

BUC FAMILY

A Publication of the BUC Family, Children and Possibility Ministries

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It's Time - A New Children's Sabbath School Curriculum is Coming!

Nina Atcheson - Senior Editor for the GC Sabbath School & PM Dept

Our world has never been glitzier, more tempting, or more confusing for our children than it is right now. Every day different messages bombard us about what we should want and fill our minds with, how we should spend our time, and where our worth is—yet very little of this is grounded in the One who created us; the One who has a plan and a future for our children. As a parent of teenagers, I see the battle rage over the minds and hearts of my children. Perhaps you do too.

As a mother, my daily prayer is for my children to have their own walk with God—for faith to be alive and real to them. If you're a parent or grandparent, I'm sure you've also prayed for this. Like me, perhaps you've wondered: God is working, but is there more I can do to

raise children who know and love Him?

Over the years I've seen God answer my prayer as my children grow in Him. I see them choose to spend time with God because they really want to. I've observed how time with Him steadies them as nothing else can. I see them grow in knowledge and conviction as they think deeply about their faith. It makes my heart glad to see they have a burden to share God and our unique Seventh-day Adventist message with others. But although my husband and I have always tried to make family worship a meaningful, vibrant part of our days, it hasn't always been easy to find age-appropriate, accessible resources that purposefully build a love for Jesus and His living Word.



As our world heaves and groans, I believe it's time to be even more purposeful with the next generation—to build a love for Jesus and a strong knowledge of the timeless truths in His Word. Perhaps you've seen the data and know there's a shallow understanding in our young people about some of our most basic doctrines. For our children to live well at this time in earth's history, they need more. I believe now is the time for us to focus on this. It's time to model what a life-changing friendship with Jesus is like and show our children how to spend meaningful time with God in His Word and in prayer.



It's time to add more depth and rigor to what we're teaching our children and youth so they can be convicted about what they believe while intentionally shaping a biblically informed worldview, including the 28 Fundamental Beliefs.

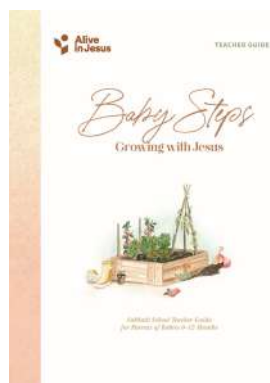
It's time to equip busy, tired parents with age-appropriate Bible lessons that bring families together every day to share these messages in winsome, personally challenging, and missional ways.

It's time to equip Sabbath School teachers with the best methods and many new resources, along with ideas about how to cultivate healthy culture in their classrooms.

Yes, it's time. And the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department invites you to pray as we develop the new Alive in Jesus Sabbath School curriculum for children and youth, set to launch in January 2025 around the world.¹ As it's rolled out, this new curriculum will replace GraceLink, Junior PowerPoints, Real-Time Faith, and Cornerstone Connections.

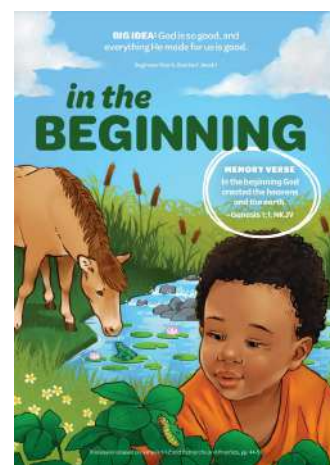
What's New for Parents?

Our babies have always been grouped together with the Beginner class, yet developmentally there's a big difference between a 5-month-old and a 3-year-old child. In response to this, Alive in Jesus includes brand-new Babies resources (birth through 12 months), to help parents to be intentional with the spiritual growth of their little one from the time they're born. The parent book offers spiritual encouragement and advice for milestones, along with four simple programs that revolve primarily around song. The teacher guide includes these same four programs, which are also shared together in Sabbath School. After this Babies Sabbath School time is a time especially for parents, with weekly parenting small group handouts that nurture the faith of parents. These beautifully designed parent handouts are tailored for both church-attending and community parents. Indeed, the Babies resources focus first on the parent's spiritual growth to help them impart a clear picture of God to their new baby. A strong focus on the parent's spiritual growth, in addition to the child's, continues through all lower levels in the new curriculum.



