INVESTITURE
ACHIEVEMENT



INVESTITURE ACHIEVEMENT

Instructor's Helps

GUIDE LEVEL

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PATHFINDER



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Available from
Advent*Source*
5120 Prescott Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68506
402.486.8800
www.adventsource.org

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ISBN# 978-1-57756-117-0

Printed in the U.S.A.

An Overview of the Investiture Achievement Curriculum

The Guide level of Investiture Achievement is for Pathfinders in the 10th grade. As you review the requirements, you will see that they are aligned with our curriculum objectives, best practices in education and Pathfinder ministry goals. Throughout the curriculum special focus was given to creating age- appropriate requirements and building a series of requirements that is sequenced from year to year, allowing the Pathfinder to build on the skills previously learned.

The Investiture Achievement requirements are divided into eight sections. Requirements can be met in a variety of ways based on how the individual Pathfinder learns best. Each year that a Pathfinder is Invested and advances to the next level the sections remain the same as the previous year. However, the activities to fulfill the requirements change in order to allow each Pathfinder the opportunities to participate in new experiences and challenges and to practice skills and use information previously learned.

This Investiture Achievement curriculum is designed to create an ongoing learning environment. To maximize the success for each Pathfinder, club directors, instructors and all Pathfinder staff must intentionally:

- Inspire and motivate Pathfinders.
- Emphasize quality, not quantity, of learning.
- Build on knowledge that has been gained in earlier levels.
- Allocate time to practice new concepts and skills.
- Aim for understanding rather than memorization.
- Consider developmental and individual abilities of each Pathfinder.
- Employ effective and flexible strategies to aid learning.
- Use meaningful activities.

On the following pages you will see an overview of the entire curriculum followed by specific ideas you can use to complete each requirement for the Guide Level.

Visit www.InvestitureAchievement.com for many more teaching ideas on the wiki. You will also find free downloads that will help you keep track of what each of your Pathfinders have completed
www.investitureachievement.com

Investiture Achievement Tracks

Personal Growth	1. Achievement levels are grade assigned 2. Develop a relationship with God through a daily study of His word and prayer 3. Embrace the Pathfinder/AY lifestyle.
Spiritual Discovery	1. Encourage spiritual growth through a discovery of the Bible and Christian history.
Serving Others	1. Engage participants in active service 2. Connect participants to the community 3. Engage participants in friendship evangelism 4. Connect participants to their church.
Making Friends	1. Develop a relationship with God that fosters positive friendships, strong moral values, and civic responsibility.
Health and Fitness	1. Apply health and fitness principles that will benefit the participant for a lifetime. 2. Learn and practice safety procedures, first aid, and rescue skills.
Personal Growth	1. Develop an understanding of God, the Creator of all things, through the study and observation of His creation.
Outdoor Living	1. Develop the skills needed for maximum enjoyment of the outdoors. 2. Build self-confidence through outdoor experiences. 3. Develop team building skills.
Honor Enrichment (Advanced Level Only)	1. Learn new skills. 2. Participate in or study content areas new to them.

Investiture Achievement Levels

GRADE	BASIC LEVEL	ADVANCED LEVEL
Grade 5	*Friend*	*Trail Friend*
Grade 6	*Companion*	*Trail Companion*
Grade 7	*Explorer*	*Wilderness Explorer*
Grade 8	*Ranger*	*Wilderness Ranger*
Grade 9	*Voyager*	*Frontier Voyager*
Grade 10	*Guide*	*Frontier Guide*

Guide & Frontier Guide
LEVEL REQUIREMENTS



Personal Growth

1. Be in Grade 10 or its equivalent.
2. a. Develop your daily devotional life by studying the Senior Weekly Devotional Guide (weeks 27 – 52) and the book of Revelation utilizing printed or electronic resources.
   b. Journal your thoughts by asking questions such as:
   - "What did I learn about God?"
   - "What did I learn about myself?"
   - "How can I apply this to my life today?"

   You may journal through writing, drawing, or electronic process.
3. Memorize the AY Motto.
4. Illustrate the meaning of the AY Motto in an interesting way.

Spiritual Discovery

1. Write and share your personal testimony.
2. Memorize one key text for each of the following Bible teachings:
   - Second Coming of Christ
   - Seventh-day Sabbath
   - State of the dead
   - Law & Grace
   - Conversion
   - Judgment
   - Inspiration of the Bible
   - Spirit of Prophecy
   - The Saint's Reward
3. Learn the principles of leading a person to Jesus.
4. Tell a story of a church pioneer to a group.

Advanced for Spiritual Discovery

1. Complete Guide requirements.
2. Complete one of the following honors:
   - Personal Evangelism
   - Bible Evangelism
   - Literature Evangelism
3. Study and discuss two of the following life issues (not previously studied) with your Guide group and an adult: Teen Pregnancy, Abortion, Aids, Homosexuality, Pornography.

Serving Others

1. Fulfill one of the following honor requirements: #3 of Crisis Intervention, #4 of Community Improvement, #3 of Teaching, #3 of Rural Development.
2. Fulfill one of the following honor requirements: #4 of Crisis Intervention, #6 of Community Improvement, #s 5 or 6 of Teaching, #5 of Rural Development.

Advanced for Serving Others

1. Complete Guide requirements.
2. Complete one of the following honors not previously earned: Crisis Intervention, Community Improvement Teaching or Rural Development.

Making Friends

1. Through discussion and personal research examine your attitudes on two of the following topics:
   - Attitudes toward moral issues in sex and dating.
   - Self-concept as it affects choices of a husband/wife.
   - How peer pressure affects relationships with parents, family, other relatives and friends.
2. Fulfill requirements #5 and #6 of the Language Study Honor.

Advanced for Making Friends

1. Complete Guide requirements.
2. Complete the Language Study Honor, if not previously earned.

Health and Fitness

1. Under the guidance of an adult staff member, choose one of the following:
   - Teach the Red Alert Honor.
   - Teach requirement #1 of Health & Fitness for Friend.
   - Teach requirement #1of Health & Fitness for Companion.
2. Complete a Health & Science honor not previously earned.
3. Complete the Basic Water Safety **OR** Beginner Swimming Honor, if not previously earned.

Advanced for Health and Fitness

1. Complete Guide requirements.
2. Participate in a lifestyle fitness program for your age such as:
   - President's Challenge Active Lifestyle Program
   - Live Healthy Bermuda Kids
   - Or similar program

Nature Study

1. Read the story of Jesus' childhood in *The Desire of Ages*, ch. 7, and relate it to the place of nature study in His education and ministry by giving orally before an audience an original nature lesson (parable) drawn from your observations.
2. **Spiders/Rocks and Minerals**
   Complete a spider web study project. **OR** Collect and identify 15 different kinds of rocks and minerals.

Advanced for Nature Study

1. Complete Guide requirements.
2. **Ecology/Fungi** List 10 ways in which you might actively work to improve the environment in which you live. Put four into practice. **OR** Photograph or draw 15 different fungi and correctly identify them.
3. Complete a nature honor, not previously earned. (Skill level 2 or 3)

Outdoor Living

1. Under the guidance of an adult staff member, teach the Knot Tying Honor.

Advanced for Outdoor Living

1. Complete Guide requirements.
2. Complete one of the following honors not previously earned:
   - Pioneering
   - Winter Camping
   - Backpacking
   - Wilderness Living
   - Outdoor Leadership

Honor Enrichment

1. Complete one honor at your skill level, not previously earned, in the area of Arts & Crafts or Household Arts. (Skill level 2 or 3)
2. Complete one honor at your skill level, not previously earned, in the area of Recreational, Vocational, or Outdoor Industries. (Skill level 2 or 3)

Personal Growth



Goals for this Track:

- Achievement levels are grade assigned
- Develop a relationship with God through a daily study of His word and prayer
- Embrace the Pathfinder/AY lifestyle

1. **Be in grade 10 or its equivalent.**
   Guide is written on a tenth grade level and follows the voted action of the North American Division Pathfinder Committee that Guide begin for those going into the tenth grade.

2. **a. Develop your devotional life by studying the Senior Weekly Devotional Guide (weeks 27-52) and the book of Revelation utilizing printed or electronic resources. (See appendix)**

Teaching Tip

The purpose of this requirement is to have the Pathfinders connect with God each day and to help them establish a lifelong habit of personal devotions. Encourage the Pathfinders to reflect on the Bible passages and not simply rush through this requirement. By reading the thirteen week devotional guide for Voyager, the Pathfinders should gain a broader view of the Bible. The purpose of reading the book of Revelation is to introduce the Pathfinder to prophecies pointing to the fulfillment of God's plan of Salvation.

a. Journal your thoughts by asking these questions:
"What did I learn about God?"
"What did I learn about myself?"
"How can I apply this to my life today?"
"What in this text is meaningful to me?"
"What is the theme in the verses I read?"

You may journal through writing, drawing or electronic process

Teaching Tip

Encourage the Pathfinders to journal in a way that reflects their creative style. By responding to the study questions, they will need to think about the meaning of the verses and how they may apply what they have learned to their lives.

Resource

- *Pathfinder Bible*, published by Thomas Nelson (Advent*Source* #001140)
- www.Biblegateway.com

3. a. Memorize the AY Motto

AY MOTTO:

The love of Christ constrains me.

Teaching Tip

Meaning of the AY Motto

"I am drawn to Him by His exemplary life, the symbolic act of His crucifixion, His conquering resurrection, and His promise of an earth made new in the pattern of the original creation. The closer I find myself to Him, the closer I find myself identifying with the needs of my fellow human beings."
(Source: General Conference Youth Ministries Department website
http://gcyouthministries.org/Ministries/Ambassadors/AimMotto/tabid/149/Default.aspx)

Create opportunities for the Pathfinders to learn the AY Motto by incorporating it into the club's opening exercises or by setting aside time for memorization.

