother saw the beautiful cup with a beautiful rose, she was very happy.

As the days passed, from where she was lying on her bed, she looked at the flower and it seemed that it was saying how much her son loved her. This filled her with encouragement and she slowly began to feel better.

One day, a neighbor came to visit. She saw the beautiful flower and said: "What a waste of money". Instead of flowers, your son should have bought food. But the mother was sure that the flower had helped restore her to health, because she saw in that flower, her son's love.

I invite you to make our cups overflow by making others happy.

APPEAL

You can collaborate so that others are happy. All those who are going to do a good deed tomorrow to share their blessings with someone else, please stand.

Let's pray.

SIXTH DAY

THE LORD WILL GIVE ME GOODNESS

MEMORY VERSE

Surely your goodness and love will be with me all my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. Psalm 23:6

FIRST CHILD:

What is goodness? What is mercy?

If we go to the dictionary and look up the word **goodness**, it tells us:

- 1- What is perfect in its kind,
- 2- Gladly,
- 3- What is pleasant.

In other words, "goodness", good things, what is perfect, what is pleasant will be with us and best of all, they will be in us at all times. In other words, we will do good and receive goodness. When God is in you, your words and your actions will be good in a great way. You hear the voice of God and immediately listen.

On one occasion Mrs. Martha, while cleaning her house, had a strong desire in her heart. She put down the broom, left the mop, water and soap. She dried her hands and walked straight to her husband's closet. She saw too many shirts, some that her husband had never even used, and thought, if you have not used them it is because you do not like them. So, she took out six new shirts that for a long time had only been taken out of their new packaging to take a place on a clothes hanger. Six shirts, all of them new! Yes, of various colors, pretty colors, but... the best one was white, with long sleeves, with precious buttons adorning it. As if hypnotized, Mrs. Martha now headed towards her husband's suits. There are a lot of them, she looks at them and sets them aside, but she sees that there is a blue one, yes, a beautiful dark blue, but that by no means her dear husband would fit into it because it was about three sizes smaller than its owner .

Mrs. Martha cleans out and organizes the closet. But all those clothes out of place cluttered the home. She takes the car key and carefully takes all those clothes and places them in the trunk.



That afternoon, when her husband returned from a trip, she told him what she had done, and asked him to please take her to the university to deliver the clothes to a young man who could use them. That husband could have said: Hey, not my clothes!, but it was not like that. Both left to take the clothes to the university. For whom? They did not know.

As they parked near the boy's dorm a young man they knew came out. He was glad to see them coming and ran to greet them.

Look, said the husband, we are bringing these clothes to give to a young person who needs them; they are new, but as you can see, they no longer fit me. The young man looked at the clothes, his eyes opened the size of a melon, he put his hand to his mouth and said, wow!

Yes friends, he was the young man they were looking for. With tears in his eyes he said that he was graduating and had to pay a \$35.00 (thirty-five dollar) fee and march with a white shirt, gold tie and blue jacket.

What do you think?

Goodness, do good!

The husband was so touched, that he gave the \$35.00 to cancel his graduation fee.

Goodness, to do good! To live being merciful and compassionate.

SECOND CHILD:

"And I will live in the house of the Lord forever."

Where is the house of the Lord? Where does our Shepherd live? Naturally He's up in heaven. (Mark 16:19) Yes ... yes, we all want to live in heaven.

Jesus said to us: "My Father's house has many rooms..." and I want you, children and brethren, to all live with Him. (John 14:2)

Here we live in houses of stone, wood or cement. There we will live in very different houses (*show beautiful scenes of the new earth*). The walls here are made of iron and cement; over there they will be made of precious stones (*show some gemstones*) and the doors, do you see the door of your house? Yes ... there are some of wood, others aluminum, iron, etc. But in heaven, they are made of pearls and the streets of gold. Children, let me read in the Bible, in the book of Revelation 21:10-27 (*read in a loud voice*).