Other new features of the Alive in Jesus student guides are numerous, including that Beginner now has a weekly Bible story—to be read each day instead of a story each month. From Kindergarten, all lessons have daily readings, and the same stories are shared in Kindergarten and Primary to make it easier for parents who have children in both groups, or small churches who want to combine these classes. Every day an appealing narrative is shared, as children are prompted to open their Bibles, followed by rich discussion questions for families to share together, along with prayer prompts and activities that encourage application of the Bible message. Each week children can look forward to a special Sabbath feature, such as a nature lesson, Adventist history story, a family activity, or a mission story.

An audio recording of the lessons can be played on the Alive in Jesus app, and families can listen to a quarterly playlist of Scripture songs to help children remember their memory verses.





New artwork on every page brings the Bible stories and messages to life in the minds of the children in fresh ways, as children from around the world see themselves in the diversity of pictures.

Ultimately, we want to make it easy for parents to bring their children to the feet of Jesus every day through a variety of appealing approaches.

What's New for Sabbath School Teachers?

If you're a Sabbath School teacher, you can expect an easy-to-follow program that first speaks to your spiritual growth before you prepare to teach. You'll find both a simple program and a detailed program, along with storytelling strategies, crafts, new and familiar music (available for download on our website and app), and the philosophy of the new lessons embedded in every program. From Kindergarten you'll find nature lessons, mission stories that are aligned with the weekly Big Ideas, collector cards, and strategies to share and also deepen the Bible story that has been explored during the week.



To help you prepare for this new curriculum, you can find training videos on our [Alive in Jesus website](https://www.aliveinjesus.info).



Pray With Us

Alive in Jesus is distinctly Seventh-day Adventist and shows that the Bible is the source of truth and peace in an ever-changing world. Its wholistic approach on grace, character, and mission build a love for Jesus and His message. But Alive in Jesus is also for you, parents, grandparents, caregivers, and leaders, as we believe it will strengthen your walk with God. Please pray for God to lead the development of this new curriculum

and pray for the children in your churches and spheres of influence. Truly, may our children “take root downward, and bear fruit upward” (Isa. 37:31).

Please speak to your division Children's Ministries director for launch information in your division.

Visit www.aliveinjesus.info for a more detailed curriculum overview, sample lessons, training videos, and more information about the new Sabbath School curriculum.



Families That Play Together, Stay Together

Les Ackie

It has been said that, ‘having fun is serious business’. Play is a critically important component of a happy family life. Recreation and laughter are not only essential to our emotional health, they are also vital for our physical health. Solomon stated, “A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones” (Proverbs 17:22). In this

passage, the Bible was way ahead of its time, for modern science confirms that laughter lowers blood pressure; reduces stress hormones; boosts immune function by raising levels of infection-fighting cells; aids the production of disease destroying antibodies, increases muscle function and triggers the release of endorphins, the body’s natural painkillers.

According to Dr Stuart Brown founder of the National Institute for Play, “play shapes our brain, helps us foster empathy, helps us navigate complex social groups, and is at the core of creativity and innovation”. In his book *Playful Parenting*, Dr Lawrence Cohen, states that “Play is children’s main way of communicating . . . Playing is connection.” At a basic level, play fosters the desire to ‘be with’ one another. Relationship analyst John Gottman states that even the way we play teaches our children valuable life skills. He comments that in play, mothers tend to adopt the role of teacher, engaging in constructive play. However, fathers tend to assume the role of playmate often engaging in rough and tumble play which teaches the child lessons in emotional regulation and impulse control.

Unfortunately, attending to the cares of this life can often lead us to downplay the vital role of connecting with one another through play. Sadly, there are too many parents for whom fun is a bad word. There are unfortunately many Christians who seem to believe that laughing is sinful and that we are living in far too serious a day and time to waste on what they consider frivolous activities and amusements. However, 19th century revivalist Charles Spurgeon once said of miserable Christians, “Sad tones may fit an undertaker but not someone who is called to preach Good News! They might as well bury the dead, they’ll never influence the living. If you would lead men to heaven, wear heaven on your face.” By the same token, why would our children be attracted to a religion that elicits no joy in us and brings them no happiness?