Resource

- General Conference Youth Ministries Department website:
  http://gcyouthministries.org/Ministries/Ambassadors/AimMotto/tabid/149/Default.aspx)
- *The AY Story*, by Robert Holbrook (Advent*Source* #602040)

4. Illustrate the meaning of the AY Motto in an interesting way.

Teaching Tip

Encourage the Pathfinders to complete this requirement in a way that reflects their creative style. Foster a non-competitive atmosphere by reminding the Pathfinders that their work will not be judged or compared with that of others.

Here are a few suggestions for completing this requirement:

- Art projects
- Written composition
- Panel discussions
- Role playing
- Musical interpretation
- Slide show
- Video
- Skit/Drama
- Poster
- Games

Spiritual Discovery



Goals for this Track:

- Encourage spiritual growth through a discovery of the Bible

1. Write and share your personal testimony.

Teaching Tip

A personal testimony should be 3-5 minutes in length. It will contain 3 parts. My live before I met Christ, how I met Christ, and the joy I have had since I have met Christ. Since many of the Pathfinders have been raised in a Christian home, they may feel that they do not have a testimony. Help them see that they do have a very important testimony. They were raised by loving Christian parents who introduced them to Jesus Christ from birth, taking them to church, having worship in the home, praying with them, teaching them about the Bible and that Jesus died for them. Then at some point, they decided for themselves to follow Jesus, not because their parents made them, but because they wanted Jesus to be their friend and Savior. Then have them describe their life since that decision.

Resource

- *What We Believe for Kids*, by Jerry D. Thomas (Advent*Source* #043035)
- *What We Believe for Teens*, by Seth Pierce (Advent*Source* 602665)
- *You are my Witness*, by Don & Marjore Gray (Advent*Source* $420530)

2. Memorize one key text for each of the following Bible teachings:

- Second Coming of Christ
- Seventh-day Sabbath
- State of the Dead
- Law & Grace
- Conversion
- Judgment
- Inspiration of the Bible
- Spirit of Prophecy
- The Saint's Reward

3. Learn the principles of leading a person to Jesus.

Teaching Tip

Resource

- *Hey Youth! Preach the Word*, by James Black (Advent*Source* #625780)
- *Let's Study Together*, by Mark Finley
- *One-Minute Witness*, by Monti Sahlin (Advent*Source* #420085)

4. Tell a story of a church pioneer to a group.

Teaching Tip

Any of the church pioneer they've worked on before
If they have not done this before, they may want to work with one of the other classes that's working on it in order to complete this requirement

Resource

- Church Heritage
- *Hey Youth! Preach the Word*, by James Black (Advent*Source* #625780)
- *Let's Study Together*, by Mark Finley
- *One-Minute Witness*, by Monti Sahlin (Advent*Source* #420085)

Advanced for Spiritual Discovery

1. **Complete Guide requirements**
   The Frontier Guide requirements may be done simultaneously with the Guide requirements. However, both the Frontier Guide and the Guide requirements must be completed in order to be invested as a Frontier Guide.

2. **Complete one of the following honors.**
   - Personal Evangelism
   - Bible Evangelism
   - Literature Evangelism

3. **Study and discuss two of the following life issues (not previously studied) with your Guide group and an adult: (See appendix)**
   - Teen Pregnancy
   - Abortion
   - AIDS
   - Homosexuality
   - Pornography

Teaching Tip

Resource

Teen Pregnancy

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Teen Pregnancy Fact Sheets (http://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/)
- *Love, Sex, and God* (Chapter 9) by Bill Ameiss and Jane Graver

Abortion

- Seventh-Day Adventist Church Official Statements: Abortion (http://www.adventist.org/information/official-statements/guidelines/article/go/0/abortion/en/)

AIDS

- *Love, Sex, and God* (Chapter 3) by Bill Ameiss and Jane Graver
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Fact Sheets

Homosexuality

- *Love, Sex, and God* (Chapter 9) by Bill Ameiss and Jane Graver
- Seventh-Day Adventist Church Official Statements: Homosexuality (http://www.adventist.org/information/official-statements/statements/article/go/0/homosexuality/)

Pornography

- *I Want to Talk With my Teen About Additions* (Chapter 4) by Megan Hutchinson
- Seventh-Day Adventist Church Official Statements: Pornography (http://www.adventist.org/information/official-statements/statements/article/go/0/pornography/48/)

Serving Others



Goals for this Track

- Engage particpants in active service
- Connect participants to the community
- Engage participants in friendship evangelism
- Connect participants to their church

1. Fulfill one of the following honor requirements: #3 of Crisis Intervention, #4 of Community Improvement, #3 of Teaching, or #3 of Rural Development. (See appendix)

Crisis Intervention, requirement #3:
Describe for your instructor some of the human needs and crisis situations that teenagers in your community face today. Describe some of the crisis situations that families face. This may be done in a group discussion setting.

Community Improvement, requirement #4:
Interview the pastor or Adventist Community Services leader or Inner City Program coordinator in an inner-city Seventh-day Adventist Church arid (change to and ask how the church is meeting the needs of the poor in the community. Take notes during the interview.

Teaching, Requirement #3:
Interview at least two teachers with the following questions:

a. Why did you choose to become a teacher?
b. What part of teaching do you like the best?
c. What part of teaching do you like the least?
d. What do you do to get ready for a school year?
e. What do you do to get ready for a school day?
f. What teacher-related activities do you do after school is out each day?
g. What are some qualities of a good teacher?
h. What are the responsibilities and duties of a teacher?

Rural Development, Requirement #3:
Read what Ellen White has written about why we have the poor with us in *Desire of Ages*, Chapter 70, entitled “The Least of These My Brethren”. Summarize what you have learned from this chapter in 50 words or less

2. Fulfill one of the following honor requirements: #4 of Crisis Intervention, #6 of Community Improvement, #s 5 or 6 of Teaching, #5 of Rural Development. (See appendix)

Crisis Intervention, requirement #4:
Discuss your own motives for wanting to help your friends when they face personal or family crisis. What about strangers? This may be done in a group discussion setting.

Community Improvement, requirement #6:
Spend at least four hours in one of the following field trips as a participant observer.
a. Go out with a street ministry team that provides food, blankets or clothing to the homeless.
b. Go out with a health screening van.
c. Go out with a Christian work team that is repairing or building housing for the poor.
d. Work in a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
e. Volunteer with an Adventist Community Services or ADRA Canada community development program

Teaching, requirement #5:
If you are 16 years old or younger, do the following for a minimum of 40 minutes per week for three weeks:
a. Assist a teacher in designing and preparing a bulletin board.
b. Assist a teacher in preparing learning aids.
c. With the supervision of a teacher, teach a child or class at least one concept

Teaching, requirement #6:
If you are older than 16 years, do three of the following:
a. Teach an adult's or children's Sabbath School class for a minimum of six weeks.
b. Teach in one day in each department of Vacation Bible School.
c. Teach two Honors from the Honors Handbook.
d. Assist in teaching requirements for one of the AY classes, culminating in investiture.
e. Teach at least one year in an elementary or secondary school or in a college

Rural Development, requirement #5:
Participate in one of the following field trips or group projects:
a. Go on a mission trip to a disadvantaged rural area in another country or within your own nation.
b. Raise funds and contribute to the contents of an ADRA-kids-box of your choice (http://kids.adra.org).
c. A 24-hour group fast and educational "lock-in" session with your youth group focused on understanding the needs of the poor in developing nations, and designed to raise funds for rural development.

Advanced for Serving Others

1. **Complete Guide requirements**
   The Frontier Guide requirements may be done simultaneously with the Guide requirements. However, both the Frontier Guide and the Guide requirements must be completed in order to be invested as a Frontier Guide.

2. **Complete one of the following honors not previously earned. (See appendix)**
   - **Crisis Intervention**
   - **Community Improvement**
   - **Teaching**
   - **Rural Development**

Making Friends



Goals for this Track:

- Develop a relationship with God that fosters positive friendships, strong moral values, and civic responsibility.

1. **Through discussion and personal research examine your attitudes on two of the following topics. (See appendix for articles on these issues.)**
   - Attitudes toward moral issues in sex and dating.
   - Self-concept as it affects choices of a husband/wife.
   - How peer pressure affects relationships with parents, family, other relatives and friends.

2. **Fulfill requirements #5 and #6 of the Language Study Honor. (See appendix)**

   Requirement #5:
   Know and repeat from memory the Pathfinder Pledge and Law in this foreign language.

   Requirement #6:
   Write or tell orally about the foreign population in your vicinity and what opportunity you have to converse with those who speak the language you have studied.

Advanced for Making Friends

1. **Complete Guide requirements.**
   The Frontier Guide requirements may be done simultaneously with the Guide requirements. However, both the Frontier Guide and the Guide requirements must be completed in order to be invested as a Frontier Guide.

2. **Complete the Language Study Honor, if not previously earned. (See appendix)**

Goals for this Track:

Health and Fitness



- Apply health and fitness principles that will benefit the participant for a lif
- Learn and practice safety procedures, first aid and rescue skills.

1. **Under the guidance of an adult staff member, choose one of the following.**
   - **Teach the Red Alert Honor (See appendix)**

   - **Teach Requirement #1 of Health & Fitness Track for Friend**
     Learn the value of good nutrition and water by discussing and/or participating in the activities listed below:
     - The Choose My Plate Dietary guidelines
     - The daily servings for each food group
     - The importance of a balanced diet
     - The importance of drinking a healthy amount of water (these are requirements #1 and #6 of the Nutrition honor).

