A. THE SOURCE

Mark 14:32-36 (NIV) • “They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,’ he said to them. ‘Stay here and keep watch.’ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. ‘Abba, Father,’ he said, ‘everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.’ ”

Matthew 27:39-44 (NIV) • “Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!’ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘but he can’t save himself! He’s the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, “I am the Son of God.” ’ In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.”

Psalm 22:3-8 (NIV) • “Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: ‘He trusts in the Lord,’ they say, ‘let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.’ ”

Romans 5:6-8 (NIV) • “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NIV) • “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.”

1 Peter 3:18 (NIV) • “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.”
John 10:14-18 (NIV) • “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

1 John 3:16 (NIV) • “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.”

B. WHAT’S TO BE SAID ABOUT “IDENTITY (4): FOCUSED”

The final part of this series on identity culminates in the final moments of Christ’s life on earth. At the end of Christ’s ministry He becomes more determined to go to Calvary than ever. Yet along the way, Satan seeks to derail Him by trying to get Him to doubt who He is and therefore choose a different will—His rather than His Father’s. This lesson is about keeping your vision clear, and Christ is our great example. His mind was set on the only way to save humanity, although several apparent options were offered Him. It seems very difficult for teens to focus on any one aspect of the Christian life, but can we help them find a purpose to live for that is clear to them?

C. WHERE WE’RE GOING WITH “IDENTITY (4): FOCUSED”

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:
1. Survey the final moments of Christ’s life and observe the single-minded focus with which He went to Calvary.
2. Discuss how Calvary changes people, their perception of God, and their perception of themselves.
3. Deepen their devotion to God and their certainty about their place in His kingdom.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) pencil and paper; (Activity B) large jar of coins or other small objects.

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons, handout (pp. 110, 111), red pens, crayons, or markers.

Applying • Pens or pencils.

Bridging

A. WHERE WE’VE BEEN

Allow 10 minutes at the beginning of class for students 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.
4. Review the “Applying” section of their Friday lesson (if needed).

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

>> Song service
>> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist Mission for youth and adults at www.realtimefaith.net)
>> Service project reports
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 • The purpose of this activity will be to get students to synthesize what they think are the pivotal stories of Scripture. Without a doubt, the story of Christ on the cross should be in every list.

Get set • Each student will need a piece of paper and a pencil. Say: Make a list of the 10 stories in the Bible that you consider absolutely necessary to tell the story of God and people.

Go • After you have given the students time to make their lists, divide them into groups of three or four and have each group make a master list. Then have them arrange the stories in order of how you would tell them to someone who had never heard them. Have each group share their list of 10 stories, in order, with the class.

Debriefing • Ask: How was this exercise difficult for you? In what way was it easy? Why did you order the stories the way you did? Is there another way to order them that might be good as well? Where did you put the story of the cross? Did everyone have this story on their list? Why do you think the story of the cross would have to be in the story of God and people?

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • The purpose of this activity is to challenge a student’s ability to concentrate with confusion and distraction being heaped upon them. Bring a large jar of coins (or marbles, buttons, or any other small item of which you have at least 100).

Get set • Choose a volunteer to count the coins out loud. Choose up to five other class members to be “distracters.” Their job is to say random numbers out loud while the counter is counting. The goal is to see if the distracters can get the counter to lose count or miscount. If this happens quickly, give other volunteers a try.

Go • Say: I want you (counter) to count these coins aloud. I want the distracters to try to get you to miscount by offering other numbers. The distracters can have 30 seconds to develop a strategy while the counter can have 30 seconds to get their mind focused on the task. Go.

Debriefing • Ask: What helped you in counting the coins? Were the distracters distracting? How would you rate the level of distraction from one to 10? What techniques did the distracters use to try to get you to miscount? Did the volume have anything to do with it? Was it the frequency of same numbers? How does someone keep focus when others are bent on one thing—distracting them?

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

A young father shared these thoughts with his Sabbath School students:

“Experiencing the stomach flu is horrible. I don’t consider myself to be a lightweight when it comes to tolerating suffering, but somehow the flu makes me the biggest wimp in the world. Every time I get the flu I want to die to spare myself the trauma. One thing I find even more traumatic than having the flu is watching my little son go through it.

“The fever, the pain, the throwing up, the tears. I simply hate the flu—but when it goes after my son, I take on a whole new level of revulsion. I get so frustrated wishing I could just take it away or spare him the agony by going
through it for him. That’s right. I would much rather endure the flu than watch my son go through it. Part of this kind of love comes from God. While my desire to spare my son from pain is a gift God gives to parents, how much greater is the love of God when He would endure pain even for those who hated Him.”