Too many erroneously believe that Jesus’ description as a man of sorrows (Isaiah 53:3), means that He must have been miserable most of the time. I recall as a child watching Robert Powell’s ethereal and often dour portrayal of Jesus in the TV series *Jesus of Nazareth*. I also recall finding Bruce Marchiano’s more cheerful and affable portrayal of Jesus in *The Visual Bible*, much more appealing. Yet some recoil from the idea of a Jesus who joked with His disciples and rolled around on the ground in celebration with a beneficiary of His healing grace. While we can engage in much speculation about the demeanour of Jesus, it seems incongruent to common sense that He who is the fountain of life would not exude an effervescent personality of joy and happiness. Jesus said to His disciples, on one occasion, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full (John 15:11). The fact that Jesus was like a magnet for children speaks volumes, as children seem to have a built-in radar for infectious joy. We are informed that, “We should be cheerful; for there is nothing gloomy in the religion of Jesus” (Gospel Workers, 417).

We should never take the experience of fun and laughter for granted. As families we benefit from creating the space for the things which cultivate joy and meaning. We need to cast aside the restraints of mistaken piety to experience the blessing of godly play. Mark Twain once advised, “Dance like no one is watching. Sing like no one is listening. Love like you’ve never been hurt and live like it’s heaven on Earth”. Let’s purposely carve out time as families to do the things that make our hearts sing.



BUC Family Ministries Leadership Training

Family Life Education

Sunday 18 February	Module 1—Effective Family Ministries in the Local Church
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 2—Biblical Foundations for Family Ministry
Sunday 7 April	Module 3—Human Growth & Development
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 4—Families Dynamics - Systems Theory
Sunday 19 May	Module 5—Spiritual Parenting
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 6—Sex and Sexuality Education
Sunday 30 June	Module 7—Marriage Strengthening
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 8—Emotionally Intelligent Communication
Sunday 22 September	Module 9—Conflict Management
10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Module 10—Family as a Centre For Evangelism



Meeting ID: 980 072 4322
Passcode: BUCFAM



Connecting Lives for Eternal Living



BUC Children's Ministries



Alive in Jesus

Sabbath School Curriculum Training

**Sunday 6th October
10:00 – 12:00**



**Meeting ID: 980 072 4322
Passcode: BUCCM**

Hampstead Seventh-day Adventist Church
presents

THE CROSSING OVER FAMILY SERIES



FROM: 21ST SEPTEMBER
TO: 5TH OCTOBER

TIME:
SABBATH SERVICES
• **11:00AM & 4:00PM**
DAILY (EXCL. THURSDAY)
• **7:00 - 8:30 PM**

SPEAKER
PASTOR AUGUSTUS LAWRENCE

SERIES TOPICS INCLUDE:
WHEN GOD SAYS LET GO
THE POWER OF A PRAYING FAMILY
BREAKING FAMILY STRONGHOLDS
PARENTAL LEGACIES AND MY FAMILY
THE POWER OF PARENTAL ADVOCACY
THE POWER OF A FATHER
WHY GOOD RELATIONSHIPS TURN BAD
AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

**66 HAVERSTOCK HILL,
LONDON NW3 2BE**

Live streamed via  **YouTube**
www.youtube.com/@hampsteadsdastream5530

CONTACT
PASTOR MOHAN ABBADASARI - 07771631885
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.HAMPSTEADSDA.COM

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT FELLOWSHIP DINNER

**CONNECTED FAMILIES:
WHAT IS FILLING YOUR EMOTIONAL CUP**



**PASTOR JOHN FRANCIS
& MRS FRANCIS**

 **SATURDAY**
Sept. 28, 2024

 **07:00 PM
11:00 PM**

 **£90
PER COUPLE**

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NATWEST
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ACCOUNT NO: 89169174

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GROWING CLOSER, GROWING STRONGER

Family Ministries Webinars 2024

18.00 LONDON = 19.00 ZÜRICH = 20.00 BUCHAREST

8 JANUARY

LITTLE TIME - LOTS OF LOVE

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 914 0886 9347

Passcode: family

11 MARCH

TEN "SECRETS" OF SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 981 9162 3388