       Requirement #1:
       What is another name for Vitamin B1 and B2.

       Requirement #6:
       Why is it important to drink plenty of water every day? How much water should you drink every day?

Requirement #1 of Health & Fitness Track for Friend.
Good health depends largely on good nutrition and consuming the necessary amount of water for proper organ function. The goal for healthy eating is to make sure the participants understand how to make good food choices and understand what constitutes a serving size. Explain the Choose My Plate Dietary guidelines in terms that they will understand and have the Pathfinders build a balanced plate using the current guidelines.

Similarly, have the Pathfinders put the daily amount of water in a large container and drink from it for the day. Have them do this for an entire week.

Resource
- www.choosemyplate.gov
- www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

- **Teach requirement #1 of Health & Fitness Track for Companion**

Learn the value of temperance:

a. Memorize and sign the Temperance Pledge.

Temperance Pledge:

"Realizing the importance of healthy body and mind, I promise, with the help of God, to live a Christian life of true temperance in all things and to abstain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, or any other narcotic."

Teaching Tip

Discuss what the Bible says about temperance and encourage the Pathfinders to sign and carry their Temperance Pledge card.

Some meaning of Temperance:

- Temperance is self-control through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- As we ask, God through His Spirit guides us in the choices we make.
- We first choose to serve Him.
- We choose to say NO to Satan.
- As we ask Him, God gives power to resist temptation.
- We choose to eat and drink those things that are healthful in a way that will honor God.
- We choose not to eat or drink anything that would be harmful.
- We choose to allow God to guide in all our daily activities.
- Man was created perfect in the image of God, healthy, free from disease.
- Adam and Eve had natural appetites given by God to enjoy what God had made.
- God also gave them the power of reason, choice and self-control.
- They were tempted by Satan to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Being deceived, they used the power of choice wrongly.
- They lost their self-control and came under the influence of Satan. People have been making wrong choices ever since.
- This is evidence of lack of self-control.

(Source, *AY Instructor's Manual*, pg 133)

Writings of Ellen G. White on temperance:

- "True temperance teaches us to abstain entirely from that which is injurious, and to use judiciously only healthful and nutritious articles of food." *Temperance*, p. 3.
- "The only safe course is to touch not, taste not, handle not, tea, coffee, wines, tobacco, opium, and alcoholic drinks." *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 428.
- "…temperance alone is the foundation of all the graces that come from God, the foundation of all victories to be gained." *Temperance*, p. 201.
- "A pure and noble life, a life of victory over appetite and lust, is possible to everyone who will unite his weak, wavering, human will to the omnipotent, unwavering will of God." *Temperance*, p. 113.
- "Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison, in whatever form it is used, it tells upon the constitution; it is all the more dangerous because its effects are slow and at first hardly perceptible." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 237-328.

b. Memorize two of the following Bible texts:

- Romans 12:1, 2
- 1 Corinthians 10:31
- Proverbs 20:1
- 3 John 1:2
- Galatians 5:22, 23
- 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

c. Discuss all the following situations and role-play one:

- Your best friend asks you to try a cigarette
- An older relative offers you a drink of beer
- The smoke from a stranger's cigarette is bothering you.

Additional situations not listed page 30 of the Companion Record Journal:

- A classmate offers you money to sell marijuana.
- A friend asks you to smoke marijuana.
- You are at a party with a friend; he gets drunk and insists on driving you home.

Note: These activities fulfill requirements #1, #2, and #7 of the Temperance Honor.

2. Complete a Health & Science honor not previously earned.

- Basic Rescue
- Blood and the Body's Defenses
- Bones, Muscles and Movement
- Brain and Behavior
- CPR
- Chemistry
- Digestion
- First Aid, Basic
- First Aid, Standard
- First Aid, Advanced
- Health & Healing
- Hearts and Circulation
- Heredity
- Home Nursing
- Optics
- Physics
- Red Alert

Teaching Tip

Resource

- *Honors Handbook*, by NAD Pathfinder Ministries (Advent*Source* #001167)
- www.pathfindersonline.org

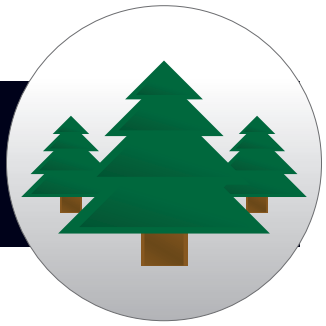
3. Complete the Basic Water Safety OR Beginner Swimming Honor, if not previously earned. (See appendix)

Advanced for Making Friends

1. **Complete Guide requirements.**
   The Frontier Guide requirements may be done simultaneously with the Guide requirements. However, both the Frontier Guide and the Guide requirements must be completed in order to be invested as a Frontier Guide.

2. **Participate in a lifestyle fitness program for your age such as:**
   a. President's Challenge Active Lifestyle Program – www.presidentschallenge.org
   b. Live Healthy Bermuda Kids – http://www.livehealthybermuda.org
   c. Or similar program

Nature Study



Goals for this Track:

- Develop an understanding of God, the Creator of all things, through the study and observation of His Creation.

1. **Read the story of Jesus' childhood in *The Desire of Ages*, ch. 7, and relate it to the place of nature study in His education and ministry by giving orally before an audience an original nature lesson (parable) drawn from your observations.**

2. **Spiders/Rocks and Minerals:** Complete a spider web study project, OR Collect and identify 15 different kinds of rocks and minerals. **(See appendix)**

Advanced for Nature Study

1. **Complete Guide requirements.**
   The Frontier Guide requirements may be done simultaneously with the Guide requirements. However, both the Frontier Guide and the Guide requirements must be completed in order to be invested as a Frontier Guide.

2. **Ecology/Fungi:** List 10 ways in which you might actively work to improve the environment in which you live. Put four into practice. **OR** Photograph or draw 15 different fungi and correctly identify them. **(See appendix)**

3. **Complete a nature honor, not previously earned. (Skill levels 2 or 3)**

- Animal Tracking, Advanced
- Cats, Advanced
- Dog Care and Training
- Ecology
- Edible Wild Plants
- Environmental Conservation
- Ferns
- Fishes
- Fossils
- Fungi
- Geology, Advanced
- House Plants
- Insects, Advanced
- Livestock
- Mammals, Advanced
- Marine Invertebrates
- Marine Mammals
- Microscopic Life
- Moths and Butterflies
- Poultry
- Rocks and Minerals
- Seeds, Advanced
- Shells
- Small Mammal Pets
- Spiders
- Stars
- Weather, Advanced
- Bats, Advanced
- Endangered Species
- Worms, Advanced
- Amphibians, Advanced
- Birds, Advanced
- Cacti, Advanced
- Ecology, Advanced
- Flowers, Advanced
- Grasses
- Lichens, Liverworts, and Mosses
- Maple Sugar, Advanced
- Marine Algae
- Reptiles, Advanced
- Rocks and Minerals, Advanced
- Shells, Advanced
- Stars, Advanced
- Trees, Advanced

Teaching Tip

Resource
- *Honors Handbook*, by NAD Pathfinder Ministries (Advent*Source* #001167)
- www.pathfindersonline.org

Outdoor Living



Goals for this Track:

- Develop the skills needed for maximum enjoyment of the outdoors.
- Build self-confidence through outdoor experiences.
- Develop team building skills.

1. **Under the guidance of an adult staff member, teach the Knot Tying Honor. (See appendix)**

Advanced for Outdoor Living

1. **Complete Guide requirements.**
   The Frontier Guide requirements may be done simultaneously with the Guide requirements. However, both the Frontier Guide and the Guide requirements must be completed in order to be invested as a Frontier Guide.

2. **Complete one of the following honors not previously earned.**
   - **Pioneering**
   - **Backpacking**
   - **Outdoor Leadership**
   - **Winter Camping**
   - **Wilderness Living**

Honor Enrichment — Advanced Level Only



Goals for this Track:

- Learn new skills.
- Participate in or study content areas new to them.

1. Complete one honor at your skill level, not previously earned, in the area of Arts & Crafts or Household Arts. (Skill level 2 or 3).