Are you already imagining how it will be to go into a house made by Jesus? It will be wonderful to hear Him say: Come Mary, this is your house; John, here is yours and Kevin, let's go to your house.

I'm anxious to see my new house in heaven, and above all, happy to live with Jesus forever.

In the book entitled "The Story of Redemption" chapter 67, pp. 430-433, it reads as follows referring to heaven:

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away." Revelation 21:1. The fire that consumes the wicked purifies the earth. Every trace of the curse is swept away. No eternally burning hell will keep before the ransomed the fearful consequences of sin. One reminder alone remains: our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought.

And yet the apostle Paul declares, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9. Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the Paradise of God.

In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called a country. (Hebrews 11:14-16.) There the great Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. The tree of life yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the service of the nations. There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God's people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home

The New Jerusalem

There is the New Jerusalem, "having the glory of God," her light "like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Revelation 21:11. Saith the Lord, "I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people." Isaiah 65:19. "The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:3, 4.

In the city of God "there shall be no night." None will need or desire repose. There will be no weariness in doing the will of God and offering praise to His name. We shall ever feel the freshness of the morning, and shall ever be far from its close. "And they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light." Revelation 22:5. The light of the sun will be superseded by a radiance which is not painfully

dazzling, yet which immeasurably surpasses the brightness of our noontide. The glory of God and the Lamb floods the holy city with unfading light. The redeemed walk in the sunless glory of perpetual day.

“I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.” Revelation 21:22. The people of God are privileged to hold open communion with the Father and the Son. Now we “see through a glass, darkly.” 1 Corinthians 13:12. We behold the image of God reflected, as in a mirror, in the works of nature and in His dealings with men; but then we shall see Him face to face, without a dimming veil between. We shall stand in His presence and gaze upon the glory of His countenance.

There immortal minds will study with never-failing delight the wonders of creative power, the mysteries of redeeming love. There is no cruel, deceiving foe to tempt to forgetfulness of God. Every faculty will be developed, every capacity increased. The acquirement of knowledge will not weary the mind or exhaust the energies. There the grandest enterprises may be carried forward, the loftiest aspirations reached, the highest ambitions realized; and still there will arise new heights to surmount, new wonders to admire, new truths to comprehend, fresh objects to call forth the powers of mind and soul and body.

And as the years of eternity roll, they will bring richer and more glorious revelations of God and of Christ. As knowledge is progressive, so will love, reverence, and happiness increase. The more men learn of God, the greater will be their admiration of His character. As Jesus opens before them the riches of redemption and the amazing achievements in the great controversy with Satan, the hearts of the ransomed beat with a stronger devotion, and they sweep the harps of gold with a firmer hand: and ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of voices unite to swell the mighty chorus of praise.

“And every creature which is in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.” Revelation 5:13.

Sin and sinners are no more, God’s entire universe is clean, and the great controversy is forever ended.”

Amen.

APPEAL

(Prepare a beautiful book with a gold cover and place it on a nicely decorated table in the front and invite the children who want to go to heaven and live forever with Jesus to come forward and write their names in that book. Everything must happen in silence as hymns are sung about heaven.)

SABBATH PROGRAM IN CELEBRATION OF ADVENTIST CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS DAY

M. Dinorah Rivera

Sabbath School Program

(Led out by children and counseled by teachers.)

Stage Setting:

A representative of Jesus, the Shepherd and children dressed as sheep.

Introduction:

(Voice in off or a person in the front.) All this week we've been learning through Psalm 23 about God's goodness towards us in every moment of our life.

The children enter carrying a long banner that says: The Lord is my Shepherd.

Child 1: This is what is called Relationship!

Child 2: And in order to have a relationship we should pray. Let's bow our heads for prayer.

Child 3: I have everything I need.

Child 4: This is what is called Providing!

Child 5: God has provided for us to be here today and promises to provide us great blessings.

The five children in chorus say: WELCOME EVERYONE!

(The 5 children exit.)

(The next children who will recite the verse bring it on individual posters.)