Passcode: family

13 MAY

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 914 1849 2288

Passcode: family

9 SEPTEMBER

SAFE HAVEN MARRIAGE

Dr Les Ackie

Meeting-ID: 929 6901 7660

Passcode: family

11 NOVEMBER

TILL TRAUMA DO US PART DR GÁBOR MIHALEC

Meeting-ID: 980 5593 4013

Passcode: family

12 FEBRUARY

NURTURING EMOTIONAL CONNECTION

Dr Les Ackie

Meeting-ID: 937 2587 8671

Passcode: family

8 APRIL

SOLUTION-FOCUSSED CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Dr Les Ackie

Meeting-ID: 937 2587 8671

Passcode: family

10 JUNE

NAVIGATING THE UPS AND DOWNS OF MARRIAGE

Karen Holford

Meeting-ID: 932 0794 3671

Passcode: family

14 OCTOBER

DEVELOPING YOUR EMOTIONAL SKILLS

Ansku Jaakkola

Meeting-ID: 942 6976 9388

Passcode: family

9 DECEMBER

COMMUNICATING LOVE AND CARE THROUGH TOUCH

Ansku Jaakkola

Meeting-ID: 930 3884 8013

Passcode: family

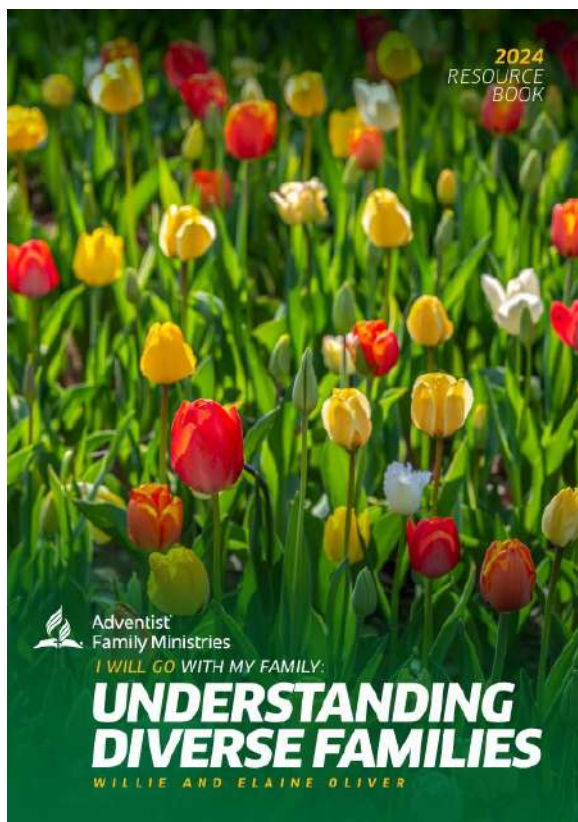
For 2024 we have decided to focus our Family Ministry webinars on nurturing marriages. Although these webinars are focussed on couple relationships, anyone can join and learn skills that may also help them in their parenting, workplace relationships, dating and friendships.

Please share this poster and the links to these webinars with your networks. Thank you!

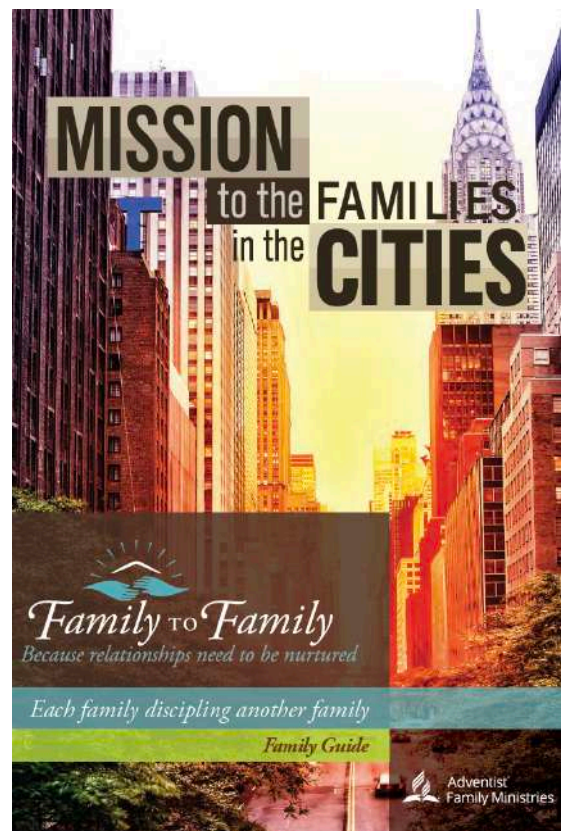
Karen Holford - TED and Rainer Wanitschek - EUD