Arts & Crafts (Skill level 2):

- Basketry
- Block Printing
- Braiding, Advanced
- Cake Decorating
- Ceramics
- Counted Cross-Stitch
- Crocheting
- Currency (Coins)
- Digital Photography
- Drawing
- Flower Arrangement
- Genealogy
- Knitting
- Lapidary
- Leather Craft, Advanced
- Lettering and Poster Making
- Metal Craft
- Model Boat
- Model Railroading
- Model Rocketry, Advanced
- Music
- Needle Craft
- Painting
- Paper Quilling, Advanced
- Photography
- Pinewood Derby, Advanced
- Plastic Canvas, Advanced
- Plastics
- Pottery
- Scrapbooking, Advanced
- Sculpturing
- Soap Craft, Advanced
- Stamps
- Textile Painting
- Wood Carving
- Wood Handicraft
- Whistle, Advanced

Arts & Crafts (Skill level 3):

- Crocheting, Advanced
- Currency (Coins), Advanced
- Knitting, Advanced
- Copper Enameling, Advanced

Household Arts (Skill levels 2 & 3):

- Cooking, Advanced
- Dressmaking, Advanced
- Food - Canning
- Food - Drying
- Food - Freezing
- Housekeeping
- Quilting
- Nutrition, Advanced
- Tailoring

Teaching Tip

Resource

- *Honors Handbook*, by NAD Pathfinder Ministries (Advent*Source* #001167)
- www.pathfindersonline.org

2. Complete one honor at your skill level, not previously earned, in the area of Recreational, Vocational, or Outdoor Industries. (Skill level 2 or 3)

Recreation (Skill levels 2 & 3):

- Archery, Advanced
- Backpacking
- Canoeing
- Caving
- Cycling, Advanced
- Fire Building and Camp Cookery
- Horsemanship, Advanced
- Knot Tying
- Lifesaving
- Lifesaving, Advanced
- Navigation
- Oreinteering
- Physical Fitness
- Pioneering
- Rock Climbing
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Skiing, Downhill
- Skin Diving
- Springboard Diving
- Swimming
- Swimming, Intermediate
- Tumbling and Balancing
- Tumbling and Balancing, Advanced
- Water Skiing
- Water Skiing, Advanced
- Wilderness Leadership
- Wilderness Living
- Windsurfing
- Winter Camping
- Swimming, Advanced
- Skiing, Cross-Country
- Letter Boxing, Advanced
- Drumming and Percussion
- Mountain Biking
- Power Boating
- Geochaching, Advanced
- Caving, Advanced
- Outdooor Leadership
- Outdooor Leadership, Advanced
- Rock Climbing, Advanced
- Scuba Diving
- Scuba Diving, Advanced
- Wilderness Leadership, Advanced
- Drumming and Percussion, Advanced

Vocational (Skill level 2 & 3):

- Automobile Mechanics
- Bible Evangelism
- Bookkeeping
- Carpentry
- Christian Sales Principles
- Communications
- Computer, Advanced
- Journalism
- Printing
- Radio
- Radio, Advanced
- Radio Electronics
- Small Engines
- Teaching
- Typewriting
- Woodworking
- Internet
- Accounting
- Automobile Mechanics, Advanced
- Barbering/Hairstyling
- Bookbinding
- Communications, Advanced
- House Painting - Exterior
- House Painting - Interior
- Internet, Advanced
- Masonry
- Paperhanging
- Plumbing
- Shoe Repair
- Shorthand
- Welding

Outdoor Industries (Skill level 2):

- Agriculture
- Beekeeping
- Cattle Husbandry
- Dairying
- Fruit Growing
- Goat Husbandry
- Pigeon Raising
- Small Fruit Growing

Teaching Tip

Resource

- *Honors Handbook*, by NAD Pathfinder Ministries (Advent*Source* #001167)
- www.pathfindersonline.org

Weekly Devotional Guide (Weeks 27- 52)

Week 27
MY ATTITUDES
- Mark 9:33-35
- 1 Thess. 5:12-18
- Psalm 34
- Ephesians 3:14-19
- James 2:8-17

Week 28
GO FOR IT
- Isaiah 40:31
- Genesis 17:1
- Proverbs 4:18
- Luke 9:23
- Philemon 3:12-14
- 2 Kings 22:1-13
- Exodus 32:1-26

Week 29
GROWING UP
- 1 Corinthians 13
- 1 Corinthians 6:18, 19
- Psalm 53
- Psalm 90
- Ruth 1-4
- Hebrews 5:12-14

Week 30
FAITH
- Jude 1
- Romans 14:13
- Matthew 9:1-8
- Luke 17:5-19
- Lamentations 3:22, 23
- Psalm 31:21-24
- Hebrews 3:17-19

Week 31
PRAISE
- Psalm 108:1-6
- Psalm 27:1-4
- Psalm 56:1-13
- 1 Peter 5:6-11
- Isaiah 63
- Isaiah 26:3-7

Week 32
PRAYER
- Psalm 116:1, 2
- Matthew 6-7
- Luke 18:1-8
- Psalm 20
- Psalm 100:4, 5
- Proverbs 15:8
- Colossians 4:2-6

Week 33
TRUST
- Proverbs 3:4, 5
- Psalm 62:8
- Isaiah 30:19-26
- Jeremiah 10:23
- Exodus 33:15
- Isaiah 38:14
- Colossians 3:12-17

Week 34
SALVATION
- John 1:14
- Acs 2:36
- Psalm 60:4
- Haggai 2:4, 5
- Romans 3
- Mark 1:9-15
- 1 Timothy 6:11-12

Week 35
FORGIVENESS
- Isaiah 38:16-19
- Psalm 30:1-12
- Psalm 40:1-5
- Isaiah 1:18-20
- Deuteronomy 31:8
- 1 Corinthians 6:7-11
- Titus 3:1-8

Week 36
ABUNDANT LIFE
- Romans 5:6-11
- John 15:4-11
- Luke 19:1-27
- Jeremiah 4:1-8
- Ephesians 1-3

Week 37
DEATH
- Hebrews 9:27, 28
- John 16:29-33
- Revelation 7:14-17
- Ecclesiastes 12
- Isaiah 60:19-22
- 2 Corinthians 1:8-11
- Psalm 121:3

Week 38
BAPTISM
- Romans 6:1-11
- Matthew 3:1-17
- Luke 3:1-21
- Matthew 28:1-20
- 1 Peter 3:13-22
- Acts 22:16
- Matthew 21

Week 39
SECOND COMING
- 1 Corinthians 15:17
- Isaiah 64:1
- Titus 2:13
- Isaiah 25:9
- James 5:7-11
- Mark 13

Week 40
JUDGMENT
- Revelation 6-8
- 1 Peter 4:12-19
- 1 Peter 5:1-11
- Romans 13:11-14
- Job 14:1-7
- Zephaniah 1-3

Week 41
HEAVEN
- Revelation 21:1-4
- Matthew 12
- 1 Peter 3:3-7
- Hebrews 4:15-16
- Isaiah 21:11, 12
- Philemon 1:19-26
- Revelation 22:20, 21

Week 42
BIBLE STUDY
- Psalm 5:1-3
- Psalm 32:3
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- Isaiah 35:8
- Acts 17:10-15
- John 16:1-5

Week 43
CHALLENGES
- Matthew 22:37-40
- Luke 14:26
- 2 Corinthians 7:1
- Exodus 4
- Matthew 24
- Luke 24

Week 44
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- Isaiah 61:8
- Matthew 4:12-25
- Acts 15:1-29
- 1 Corinthians 3
- Acts 1
- Acts 15:1-29

Week 45
AM I SAVED?
- Genesis 3:15-19
- Exodus 15:1-18
- Isaiah 59:1-4
- Psalm 98
- Hebrews 1
- Galatians 3:1-11
- Romans 4

Week 46
NEW STARTS
- John 11:25
- John 3:1-16
- Isaiah 40:27-31
- Philemon 1
- 1 Kings 10, 11
- Psalm 137

Week 47
SABBATH
- Exodus 12-20
- Matthew 12:1-8
- Hebrews 3:7-11
- Genesis 1, 2
- Isaiah 56
- Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- Mark 1:21-28
- Mark 2:23-27

Week 48
FEELING GOOD
- Psalm 27:1-6
- Psalm 32:1-5
- Psalm 25:1-10
- Hosea 6:1-3
- Psalm 117
- Deuteronomy 5:12-15
- Matthew 11:1-15

Week 49
MY FUTURE
- Revelation 20:11
- Psalm 46:1-3
- Psalm 84:1-4
- Psalm 90:1-4
- Revelation 18:1-15

Week 50
PEER PRESSURE
- 1 John 4:7-21
- Isaiah 56:4-11
- Luke 15:11-32
- Genesis 37-39
- Genesis 40-44
- Genesis 45-48

Week 51
WORKING FOR GOD
- 2 Corinthians 4:7-12
- Mark 9
- Matthew 25:31-36
- 1 Corinthians 14:26
- Matthew 9:35-38
- Ephesians 5:1-14
- Hebrews 13:1-6

Week 52
DISCIPLESHIP
- John 21:1-17
- Isaiah 53:4-16
- James 2:8-17
- Revelation 22:12-17
- Mark 3:34-36
- John 21:1-17

Oh, We Are the Pathfinders Strong

Soy Conquistador Fuerte y Fiel

Nous Sommes les Explorateurs

H. T. B. Henry T. Bergh



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Abortion

Real Life, Part One

Joel is a college senior. He likes sports and music, and he enjoys spending time with his friends. He's a business major, planning to go on to grad school for an MBA, though he knows he'll have to work hard to make the money. Joel's mom is a single parent, and money has always been scarce. Joel's mom is just thirty-seven. She can't believe she has a son ready to graduate from college. When she was fifteen, she got pregnant. She was going to get an abortion, but a friend talked her out of it at the last minute. Raising Joel alone has been difficult sometimes, but she's proud of her son. A few years ago, she told him the story of how he was born. Joel's grateful to his mom for giving him a chance to live. Joel calls himself an "abortion survivor."

Sara is twenty-one. Friends think of her as a pleasant, successful college student, but she's a little quiet and reserved. She doesn't have a boyfriend and doesn't seem interested in dating. None of her friends knows that when Sara was sixteen, she got pregnant and had an abortion. She was desperate, and it seemed like the only way out. Five years later, she still thinks about the baby she might have had. She can't imagine being a single mother at her age, and she's relieved the she's been able to get on with her life. But she still wonders about that child and still feels guilty about ending its life. She's not ready to be close or intimate with anyone else again-—not only because she's afraid of getting pregnant, but because she doesn't want to let anyone into her private, painful world. In a different way, Sara, too, is a survivor of abortion.

What's the Problem?

Few issues are more emotionally intense than the issue of abortion. For a woman who chooses to have an abortion, the decision is almost always a difficult one. The woman who makes this choice is facing an unwanted pregnancy; she may have little family support; she is often troubled about whether her choice is morally right or not. An abortion is a traumatic event.