Child 6: He gives me rest in green pastures (poster)

Child 7: That is what is called Rest!

Child 8: He leads me to calm water (poster)

Child 9: That is what is called Refreshing!

Child 10: He comforts me (poster)

Child 11: That is what is called Healing!

Child 12: Our soul is refreshed and healed when we sing praises to God. As we stand together let's sing hymn "Thank You, Jesus" #101 from the Sing for Joy songbook.

(The 7 children exit.)

(The next children who will recite the verse bring it on individual posters.)

Child 13: He leads me on paths that are right (poster)

Child 14: That is what is called Leading! And God leads us to help others to know and love Him. Let's listen how God has led in the mission fields.

Child 15: Tells the mission story

Child 16: For the good of His name (poster)

Child 17: That is what is called Purpose! And with a prayer in our hearts, we will separate to review the lesson that we have purposely studied after we hear a beautiful special song prepared with the purpose of praising God.

Child 18 or group: Special Music

The Sabbath school director can take the opportunity to thank the children and give any other instructions.

DIVINE WORSHIP

(Led out by children, including the sermon.)

Entrance of participants

Doxology

Invocation

Welcome

Hymn

Prayer (kneeling)

Tithes and offerings - (if the church has children who play instruments,
have them play while the offering is collected)

Special Moment

Sermon

Theme Song

Closing Prayer

SERMON

Happy Sabbath to everyone! This week has been very special for all who attended the week of prayer. We learned many lessons of trust in God. I want everyone who attended during the week to say in chorus "The Lord is my shepherd, I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED!". Let's repeat it louder. Now I will ask those who were not with us to repeat with us the same sentence, praying with the certainty that they will leave here with the same conviction.

All those present will read our Bible reading. We will read Psalm 23 alternating by sides. Starting with those sitting on the right and followed by those who are sitting on the left.

*"The LORD is my shepherd,
I have everything I need.
He gives me rest in green pastures.
He leads me to calm water.
He gives me new strength.
For the good of His name,
He leads me on paths that are right.*

*Even if I walk through a very dark valley,
I will not be afraid, because you are with me.
Your rod and your shepherd's staff comfort me.
You prepare a meal before me in front of my enemies.
You pour oil of blessing on my head.
You give me more than I can hold.
Surely your goodness and love will be with me all my life,
and I will live in the house of the LORD forever."*

This morning we will study together about a word that is the foundation of the beautiful Psalm 23 that we have studied, learned and recited. During Sabbath School we emphasized some key words, but at this time we will talk about its foundation. The word is: RELATIONSHIP. (*Show a sign with the word relationship or ask for the help of 8 children to each hold one of the letters forming the word*).

RELATIONSHIP

When I think about that word a name comes to mind: Enoch. Do you remember who Enoch was? Although the Bible does not mention many of those who lived before the flood, God has always counted on a few who were faithful to Him. The Bible refers to Enoch as a friend of God. You cannot be friends without having a good relationship. Enoch was a faithful servant of God whose heart was in tune with Jesus. Amos 3:3 (NIV) says, "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?" God and Enoch were in agreement and the Bible tells us that Enoch walked with God, stayed close to God and walked according to God for 300 years!

Many Christians draw near to God when they see death nearby, or when out of fear thinking that Jesus is coming. Enoch did not know how long he would live but his friendship with God was such that it was not a matter of time but a heart full of a relationship that did not have a day or an hour.

Enoch was a very intelligent and humble man. He was saddened to see how evil was increasing on earth. Whenever he could he preferred to step aside and talk with God. Despite living on earth, his heart grew closer and closer to the God of heaven.

The antediluvians did not listen to Enoch's warnings, a man who walked with God. Sadly, today many also reject the warnings that Jesus has left us. We should befriend Jesus so that our hearts think and act like Him. As a well-known saying goes: "Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are". Our parents and elders often warn us not to befriend certain people so we do not learn their habits and do not act like them. Because the more time we spend with someone, the more we become like them.

