Sabbath
FOR STUDY
- Memory Text: “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls” (Hebrews 12:2, 3, NKJV).
- Our Beliefs, no. 11, Growing in Christ: “We are also called to follow Christ’s example by compassionately ministering to the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of humanity. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience.”
- Ellen G. White, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, pp. 136, 137

Sunday
RESPONDING
- Read James 1:5, 6.
- Jeff’s brother Jim returned from military service for the holidays. He slept in Jeff’s room, and so they would talk at night. Jim was saying some things that caused Jeff to be concerned about his brother’s spiritual condition. Jeff seems to be questioning whether God answers prayer or if going to church really matters. Jim is searching for answers.
- Jeff is too young to know what it is like to have to be ready to go to war. Jeff’s brother Jim returned from military service for the holidays. He slept in Jeff’s room, and so they would talk at night. Jim was saying some things that caused Jeff to be concerned about his brother’s spiritual condition. Jeff seems to be questioning whether God answers prayer or if going to church really matters. Jim is searching for answers.
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Monday
BIBLE ANSWERS ON GROWING IN CHRIST
- Read Matthew 20:25-28; Romans 8:38, 39; 2 Peter 2:9.
- No matter where you are on your walk (beginning, middle, or end) with the Lord, He is there with you. There is nothing you will encounter that He has not conquered. In everything we can trust God to see us through.
- Ellen G. White, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 137

JAMES AND JOHN IN EXIT ROW 33 A AND D
Since I fly enough to get sick of it but not enough to earn first-class upgrades, I find that jockeying for the exit row is an important part of ensuring a more comfortable flight. But recently I was shaken from my shortsighted approach to getting my seat assignments while sitting comfortably on the aisle of a luxuriously roomy exit row.

After carefully putting my carry-on bags away, I stretched my legs out fully in front of me like a cat on an old couch winding down for a lazy nap. There was so much room I could have easily practiced putting a golf ball on the carpet that spanned before me. Exit row, I thought to myself. This is good.

The normal routine ensued as unfortunate travelers stumbled over one another getting into their seats and trying to find space for the carry-on bags in the sparse room that remained around their feet. Then a flight attendant knelt down and looked me right in the face and asked, "Do you know you are sitting in an emergency exit row?"
- "Are you kidding?" I thought to myself.
- She continued patiently, "Are you willing and able to do the required things listed on the exit row card in the seat compartment in front of you?"
- "Yes, of course," I said. It was clear to me that she took the exit row thing more seriously than I had anticipated. It was also clear that she saw through my purpose for being there. I was willing and able—but I thought that as a reference to having more room than everyone else and possibly taking a nap.
- She asked me to read the card, and said she would return.
- I read the card. OK, I read some of the card. I mean, I looked at the pictures.
- She returned and reminded me, "In case of an emergency I'll be...

Fill in the blanks.
"For we do not _______ against _______ and _______ but against _______ against _______ against _______ of the _______ of this age, against _______ hosts of _______ in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the _______ that you may be _______ to _______ in the evil day, and having done all, to _______. Stand therefore, having _______ _______ with _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______ 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Tuesday

**REFLECTING**


A popular catchphrase today is “It’s a process.” When it comes to life in the kingdom of God, that’s not a bad way to look at it. For James and John to isolate one moment of greatness or failure to mark their lives as disciples would be ridiculous. Yet people often allow their own failures to be final or their success to carry them too far. The book The Desire of Ages describes beautifully how Jesus dealt with these two disciples and their determined quest for glory. “Jesus bears tenderly with them, not rebuking their selfishness in seeking preference above their brethren. He reads their hearts, He knows the depth of their attachment to Him” (p. 548).

Don’t you just love that about Jesus? Wherever you are in the journey, know that even when you don’t know what is going on, the Savior knows who you are and where you are—and He patiently guides you closer to Himself. On many occasions the choice to serve yourself will rise up in conflict with the choice to serve others. But those who have chosen to remain close to Christ get to know Him, and learn a few things about themselves “in the process.”

Wednesday

**BIBLE INSIGHTS**

» Find the verses that go with the reference and fill in the blanks.

____ 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2, NIV
____ Proverbs 20:6, NIV
____ Proverbs 28:20, NIV
____ Revelation 14:12, NIV
____ Hebrews 12:2, 3, NIV
____ Philippians 1:6, NIV

A. “Fixing our ________ on Jesus, the pioneer and __________ of faith.
For the joy set before him he __________ the cross, scorning its ___________, and sat down at the __________ hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such ___________ from _______, so that you will not grow ______ and lose _______.”

B. “This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as _________ of _______ and as those ____________ with the mysteries _______ has _______.
Now it is ______ that those who have been given a ______ must prove ______.”

C. “This calls for ________ endurance on the part of the ______  of ______ who ______ his commandments and remain _________ to Jesus.”

D. “A ________ person will be richly ______, but one ______ to get rich will not go _________."

E. “Many ________ to have ________ love, but a ______ person who can find?”

F. “Being confident of this, that he who began a ______ ______ in you will ______ it on to ______________ until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Thursday

**CONNECTING**

» Read Revelation 14:12.

» Review the memory verse.

Every once in a while it is good for young people to wonder where the road ahead may lead them. It is equally important not to lock in too tightly on the picture either—ask James and John if they ended up where they envisioned, and they would say both no and yes.

No. James was the first apostle to lose his life at the very beginning of the growth of the Christian church. His impact on the early church was huge, and the enemy of the church thought that putting him to death would stall the cause. Instead, the church grew. John was the last of Christ’s disciples to die. The Roman authorities tried to kill him by boiling him in oil, but they failed. Then John wrote some of the most powerful statements about Christ ever written. Instead of being on the left and the right, James and John were the first and the last. But their legacy of devotion continues.

Yes. They would say yes because they ended up exactly where they always wanted to be—in close relationship to our Friend and Lord, Jesus. Throughout their journey their primary purpose was to be close to Him, and in being close to Him they found no better place to be. What about you? Success or failure, whether you know where you will end up or not, you can rest in the knowledge that Jesus will be right there. What else would you want? What else could you ask for?

Friday

**APPLYING**

» Read Philippians 1:6.

The graphic below depicts the rings on a tree. Each ring is a season of growth. Indicate the seasons of your own growth in the Me box, marking pivotal moments of success and failure. One of the best ways to get started is to try to identify the five most significant events of your life. Some examples might be getting to know Christ, your baptism, sharing your conversion story, winning someone to the Lord, a friend’s moving away, a family member’s death, a disaster of some kind, or making a new friend at school. Try to include events that describe your relationship to God. You will complete the James and John box in class on Sabbath.