The question of abortion raises hot debates and high emotions whenever it's brought up—maybe even in your church, school, or community.

- Worldwide, about 46 million are performed annually, with about 78% of these being in developing countries.[1] (www.abortiontv.com)
- In the United States, about 1.3 million abortions are performed each year.[2]
- About 2.3 million abortions are performed each year in Indonesia.[3]
- About 1.5 million abortions are performed each year in Brazil.[4]
- About 5 million abortions occur each year in Africa.[5]
- About 7.7 million abortions occur each year in Europe.[6]
- Romania, Cuba, and Vietnam have the highest reported rates of abortion in the world.[7]

What You Need to Know

Abortion has always been part of human society. Before modern times and modern medicine, women who were faced with an unwanted pregnancy often used drugs or other means to try to bring on a miscarriage--a self-induced abortion. In the United States, the rate of abortions has risen since abortion became legal in 1973, but worldwide, women continue to seek abortions whether they're legal or not. Of those 46 million abortions performed each year, about 26 million are legal; the other 20 million occur in places where abortion is against the law.

The vast majority of abortions are performed because a woman is faced with a pregnancy she does not want. She may feel she is too young or too poor to raise a child. Her parents, husband or boyfriend may have pressured her into having an abortion. Or she may already have more children than she can cope with and feels unable to raise another. In some cases, abortion is performed because the mother is the victim of a rape or incest, or the unborn baby is known to be severely deformed. These cases, however, represent a very small proportion of all abortions.

What the Bible Says

The Bible does not directly address the issue of abortion at all. However, Christians who are pro-life point to many Bible texts which show that God places great value on all human life, even the life of the unborn.

> *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be* (Psalm 139:13-16 NIV).

God showed that He had plans for some of His people, such as Samson, John the Baptist, and Jesus Himself, before they were ever born. Knowing this, it's hard to believe that the unborn child is a "non-person," an insignificant piece of human tissue. God's Word supports the idea that human beings are precious and valuable to God even before they are born.

What the Church Says

Seventh-day Adventists have traditionally not been as outspoken as other conservative Christians in supporting the pro-life position. Our church does, however, teach that "prenatal life must not be thoughtlessly destroyed. Abortion should be performed only for the most serious reasons." These reasons include:

- a threat to the pregnant woman's life
- serious danger to the woman's health
- severe defects diagnosed in the unborn child
- a pregnancy resulting from rape or incest

Our church does not condone abortions for reasons of

- birth control (getting rid of an unwanted accidental pregnancy)
- gender selection (aborting a baby because you wanted a boy instead of a girl)
- convenience (it's simply the easiest way out of the situation)[8]

However, Seventh-day Adventists have a great respect for the personal freedom of individuals. We recognize that it's wrong to either force a woman to have a child or to force a woman to have an abortion. Either one would be a threat to her personal freedom. This is why Seventh-day Adventists, as a denomination, have traditionally not been involved in calls to make abortion illegal. Individual Seventh-day Adventists can, of course, study the pro-life/pro-choice arguments for themselves and become involved in the issue according to their own conscience. But both the Bible and our church make it clear that human life, including prenatal human life, is something that God places great value on. That is why we do not advise women to have abortions for any but the most serious reasons.

What the World Says

Abortion is a "hot" issue for people around the world, including Christians. Many conservative Christians believe that abortion is murder--the murder of an unborn baby. Many churches and Christian groups work very hard to discourage women from having abortions and encourage governments to make (or keep) abortion illegal. People who hold these views are usually called "pro-life" and can often be seen on the news, protesting and picketing abortion clinics.

On the other hand, many people, including some Christians, believe that a woman has the right to choose an abortion if she believes that is the best option for her. These people, who believe abortion should be legal, are usually called "pro-choice."

As we've just seen, our church does not tell its members whether they should be "pro-life" or "pro-choice" in the debate on abortion. This debate generally centers around whether or not abortion should be legal in your country. If you want to make an informed decision on this issue, think about some of the questions below.

- When do I believe life begins: at conception, at birth, or at the point were a fetus could live outside the womb if it were born?
- Which is more important—a woman's right to make decisions about her own body, or the right of the fetus to live? What can we do when these rights conflict with each other?
- If the government outlaws abortion, is it interfering in people's right to make moral decisions?

What Can I Do?

As you consider the issues around abortion and decide what your view is, be aware that both pro-life and pro-choice forces agree that the best solution to the abortion problem is prevention. If there were no unwanted pregnancies, there would be no abortions. Some people will tell you that birth control is the best way to prevent unwanted pregnancies. In fact, every birth-control method has some rate of failure—except abstinence. God's plan is for both men and women to wait until they're married before having sex—and part of the reason for that is so babies will be born into committed families that are ready to care for them. Yes, having sex with protection is safer than having sex with no protection. But the best plan is God's plan—a lifelong committment to a family you can love and care for.

It's My Problem!

So far, we've been talking about abortion as an abstract, political and moral issue--something you might debate in a high-school or college classroom. But what if the issue is real and personal for you? What if you are faced with an unplanned pregnancy? Or what if a good friend is pregnant and comes to you for advice? How do you know what to choose?

We've seen the biblical evidence: the unborn human life is valuable to God. Unless you're in one of those rare situations where your life or your child's life would be seriously endangered by continuing the pregnancy, abortion is not the biblical choice for you. Let's look at some better choices. (These three options are outlined in greater detail in the *Teen Pregnancy* brochure, which is part of this series).

1. *Single Parenting*

   In many cultures, raising a child alone is becoming a more-and-more acceptable option. However, there is still a price to pay for choosing to raise your child alone--statistically, your family is more likely to live in poverty, and your children may face social and emotional difficulties. Also, the task of raising a child alone is tremendously difficult and exhausting for the parent who chooses to do so.

   Still, this may be a good choice for you, if you have a strong network of family and community support to back you up. Be sure to seek counselling from your pastor, your doctor, or a professional counsellor if you choose the challenging task of being a single parent.

2. *Marriage*

   It's usually not a good idea to rush into marriage just because a baby has been conceived. A stable, two-parent home is the best place to raise a child, but a hasty, poorly planned marriage will not create a stable home. However, if you are in a serious, committed relationship and have made the mistake of becoming sexually involved before you were ready to get married, you may want to think about marriage, now that a baby is on the way.

   If marriage seems like it may be an option in your case, counsel carefully with your pastor and perhaps with a professional counsellor. An unplanned pregnancy is not the ideal start to a marriage, but with God's guidance and blessing, you can grow a strong Christian home.

3. *Adoption*

   Adoption, once a common choice for a mother whose baby was born out of wedlock, has now become much less frequent. As single parenting is more accepted in society, fewer mothers want to lose all contact with their children. But there are still thousands of loving, caring Christian couples wanting to adopt children--often because they are unable to have their own children. If you choose to have your child adopted, he or she has a better chance of being raised in a stable environment with parents who can support him or her financially, emotionally and spiritually.

If adoption seems like an attractive prospect to you, discuss the option carefully with your partner, your own family, your pastor and your doctor. If you are interested in finding a Seventh-day Adventist home for your child, contact:

ADVENTIST ADOPTION AND FAMILY SERVICES
6040 SE Belmont Street Portland, Oregon
97215 USA
Phone (503) 232-1211 Fax (503) 232-4756 E-mail: adventistadoption@msn.com
Website: www.adventistadoption.com

Even if you're facing an unwanted pregnancy and struggling with whether or not to have an abortion, remember that God hasn't abandoned you. He still loves and cares about you deeply. He will not leave you to make this important decision alone, nor will He abandon you to deal with the consequences. Look for support from loving, nonjudgmental Christian family and friends also. God brings caring people into our lives to help us through our difficulties.

What if you've already had an abortion? While some young women are able to continue on as if nothing had happened after an abortion, many are tormented by guilt and regret and feel that they have committed an unpardonable sin, and God can never forgive them. This is completely untrue.

Real Life, Part Two

Joel and Sara met in the spring semester before Joel's graduation. When a group of mutual friends at a cafeteria table got started discussing the subject of abortion, Joel was pretty opinionated. He didn't explain why he thought abortion was so wrong, but he made his views clear. Sara didn't say much—but near the end of the discussion she turned to Joel. "You can't say that," she said. "Your mother made one choice, and you're glad for that, but you don't know what it's like for a woman who makes a different choice. You have no idea what she might be going through."

After dinner, Joel and Sara ended up walking across campus together. They barely knew each other, but Joel was intrigued by this quiet girl and the emotion she'd showed in their brief conversation. He asked her out, and somewhat to her own surprise, Sara accepted.

Joel and Sara dated awhile before he finally asked her what lay behind that statement she'd made about abortion. Eventually, they both shared their stories and talked through their different viewpoints. By that time, they were serious about each other. But when the subject of sex came up, they knew that even though they were adults, the answer was No—for now. Sara never wanted to be hurt again like she'd been before. And Joel could never risk leaving the woman he loved alone with a baby, as his father had done to his mom.

A year later, Joel and Sara were married. They struggled at first, with both of them in university, but the struggle was worth it once they were both out of school, earning money and ready to start a family. On the day Joel and Sara first held Baby Elizabeth in their arms, they were overwhelmed with gratitude to God. "This is what having a baby was meant to be like," Sara whispered. "All of us together—depending on God. I know we'll make it."

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[1]Online: www.abortiontv.com
[2]Online: www.galwayforlife.ie
[3]Ibid.
[4]Ibid.
[5]Ibid.
[6]Ibid.
[7]Alan Guttmacher Institute. Online: www.agi-usa.org
[8]"Guidelines on Abortion," *Statements, Guidelines and Other Documents: A Compilation,* General Conference, 2000.