Debriefing • Ask: How does this example illustrate the attitude of Christ for us in our sin? What other examples or illustrations can you think of to portray the truth of God’s love? What do you think helped Jesus be so focused on our redemption?

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

The citizens of every country remember the significant events that define them as a people by celebrating certain holidays. In a similar way, there are many moments that mark pivotal events in the kingdom of God. When Jesus chose to surrender Himself to death on a cross, it was surely the landmark moment in all of history. One of the most important features of that decision is that it was His decision.

Looking at the stories that describe the road to Calvary, we see Jesus deliberately choosing the difficult way in spite of the opportunities for Him to take another way. We witness tremendous courage in light of a scary situation. We watch Christ make one decision after another with one purpose firmly etched in His mind: He must die to save humanity.

In groups of three or four, read the way Luke portrays Jesus’ attitude as He is on His way to Jerusalem. Luke (from chapter 9 to 21) shows Jesus pressing His way to Jerusalem for the purpose of dying. Have students read the verses listed below out loud and note the way Jesus is virtually marching to His death with clear vision.

>> Luke 9:51-54
>> Luke 17:11
>> Luke 18:31-34
>> Luke 19:28, 29

Say: You can tell a lot about a person by the way they live when they know they are going to die. Some of the most powerful pictures of the identity and character of Jesus are seen in the final moments of His life. Distribute the handout from pages 110, 111, which provides some of the final moments of Christ’s life clipped from Scripture, with His words in bold. Distribute red pens, crayons, highlighters, or markers so that the students can mark the words of Jesus as they answer the questions.

If there is not enough time, give each group a question and have them report their answers.

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

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

Say: As you hear this story, think about how much Jesus loves you. Is there anything you can do to change His love?

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Pose the following scenario:

There are many documents and proofs to verify who we are. Jeffrey, in the airport, misplaced his backpack, which contained his tickets, his ID card, and his passport. There was also a copy of his birth certificate and his membership card to the health club and the library, not to mention a sweet note from his mom about how much she would miss him over the next three weeks. While the entire mission team scoured the airport for the missing bag,
Jeffrey frantically went to every place he had been.

Did Jeffrey lose his identity in the airport? What did he lose? For the most part, Jeffery had every number memorized and the passport agency was able to expedite his paperwork because he could spit back all the information that was on them. Jeffrey never needed a birth certificate to remind him that he was Ken and Jenny’s son. If he did not have a passport, he still would have been a citizen of his country. In losing his driver’s license he did not forget how to drive.

In the same way, the relationships that are so deeply wired into our lives are what make us who we are. Jesus did not keep a scroll of Isaiah 53 in His robe pocket to remind Him of His mission in life. Who He was and what He was born to do were so clear in His mind that even all the tempter’s tricks could not detract Jesus from saving us.

Ask: In what way do you think the following events helped reinforce His sense of identity? Jesus’ trip to the temple at age 12; His baptism; the temptations; the Transfiguration; the Last Supper; the Garden of Gethsemane.

Say: Imagine you are a parent and you want to make your child confident and proud of their identity as a child in your family. What are some things you would do to foster a deep, focused sense of certainty about who they are? What specific things would you do? (Pictures, videos, stories, celebrations, rituals, and family traditions)

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Say: In the student lesson under Friday’s Applying section there is a picture of a bullseye. The goal is to hit the target right in the center. If you’ve not already done so, take a minute or two and write what target you want to be focused on as the central aim in your life. Also indicate some of the things on the perimeter and the outside that tend to be a distraction.

If time permits, discuss what you think is in the bullseye for God. Ask: What is God focused on? How does what you have written for your goal compare to or contrast with His Goal?

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you know that lives their life with a clear sense of purpose? What qualities do they possess and how do you see this displayed in their life?
2. How do followers of Christ stay focused on their mission when all the distractions seem to be stronger than their devotion?
3. What part of your relationship with God gets unfocused at times? In what way can you tighten your focus?
4. If Satan’s big temptation for Christ was to try to get Him to avoid Calvary, what do you think the tempter wants you to avoid?
5. In what ways can you remind yourself of your relationship to God and your purpose in His kingdom?
6. Who do you know that needs to be reminded that they have a loving Father who has paid the ultimate price for their salvation? Say a prayer and write a note reminding them of their rich heritage in the kingdom of God.

CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

How do you capture the heroic love of Christ? His determination and focus are proof of His amazing love for people. In the same way that Satan tried to dissuade Jesus from doing the Father’s will, he tries to distract us. Satan usu-
ally tries to get us by throwing distractions at us. **Ask:** What are some of the distractions the devil throws at us? (Too busy to study the Bible, not answering when parents call, too tired to pray, etc.) That is what he did with Jesus. He tried to get Jesus to avoid Calvary. But according to the plan of salvation, there was only one way. The choice to go to Calvary was deliberate. Jesus said, “The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father” (John 10:17, 18, NIV).

It is amazing how Christ can see only one way to save us, and yet the world can think of a million reasons to avoid thinking about it. I challenge you to be deliberate about staying focused on what God wants for us all.
Learning More About Jesus From His Final Moments

1. In what ways do you see Jesus as being very human in the verses below? Highlight and note the key examples.

2. In what way is Christ very clear about His identity, purpose, and mission in the verses below? Highlight and note the key examples.

3. What aspects of Christ’s character do we see in His final moments that we don’t tend to see in His ministry prior to this?

4. In what way do you see Jesus as being King, Savior, Friend, Son? (Circle or highlight.)

Gethsemane: Matthew 26:36-42 (NIV)
“Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.’ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.’ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. ‘Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?’ he asked Peter. ‘Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ He went away a second time and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.’

Trial of Jesus: Matthew 26:62-66 (NIV)
“Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, ‘Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?’ But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, ‘I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.’ ‘You have said so,’ Jesus replied. ‘But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.’ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, ‘He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?’ ‘He is worthy of death,’ they answered.”

John 18:33-37 (NIV)
“Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ ‘Is that your own idea,’ Jesus asked, ‘or did others talk to you about me?’ ‘Am I a Jew?’ Pilate replied. ‘Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?’ Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.’ ‘You are a king, then!’ said Pilate. Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.’

December 7, 2019 - Identity (4): Focused • LESSON 10
John 19:6-11 (NIV)
“As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, ‘Crucify! Crucify!’ But Pilate answered, ‘You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.’ The Jewish leaders insisted, ‘We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.’ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. ‘Where do you come from?’ he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ‘Do you refuse to speak to me?’ Pilate said. ‘Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?’ Jesus answered, ‘You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.’”

John 19:26, 27 (NIV)
“When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, ‘Woman, here is your son,’ and to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.”

John 19:28-30 (NIV)
“Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I am thirsty.’ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’”

Luke 23:43 (NIV)
“Jesus answered him, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.’”

Mark 15:34 (NIV)
“And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ (which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’).”

Luke 23:46 (NIV)
“Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.”
Sabbath FOR STUDY

» Memory Text: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23, NKJV).

» Our Beliefs, no. 4, The Son: “God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. . . . He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf.”

» Ellen G. White, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, p. 14

THE SCRIPTURES REVEAL JESUS

Every book has a central theme. The central theme of the Bible is Jesus Christ. It is the story of the perfect world He created, sin’s rebellion, the consequences of disobedience, and the efforts of a loving God desperate to save His lost children. The Bible is the story of Jesus plunging into the arena of human affairs to save a people who could not save themselves. In a world of self-centeredness, Jesus revealed the selfless love of God. In a world that did not love Him, Jesus loved unconditionally. “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8, NKJV).

I have seen this incredible love story touch the lives of millions around the world in our It Is Written meetings. During our meetings in Madras, India, one of the local Bible instructors asked to be assigned to the worst area in town—a barrio known for its gangs, thieves, drugs, and drunkenness. One day while she was visiting people in that area, Jesus came face to face with the local gang leader. The gang leader confronted her and said, “Old woman, get out of here with your Jesus.”

“Young man,” she replied, “tell me why you don’t love Him as I do.” The gang leader began to curse and yell. She patiently listened. When he calmed down, she told him about the Jesus who had changed her life. The Jesus who had filled her heart with love and joy and peace. The tough, hardened gang leader began to weep. “Old woman, please come with me to all the gang members in this barrio to tell them about the love of Jesus too.”

The Christ of Scripture transformed this doubter’s heart. There is a love that flows from the pages of Scripture that changes our lives also. There is nothing we can do to change God’s love for us. All of our sins will not keep Him from loving us.

The Bible speaks to us of a love so amazing, so incredible, so unparalleled, so matchless, so awesome that, if we let it, that love will change our lives.—Mark Finley, Solid Ground, p. 16.

As you read the Bible you will see, time after
time, that God’s focus was on saving humanity. You will see in the way Jesus lived that His love flowed out in how He dealt with men, women, and children. And Jesus did not leave us alone to struggle through life: He sent the Holy Spirit to walk with us and help us to be ready when He comes to take us to live with Him in heaven. This love, this focus, is amazing and is all-encompassing. It will fill our very being and change us to become the people God wants us to be. Are you ready to experience a life-changing event? Are you ready to become all God wants you to be and to live a life full of adventures? Say yes to God today!