Click the link to learn more and download the resource
[Flourish](#)



Click the link to download the Resource Book
[Understanding Diverse Families](#)



Click here to download the Missions Resource
[Mission to Families](#)



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

CCS is here for you

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 Dedicated listening line
0207 723 8050
 Office Number / Appointments
connect@ccscounselling.org.uk
www.ccscounselling.org.uk

**"I am not living,
 I am just surviving."
 Together we can make
 it happen.**

Often, it is not the initial experience that
 creates the overwhelming pain,
 but the lack of support.

Do not suffer alone
 Do not suffer in silence
 CCS is here to support you
 Together we can win your struggle.

CCS
 Comerstone
 Counselling Service



**Facing Difficult
 times or issues,
 Need to talk?**

The first step is the
 hardest. Call the NEC
 Counselling Service Today!

07539 211 442

We can arrange
 for you to access
 support.

FORWARD
 We Go!

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Seventh-day
 Adventist Church



REAL FAMILY TALK

WITH
**WILLIE & ELAINE
 OLIVER**

Through engaging, informative, and spiritual
 discussions about issues facing today's
 families, Real Family Talk seeks to strengthen
 families and inspire hope.

[Real Family Talk](#)

f t w e

Click the link watch past episodes of [Real Family Talk](#)



Click the link to download the Resource Book [Keys to Healthy Minds](#)

Please visit the BUC website for information and resources



Adventist[®]
Family Ministries

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Adventist[®]
Children's Ministries

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Useful Links

[AdventSource](#)

[Adventist Possibility Ministries](#)

[Adventist Single Adult Ministries \(ASAM\)](#)

[Adventist Special Needs Association \(ASNA\)](#)

[BUC Family Ministries](#)

[BUC Safeguarding](#)

[Care for the Family](#)

[GC Children's Ministries](#)

[GC Family Ministries](#)

[In Discipleship](#)

[Prepare Enrich](#)

[TED Children's Ministries](#)

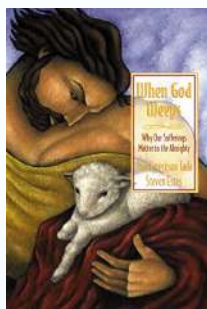
[TED Family Ministries](#)

[TED Possibility Ministries](#)

[Through the Roof \(Disability outreach\)](#)

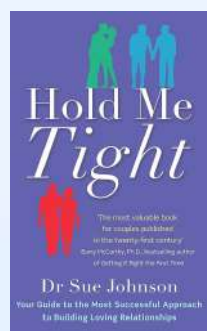
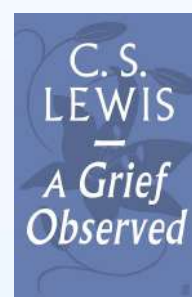
[Women's Aid](#)

Recommended Reading



When God Weeps. Through a panoramic overview of what the Bible says about suffering, the Joni Eareckson Tada make clear who God is, why he permits so much heartache and pain, and how it is we can trust him. With both a practical edge and heartfelt warmth, this book offers dependence on his love and mercy in spite of our doubts, fears, longings, and questions. A must read for anyone who has ever asked 'Why me?'

A Grief Observed. Narnia author C.S. Lewis had been married to his wife for four blissful years. When she died of cancer, he found himself alone, inconsolable in his grief. In this intimate journal, he chronicles the aftermath of the bereavement and mourning with blazing honesty. He grapples with a crisis of religious faith, navigating hope, rage, despair, and love - but eventually regains his bearings, finding his way back to life.



Hold Me Tight, written for the general public, is a self-help version of Sue Johnson's groundbreaking research on how to enhance relationships, how to repair them and how to keep them. Through case studies from her practice, illuminating advice and practical exercises, couples will learn how to nurture their relationships and ensure a lifetime of love.

BUC Family, Children, Possibility Ministries & Safeguarding



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