AIDS

Real Life, Part One

Joseph walks slowly down the road from school, his books slung over his back. It's a long walk, and his friends have already gone ahead of him—he tells them not to wait. He hasn't been feeling well lately. For a long time he's been doing great, but just these last few days he finds he gets tired easily. He's been trying to hide it from his mother, who will say he needs to see a doctor. Joseph doesn't want to end up in hospital again. High-school graduation is just three weeks away, and he wants to be there.

It's been a long journey for Joseph, getting through high school. He was just fifteen when a routine bloodtest uncovered the fact that he was HIV-positive; now, he's nineteen. HIV is no stranger in Joseph's world. He knows several other people in school who are positive, too. His uncle has been living with AIDS for years. And his father died of it just the summer before Joseph was diagnosed.

Some days, Joseph still can't believe it's happened to him. He's been very sick a few times, in hospital, yet somehow always managed to pull through. He knows his mom and all her church friends are praying for him. And sometimes it seems like God is listening to their prayers, because for months at a time Joseph feels so well it's hard to even remember he's sick. He goes to school, hangs out with his friends, has a normal life.

A few of his friends have a bad attitude. AIDS is becoming more common in their town, even in their school, but there are still a few kids who won't have anything to do with you if you're HIV-positive. It used to bother Joseph. Now he just shrugs it off—they're the ignorant ones.

But when he hears his healthy friends talking about the jobs they'll do when they get out of school, even talking about getting married and having families someday—that's when Joseph feels bad. He can't plan for those things. He doesn't even know how much more time he'll have. A normal life just isn't in the cards for him anymore.

He wishes he could believe in God like his mother does. She's lost a husband and now she's losing a son to this disease; yet, she still believes God loves her and cares for her. It's hard to understand. Joseph goes to church with his mom sometimes, sits beside her in the pew, hears the songs, listens to the preacher talking about God's love. But he can't feel it. God—if there is a God—seems a thousand miles away.

What's the Problem?

The AIDS epidemic is the biggest health crisis on the planet. It's easy for young people in developed countries, where AIDS is a serious but relatively small-scale problem, to ignore how frightening the problem is in other parts of the world—particularly in Africa. Maybe these numbers will help put it in perspective:

- AIDS has killed more than 3.8 million children and orphaned another 13 million. In the last five years HIV/AIDS has become the greatest threat to children, especially in countries ravaged by war. In the worst-affected countries, it is estimated that as many as half of today's 15-year-olds will die from the disease.
- In the U.S., AIDS is the sixth-leading cause of death for 15-to-24-year-olds. Half of all new HIV infections occur among people under 25, and since the year 2000 about 20,000 more young people have become HIV-positive every year.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, about 5,500 people die of AIDS every day. Researchers predict that by 2010, about 13,000 will die daily. About half the HIV-positive people in Africa are young people.
- In Botswan, researchers predict that two-thirds of fifteen-year-olds will die of AIDS.

In the U.S., as in Africa, about half of all new HIV infections are among young people. But while this makes up a small (though very significant) portion of the population in the U.S., in Africa it means that in some areas over half of all young people are HIV-positive. Most will die of AIDS.

What You Need to Know

AIDS is Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, and is caused by a virus called HIV--Human Immunodeficiency Virus. AIDS destroys your body's immune system, leaving you vulnerable to life-threatening illnesses. People don't actually die "from AIDS," they die from diseases like pneumonia and some forms of cancer which their bodies can't fight—because they have AIDS.

The HIV virus is spread by contact with body fluids—blood, semen, and vaginal fluid. The most common ways of getting it are:

- sexual intercourse
- sharing needles or syringes for steroid or drug use
- blood transfusions—though, after this became widely known, the blood supply in many countries was carefully screened to reduce the chance of this
- Infected mothers passing the virus to their children during pregnancy, birth or breast-feeding.

There are some misconceptions and myths about AIDS.

- The HIV virus cannot be spread through casual contact—touching a person, holding hands, using the same dishes or bedding an infected person has used—nor by sneezing and coughing, or insect bites.
- Some people, especially in North America, view AIDS as a "homosexual disease" because the incidence is high among the homosexual population. But it's not just a "gay disease" or just a "drug user's disease." Anyone can get it—if they've taken part in any of the "risky" behaviors.
- Many young people believe that using a condom during sex means that you're practicing "safe sex" and you won't get AIDS. In fact, condoms have a significant failure rate and won't completely protect you from HIV infection. Yes, sex with a condom is "safer" than sex without one, but only complete abstinence is completely "safe." Don't take chances.

What the Bible Says

AIDS was unknown in Bible times—in fact, it was only discovered just over 20 years ago. But following the Bible's principles for healthy Christian living will go a long way toward preventing the spread of AIDS. Staying faithful to one sexual partner through a lifelong commitment, and treating your body as God's temple by refusing to inject intravenous drugs, will be a big help in keeping you safe from AIDS.

The Bible also gives us guidelines that can help us rethink how we treat people with AIDS. The closest parallel in Bible times was probably the disease they called "leprosy." People believed that lepers were being punished by God for their sins. And because everyone feared catching this dreaded disease, lepers were forced to live outside the community and label themselves as "unclean." Jesus didn't avoid lepers, just as He didn't avoid any other sick, sinful, or needy people.

> *"A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.' Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately he was cured of his leprosy"* (Matt. 8:2, 3, NIV).

Jesus wasn't afraid to touch the "untouchable" leper. He not only had the power to heal; He had the compassion that could reach out and touch another human being with love and acceptance. If He were on earth today, that's the way He'd treat people with AIDS. But since He said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Chap. 25:40, NIV), we know what He expects us to do.

What the Church Says

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes the AIDS epidemic as a huge problem that has a major impact on our mission to reach the world with the gospel. Since AIDS can be largely prevented by following the Bible's principles for sex within marriage (one partner for life) and by avoiding IV drug use, Seventh-day Adventists recognize that teaching young people how to prevent HIV infection can be an important part of our outreach.

According to the SDA Church's official guidelines on AIDS/HIV, the church should be "intentionally transmitting Christian values to the next generation, recognizing that individual sexual values are established in youth. Priority should be given to providing accurate information, a forum for open discussion, and emphasis on the moral dimension of decision-making regarding sexuality."

In other words, the church recognizes that it has a responsibility to educate young people about how to follow God's plan for sexuality and prevent the spread of AIDS through sex outside marriage. But more than that, we also have a responsibility toward those who have this disease:

Seventh-day Adventist church members and employees have a Christian obligation to respond to and treat people suffering with AIDS as Jesus our Savior treated the sick and outcast. Tragically, the world responds to AIDS sufferers as it once did to lepers--as sinful carriers of death to be shunned and isolated. But God in Jesus gave us His response. He went out of His way, often walking for several days, just to touch and heal a person afflicted with leprosy. He always offered love, acceptance and forgiveness to those afflicted by religious pride and other sins of the day. Through His redemptive love He offered life and freedom from the burden of sin. The Seventh-day Adventist Church seeks to engage in the ministry of Christ. It must respond with love and acceptance when dealing with all people, including those with AIDS.

What the World Says

AIDS is recognized as a huge problem worldwide. Government and nongovernmental agencies around the world are committed to educating people about AIDS, treating those who have AIDS, and searching for ways to effectively prevent or cure the disease. Some "hot topics" often discussed in this area are:

- Which is more effective for young people: to teach them about "safer sex" as a means of preventing AIDS, or to teach them to practice abstinence?
- How can the millions of AIDS patients in developing countries get enough of the very expensive medications used to treat AIDS?
- Do countries have the right to restrict people with AIDS from entering their borders, to prevent them spreading the virus? Is it fair to test would-be immigrants for HIV infection, or would that be denying their human rights?

Think about these issues from a Christian perspective. According to biblical principles, what do you think is the best way to deal with this epidemic?

What Can I Do?

First, if you have any reason to suspect you might be HIV-positive, get tested. Don't run the risk of infecting someone else before you know the truth. Finding out you're HIV-positive is scary, but so is carrying the virus around for years without knowing the truth and without getting proper medical care.

If you're not HIV-positive, think prevention! You can avoid getting AIDS if you follow God's plan for human sexuality. Don't sleep around, don't have multiple partners, don't sleep with anyone who has multiple partners. God has a plan: two people, one lifelong commitment. Let sex wait until you're married to someone—someone who's also committed to waiting for the right person at the right time.

Also, be sure to avoid getting AIDS from using needles and syringes. You may think, "Oh, I know using IV drugs like heroin is wrong; I'd never do anything so stupid, so how could I get AIDS that way?" But many young people who would never think of using "hard drugs" use performance-enhancing steroids, which are often injected. Along with the other health risks involved in steroid use, this practice can also expose you to AIDS.

Stay clean, and stay safe.

When you come into contact with someone who is HIV-positive, remember the myths and facts discussed above. You can't get AIDS from casual contact with such a person. If you're not having sex with that person or sharing blood with them, it's virtually impossible to be infected. So it's OK to hang out with, touch, shake hands with and hug an HIV-positive person, even someone with full-blown AIDS. It's not only OK, it's an act of love and sharing. Show that person that you care for and accept them—no matter what disease they have,

no matter how they contracted it. Judging people is God's job, not ours. Our job is loving people, so that they can see God's love in us.

It's My Problem!

If you have already been diagnosed HIV positive, or you already have AIDS, you may feel as though your world has come to an end. Most young people are able to ignore the reality that they will die someday. For you, it's no longer something that will happen in some far-off future—it's a reality you have to deal with today. That can be frightening and depressing.