Sunday
RESPONDING

» Read Colossians 3:1-3.

» Julio is in grade 8. He is a tremendous athlete. Julio participates in all the sports programs he can because it seems as if the only thing he is really good at is sports. As a Christian, however, he wants to be about more than just what he is good at.

» It’s difficult to figure out a different purpose for his life, because everyone expects him to play ball.

» He is very confused about what his life should be about. If you were his friend, what questions would you ask him? How could you encourage him in his search for something that would bring real joy and purpose into his life?

Monday
BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE SON

» Read 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Philippians 2:5-11.

» God’s focus is on us—He loves us. God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price of our sin.

And Jesus gave His all—for us!

» Do I fully understand and recognize what has been done for me to have eternal life?

» What can I do today to show that Jesus is everything to me?

“Christ by His human relationship to men drew them close to God. He clothed His divine nature with the garb of humanity, and demonstrated before the heavenly universe, before the unfallen worlds, how much God loves the children of men” (Ellen G. White, “How God’s Love Is Manifested, Part 1,” (Australasian) Union Conference Record, June 1, 1900.

» Unscramble the following verse.

Image the Lord transformed but mirror 18 glory being the just by we of as same unveiled Corinthians all from as with 3: glory Lord face into the beholding Spirit of are the glory NKJV to a 2 in the

Tuesday
REFLECTING

» Read 1 Peter 4:7-11.

» What’s remarkable about Jesus is not only...
what He did for us but also what He didn’t
do. He didn’t compromise. He didn’t flounder. He didn’t get confused. He didn’t mis-
count the cost. He didn’t cave in to peer pressure. He didn’t love Himself more than
us. He stayed the course—the course that
had been set even before the world began.
Even as God the Father knew that Adam and
Eve would fail, He trusted that His only Son
would not. This was the only way to restore
God’s kingdom again in the universe. One
way. One Jesus.

Jesus’ goal was saving humanity. One of the
most treasured qualities of Christ is His pre-
occupation with people. Even when believers
worship Him on Sabbath and forget Him on
Sunday, He still keeps urging us to grow a
better relationship with Him. Even when we
can’t keep our attention on Him when we
are praying, He doesn’t forget a word we
say. Is there any chance we might someday
be able to see with the same kind of focus
He sees with?

Maybe not the same, but similar. We might
be able to see clearly enough. Clearly
eough to make Him first in our lives. Clearly
enough to put others before ourselves.
Clearly enough to know what should come
first, best, and most in our lives. Maybe we
will not focus with 20/20 clarity, but by His
grace we can love Him back with a deliber-
ate, focused faith that mirrors to the world
what a great Father we have in heaven.

Wednesday

BIBLE INSIGHTS

» Match each text with the correspond-
ing phrase. All texts are from the New
International Version.

1. John 10:14-18
2. 1 John 3:16
3. 1 Peter 3:18
4. Romans 5:6-8

5. Mark 14:32-36

A. “You see at just the right time . . .”
B. “Jesus took the Twelve aside and told
them . . .”
C. “They went to a place called Gethsemane,
and Jesus said . . .”
D. “I am the good shepherd . . .”
E. “This is how we know what love is . . .”
F. “For Christ also suffered once for sins . . .”

Thursday

CONNECTING

» Read Mark 14:32-36.

» Review the memory text.

» Imagine how this world would be like if God’s
kingdom of grace would be realized in our
lives. Think about the day when there will
be no more death and God’s children will be
restored to His family forever. It is thanks
to Jesus that we have been given a second
chance to eternal life!

» You are a precious child of God! He was will-
ing to die for you! It was His thoughts of you
that drove Him to say to His Father, “Your
will be done.” You can’t go wrong with a
King who is willing to give up everything just
for the chance that you might one day want
to be in His family. It says something about
what, or rather who, is always on His mind.

Friday

APPLYING

» Read Colossians 3:12-17.

» When you are using a bull’s-eye target, the
idea is to hit the target right in the center.
You want your focus to be on the bull’s-eye.
If you get distracted, you likely won’t hit the bull’s-eye. This happens in real life too. It is imperative that we don’t let the things of this life distract us from getting ready for Jesus’ coming.

» Write what you want to be the very central focus of your life. Then on the outside, write some of the things that tend to distract you and challenge your focus. Pray that you can find tangible ways to remind yourself to focus on Jesus.