Enoch did not allow the activities of daily living to separate him from God. No matter how loaded he was with tasks and activities, he always tried to spend time with his friend God.

There is a little chorus that almost every day comes to my mind, especially when I open my eyes in the morning. It says:

"In the morning I direct my praise to the God who was and is my only hope. In the morning I will call upon Him with my soul, and I beg Him to give me His sweet peace. He listens to us because He loves us so much, and relieves us from any grief, He gives us His powerful and strong hand to deliver us from death itself. "

Actually this hymn speaks of several important words found in Psalm 23 such as hope, rest, safety, protection, and eternity. But all this can be experienced only when we have a relationship of trust in whom we believe.

RELATIONSHIP is an active word that means more than one person and is an activity that should exist between our God and us. We cannot have a relationship with someone with whom we do not speak, with whom we do not interact, who we do not know. We need to develop this RELATIONSHIP with God in prayer, in reading His Word, in the silence of communion with Him where we can hear His voice. Only by having that RELATIONSHIP can we receive all the actions found in Psalm 23.

What are some important ingredients to have a relationship with God?

1. **Time** – we must be willing to give of our time in order to have a good relationship. What is your first thought when you wake up? Playing games, breakfast, your phone, or God? Whatever occupies your first thought is what you're spending your relationship time on. Or, is your prayer short and learned that you recite it without realizing what you said? Do you fulfill the "requirement" of prayer, your communication with God to give time to what really interests you?

"Did you remember when you woke up to ask God for His help for the day and that He be your guide when tempted. Oh, what a friend and comfort the soul finds in prayer."

2. **Obedience** – an obedience that comes from a heartfelt desire to do His will. You should be here this morning to relate to God, to obey His commandments with love and not by mandatory obedience to earn a reward.

Ecclesiastes 5:1 says: "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong."

3. **Sincerity** – children can sometimes be so sincere that they are hurtful. They are in the process of learning to say things wisely. We must go to God in all sincerity because He knows our thoughts anyway.

It is said that in a Bible class the teacher asked the children to write a prayer. He gave the children a pencil and paper. The teacher noticed a girl who was writing the alphabet. When the teacher asked her why she had written the alphabet instead of a prayer, the girl replied: "I wrote all the letters so that Jesus could choose those that He wanted for me to pray."

Not that we should do that, but we have to know that no matter what we write, no matter what we say, God knows what is in our hearts. We should come to Him as we are and talk about what we are feeling and what we are doing. He will hear us and help us when we seek Him with a sincere heart.

4. **Love** - the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need...we find a Lord so filled with love who provides, heals, guides, protects, who is faithful, who gives us hope, who gives us His blessing, and who offers us eternal life. Everything out of love.

1 John 3:1-3: "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. All who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure."

What is our response to His love? Do we love Him because we want to live forever or do we love Him for what He did for us? Many of us are afraid of dying forever and we come to church and we obey in the hope that God will give us eternal life. But without love, no matter what we do, we will not achieve eternal life.

The love we feel for God is the love that drives us to do good, to love our neighbors, family, friends and church members with a love that makes us think of them before ourselves. A love that drives us to share the love of God, the truth of His Word with others because our love is extended to all and for the sole purpose that no one should perish, but have everlasting life as one of the verses that we repeat most often says: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

How many of us want to say to God this morning, "Lord, I want to be your friend like Enoch was; I want to walk with you every day of my life and that my heart be like yours; help us to be like you, shepherds in Your flock that provide love, rest, healing, protection and hope?

If this is what you desire, stand up and pray with me that God will help us to love others as He loves us, and relate to Him so that by being like Him we can live with Him forever.

Let's pray.

Thank you, Lord, for your promises.
Thank you, Lord for that beautiful Psalm that You have given us
and that we keep in our hearts.
Help us to not forget that You are our Shepherd
and that You will always be by our side.
Help us to love as You do.
Help us to relate to You in such a way
That You can change our heart to be open to Your voice
And in this way help others to know and love You for eternity.
We love You, Lord.
AMEN.