Remember that God still loves you. If you contracted the HIV virus through premarital sex or through drug use, some people may try to tell you that God is "judging" you for your sins. The fact is that in, a sinful world, we all have to face the consequences of the choices we've made. Sometimes, unfairly, we even have to face the consequences of choices or mistakes that aren't our fault—for example, if you got AIDS through a blood transfusion because of someone else's carelessness. No matter how you got this virus, it doesn't change the fact that God values you and cares about you.

It's natural to be angry at God when something like this hits you, and it's OK to express that anger. The writers of the Psalms didn't mind telling God when they felt angry, confused and forsaken—and God didn't mind saving their prayers in the Bible. But don't let those feelings drive you away from God. Too many young people put off getting close to God because they believe they have "lots of time." The reality is that you know you have less time than you expected. Take time to get to know God and make a committment to Him.

Remember that medical science is always studying new treatments for AIDS. People with AIDS are living far longer, healthier lives than they were when the virus was first discovered in the 1980s. Get the best medical care available to you and follow your doctor's advice. Take good care of yourself. We don't know how close we may be to a cure for AIDS, and your future may look much brighter than you think it does right now.

No matter how your disease progresses, your ultimate future does look bright if you've accepted Jesus as your Savior. He has all eternity planned to spend with you. While your day-to-day future may be uncertain, your eternity is secure if you know Him.

Real Life, Part Two

Joseph sat on his hospital bed, watching the sun slip behind the hills. Tonight his friends would be out celebrating graduation. He'd missed the ceremony and all the excitement. But he didn't mind as much as he'd thought he would. He was grateful to be alive, grateful to be getting over an infection that could have killed him.

He wondered why he felt so much better. "Nothing's different," he thought. "I still have AIDS. I've just been given a little more time, that's all."

But Joseph knew the answer to his own question. Something was different. Everything was different. His hand rested for a minute on the Bible the pastor had left behind for him. He needed to start reading it.

When Joseph's mother had said her pastor was coming to visit, Joseph had groaned. He didn't need to be preached to. But when the pastor actually got there, Joseph felt different. He was tired. He was relieved to be getting better. He was ready to listen. And for the first time, he really believed God loved him.

He'd asked tough questions. "If God cares, how could he let this happen?" The pastor didn't have any easy answers, but he talked to Joseph about sin, about Satan, about how there's a great war going on between God and the devil, that every human being is a casualty of that war, and every human being has to decide whose side they're on.

Tonight, Joseph knew, he was on God's side. For however long he had, and into heaven beyond, he was going to fight on the winning side in this great battle. Compared to that, missing graduation didn't seem like such a big deal.

Homosexuality

Real Life, Part One

Heather sat alone in her room, stereo on full-blast, trying to drown out the conflicting thoughts tumbling around in her brain. Her parents were always on her case about something. Now, her mother was saying Heather should get out more, have more of a social life, date some guys, have a boyfriend. Heather knew her mom was worried she wasn't "normal."

What's normal? Heather wondered. All she knew was that ever since she had been old enough to learn about sex and think about dating, she'd never been attracted to guys. For a long time she'd told herself she just wasn't ready for all that. Now, at seventeen, she was starting to admit she felt strongly attracted to other girls. But she knew that had to be wrong. Everyone said it was wrong!

She thought she was so good at keeping her secret, but some kids at school had her figured out. "Get out of my way, you weirdo dyke," a girl had said to her just the other day, shoving Heather against the locker as she pushed past. The cruel comments cut Heather to the heart. She felt so alone. Her parents, her friends, her pastor—none of them would understand. Everyone would tell her something was wrong with her. What was the point in even praying? She'd heard TV preachers say that God hated homosexuals—and that seemed to be what she was.

Maybe it would be better if she wasn't here at all. Maybe, Heather thought, maybe I should just end it all.

What's the Problem?

For you, homosexuality may be a joke, an issue you debate in class, or the life-style of some distant acquaintance or relative you don't know very well. For thousands of teenagers like Heather, it's their day-to-day reality. They need to figure out how to deal with their feelings and their sexual orientation in a world where both society and the church send conflicting messages about what they should be and do.

On some controversial issues, it's easy to pull out a "fact sheet" and say "These are the statistics. This is what is happening." That's not so easy when we talk about homosexuality.

- No-one can accurately say how many people in society are homosexual, partly because the term is difficult to define. When we say "homosexual" (or "gay" or "lesbian"), do we mean people who are attracted to the same sex? People who are having sexual relationships with people of the same sex? What about people who seem to be attracted to both sexes ("bisexuals")?
- Another reason it's hard to know for sure how many people are gay or lesbian is that many homosexual people aren't willing to admit their sexual orientation. They're afraid of the kind of treatment they'll receive if others know, so they keep it secret, sometimes dating and even marrying members of the opposite sex to try to "cover up" their sexual identity.
- Statistics suggest that anywhere from two to ten percent of the total population may be homosexual—but again, those numbers are very broad and the term "homosexual" defined in many different ways, depending on who's doing the study. What we do know is that in every society, since the beginning of human history, there has always been a small minority of people who were sexually attracted to people of their own gender rather than to the opposite sex. Generally, more men tend to be homosexual than women, but again, it's hard to be sure.
- One statistic we can be pretty sure of is that gay young people are two-to-three times as likely to commit suicide as heterosexual youth.[1] Heather's story is not unique. Many young people who feel attracted to people of the same sex are so torn by confusion, guilt, and self-hatred that they would rather die than face life.
- Another thing we can't answer for certain is: "What causes people to be homosexual?" Some research suggests that people with a homosexual orientation are different from heterosexuals even from birth—that they may have genetic differences that cause them to be attracted to people of the

same sex. Most homosexuals do not feel that they "chose" their sexual orientation or that something happened to "make" them gay.

What You Need to Know

This is a serious issue that Christian youth need to be aware of and informed about. While you may not be attracted to people of the same sex yourself, you will certainly meet people in your life who are homosexual, and you need to know how to treat them in a way that is consistent with what the Bible teaches.

In some ways, twenty-first-century society is more open and accepting of homosexuality than at almost anytime in the past. Yet, for many heterosexual, or "straight," people, homosexuality is still frightening and threatening, to the point where a person can be beaten to death for his sexual orientation. It's a confusing, difficult issue in our society today, especially for young Christians. On the one hand, the Bible clearly outlines God's original plan for sex and marriage: one man and one woman, for life. On the other hand, the Bible just as clearly teaches love and acceptance toward everyone—even those who are different from us.

How should we respond to the challenging issue of homosexuality?

What the Bible Says

The Bible outlines God's plan for human relationships: "A man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24, NIV). One man and one woman for life—that was the ideal God instituted at Creation.

But we're no longer living in the Garden of Eden—we're living in a world of sin, where attitudes, practices, and even people's inborn desires differ greatly from what God originally designed. Do the Bible's standards still apply in today's society?

They certainly applied in the time of Jesus—a world in many ways as sinful and confusing as our own, and a world where homosexuality and sexual immorality were common. Jesus said:

> "Haven't you read...that at the beginning the Creator `made them male and female,' and said, `For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one" (Matthew 19:4-6, NIV).

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we believe that God's standards do still apply, and that the only sexual relationship acceptable to God is a lifelong commitment between man and woman. That rules out homosexual marriage, just as it rules out casual sex between unmarried people of any gender or heterosexual couples living together outside of marriage.

The Bible makes it clear that homosexuality is not part of God's plan for human sexuality.

> "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9,10, NIV).

Speaking of the pagan societies of his day, the apostle Paul writes:

> "Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another....Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women

> and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion....They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless" (Romans 1:24-31, NIV).

Some things should be clear from these texts. Homosexuality is one of the sinful acts of which God disapproves. It is not part of His plan for human happiness. (Some Christian homosexual groups teach that these verses refer only to promiscuous and immoral acts between homosexuals and that a committed marriage between homosexuals is just as pleasing to God as a heterosexual marriage. However, there are no examples in the Bible to support this interpretation).

Something else the Bible makes clear, though, is that homosexual activity is a sin just like any other—no better, no worse. Many Christians treat homosexuality as if it were the very worst sin, something unspeakably disgusting and degrading. In fact, in these two passages, the apostle Paul puts homosexual sex in the same category with "straight" sex outside of marriage, as well as other sins like greed, drunkenness, slander (gossip), deceit (lying), and even disobeying your parents! Remember that in God's eyes, a person involved in a homosexual relationship is no worse a sinner than someone who lies and disobeys his or her parents.

One more thing is clear from God's word: as Christians, we are called to love everyone and treat everyone with respect, no matter what their actions are.

> "'You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous'" (Matthew 5:43-45, NIV).

Even if we consider someone else to be "unrighteous" or even our "enemy," our duty is clear—to love them and treat them well, just as God Himself does. Any act of "gay bashing," hatred, or cruelty to someone because of their sexual orientation is just as displeasing to God as mistreating someone because of the color of their skin.

What the Church Says

The Seventh-day Adventist Church's official statement on homosexuality states that "sexual intimacy belongs only within the marital relationship of a man and a woman....The Bible makes no accommodation for homosexual activity or relationships. Sexual acts outside the circle of a heterosexual marriage are forbidden....Seventh-day Adventists endeavor to follow the instruction and example of Jesus. He affirmed the dignity of all human beings and reached out compassionately to persons and families suffering the consequences of sin. He offered caring ministry and words of solace to struggling people, while differentiating His love for sinners from His clear teaching about sinful practices."[2]

What the World Says

Switch on the television and you'll see Gay Pride Week parades, gay and lesbian couples on TV sitcoms, and homosexuals visiting schools to make children more aware of "alternative lifestyles." Yet, at the same time you'll see news reports of young gay men being beaten and even murdered because of their sexual orientation and conservative Christians protesting that homosexuals shouldn't be allowed the same legal rights as others in society.

Many gay-rights groups are encouraging society as a whole to accept and approve of homosexuality as an acceptable "alternative life-style." Efforts to do this include educating children through books and

public-school curriculum programs which teach that homosexuality is normal and homosexuals should not be discriminated against. In many countries, gay-rights groups are also working towards getting same-sex marriages recognized so that homosexual couples will receive the same rights and benefits under the law as do heterosexual couples.

In response to this, many conservative Christians are speaking out against "gay rights" and insisting that homosexuals should not receive any special rights or protection, because they are not living in accordance with God's plan for marriage. Many Christian groups have become quite vocal about this, and some have been accused of encouraging hatred and even violence against homosexuals.

As a heterosexual Christian, what should your role in this debate be? You may decide that it's simply none of your business, and that your only biblical calling is to show Christian love and acceptance to any gay people you do encounter. If you feel inclined to become more actively involved in society's debate over the gay-rights issue, here are some questions you might want to ask yourself:

- Do I believe it's my duty as a Christian to change the way non-Christians in society act? Should our governments have laws that support Christian beliefs and values?
- If homosexual couples deserve fewer legal rights because they're not obeying God's law, should those rights also be taken away from straight couples who are living together without marriage?
- Is it appropriate for schoolchildren to learn to be tolerant and accepting of everyone, regardless of their differences?
- Is it appropriate for schoolchildren to learn that life-styles other than God's biblical plan for marriage are acceptable?

What Can I Do?

As the discussion above clearly shows, this is a tough issue even for straight youth to deal with and decide about. One thing is clear: there is no room in the Christian's life for hatred against any group of people, or for treating people badly because of their life-style. "Gay-bashing" is totally unacceptable to the follower of Jesus. We are called to treat everyone with love and respect.

It's My Problem!

Perhaps you are reading this brochure because the issue of homosexuality is of personal concern to you. You may feel attracted to people of the same sex and wonder if this makes you gay or lesbian. Or you may have a close friend or family member who is gay and wonder how you can help this person.

Here are a few key ideas for you to think about:

- **Feeling attracted to people of the same sex does not necessarily mean you are a homosexual.** Adolescence is a confusing and complex time, when young people are awakening to their sexual identity. It is not unusual for teenagers to experience some feelings of attraction to people of the same sex, such as a "crush" on a same-sex friend or teacher, dreams about being attracted to someone of the same sex, or curiosity about what it would be like to have sex with someone of the same sex. These occasional feelings and questions do not mean that you have a homosexual orientation.

  Young people who have been victims of sexual abuse are likely to have particularly confused and conflicting feelings about their growing sexuality and should see a professional counselor to help them deal with these issues.

  While the fact that you are sometimes attracted to or curious about people of the same sex does not mean you are gay or lesbian, if you consistently feel attracted only to people of the same sex and have little or no interest in the opposite sex, then some of the points below may be of interest to you.

- **Can homosexuals change their orientation?** Some Christian ministries, such as Exodus International, teach that homosexuals can change their orientation through the grace of God, just

as Christians can overcome any other sin through God's power. Many people have shared glowing testimonies of their experience as "former homosexuals."3
Others, however, have had very disappointing experiences with "change ministries" and have returned to being practicing homosexuals. Most psychologists and doctors believe it is not possible to truly change a person's sexual orientation. People can, of course, change their behavior, but most experts think that a person's basic orientation will always stay the same.

- **Is my orientation a sin?** Sin is what you do, not who you are. While the Bible condemns homosexual activity, it does not say that it is wrong to be attracted to someone. In Matthew 5:28 Jesus condemns lust between a man and a woman, but this does not mean it is a sin to be attracted to someone else—only to entertain lustful sexual fantasies about that person. If you are strongly and consistently attracted to people of the same sex, your homosexual orientation is a part of who you are. What you do about it is a choice you make.

- **Isn't God being unfair to gay people?** If homosexual orientation is something you can't help, why should God say that it's sinful to act on your attractions? This may seem harsh, but in this sinful world, we human beings are born with all kinds of tendencies to do things that are not part of God's plan. Heterosexual people are born with strong sexual urges, too, which cannot be fulfilled unless that person is in a committed marriage relationships. Children born to alcoholic and drug-addicted parents may have an inborn tendency to become addicts themselves. We are all born with natural desires that could lead us to sin, but our desires don't have to lead to sin if we choose to follow God's plan.

- **Singleness is a positive choice.** Our society is so focused on romantic love and relationships that we sometimes forget that being single is a positive, healthy life-style—no matter what a person's sexual orientation. Choosing to live as a single person and not engaging in sex (this is called "celibacy") is not repressed or twisted. This is how Jesus lived. This is how the apostle Paul lived. He wrote to the church in Corinth:

  > "It is good for a man not to marry....Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am....An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs--how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can please his wife--and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--how she can please her husband. I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord" (1 Corinthians 7:1, 8, 32-35, NIV).

  For a Christian with a homosexual orientation, celibacy can be a powerful and positive choice.

- **Help is available.** If you are struggling with the possibility that you may be homosexual, please find someone to talk to—someone who will help, not judge or condemn. Ask a pastor, teacher or other mature Christian you trust to help you find a Christian counsellor who will have experience in dealing with this issue and will be able to help you make choices.

- **God loves you.** God created you; God loves you exactly as you are. God loves you as His child no matter who you are or what you have done. Do not allow anyone to tell you that you are not valuable to God; you are "the apple of his eye" (Deuteronomy 32:10).

Real Life, Part Two

Heather's eyes fell on a bookmark lying on her desk. "Smile, God Loves You," it read. Heather almost

laughed. Everything was so simple back when she was little. Smile, God loves you—that was all she needed to know, back then.

Suddenly, a thought struck her: It's still true. No matter what else had changed, no matter what conflicting feelings she was having, God still loved her. Heather was suddenly as certain of that as she had been when she was five years old, singing "Jesus Loves Me" in Sabbath School.

She went to the window and opened it, looking out at the beautiful sunset sky outside. "I don't know why I have these feelings, Lord," she prayed aloud. "Is this the way you created me? There's so much I don't understand, so much I don't know. But I do believe you love me, and I'm sorry I thought my life wasn't worth living. You must have a plan for me."

As she continued to look out at the sunset, Heather knew she needed to do more than just brood about the feelings she was having. She needed some information. Was she really a lesbian? What did that mean? What did God expect from her? She was sure that she could find some more information and maybe someone to talk to. A counselor or someone. As long as she was sure God loved her, she could keep going.

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[1]Homosexuality: Common Questions and Statements Addressed. Online: http://hcqsa.virtualave.net/youth.html

[2]"Seventh-day Adventist Position Statement on Homosexuality." *Statements, Guidelines and Other Documents: A Compilation*. General Conference 2000.

[3]For more information about Exodus International, see www.exodusintl.org

Pornography

Real Life, Part One

Closing the bedroom door behind him, Brad sat down at his computer and checked his e-mail. As he read his messages, his fingers moved lightly over the mouse, as if wondering what to do next. Of course, he knew what he was going to do next.

He switched from his e-mail program to his Web browser. Maybe tonight he wouldn't. Maybe he'd just download some music to listen to or something. But the temptation was too strong to resist. He surfed over to his favorite site. A large warning screen told him he had to be 18 years or older to enter. Brad was only 16, but the computer had no way of knowing that.

Soon he was lost in a world of graphic images of nude women and couples in sexual positions. His heart raced faster as he bent closer to the screen. A link on one of the pages offered to take him to a live chatroom where he could chat with models like the girls in the pictures. He hesitated over the link for a moment. Pictures were one thing, but live chat was taking it to a whole new level. It was scary—but almost irresistible.

Brad heard someone in the hall outside his room; his mother's voice called, "Brad! What are you doing?"

Quickly, Brad clicked the button on top of the screen that linked him to an online encyclopedia. "Just doing some research for my socials paper, Mom," he replied as she tapped on the door and stuck her head into the room.

"Susan's on the phone for you. Didn't you hear it ring?"

He hadn't even heard the phone. "Thanks, Mom," he said, giving her a quick smile. He felt guilty at the sweet smile she gave him in return as she left the room. No doubt Mom still thought he was her sweet, innocent little boy. Not any more.

His girlfriend Susan's chirpy voice on the other end of the phone almost irritated him as she chattered on about what had happened at school that day and their weekend plans. Just a few months ago he had been so eager to go out with Susan. She had seemed like the perfect girl for him. Now he'd almost rather be left alone with those exciting images on the screen. Susan was a nice Christian girl who'd never let him get farther than a few kisses. It was hard for her to compete with porn models who left nothing to the imagination.

But there was one way he could enjoy her phone call. As Susan's happy conversation washed over him, he went back to the screen. He felt guilty, but it was so easy to picture Susan's pretty face on the body of one of those models, to imagine her looking like that.

That night, after talking to Susan, after finally shutting down the computer, Brad lay in bed. He no longer knelt beside his bed to pray, but he usually tried to say a few words to God before he fell asleep. This time he couldn't even get a couple of words out. What could he say to God? He felt guilty and dirty about everything. And the worst part was, he felt like a hypocrite asking God to forgive him—when he knew he'd be doing the exact same thing tomorrow night.

What's the Problem?

Most Internet service providers and search engines will agree that the most common word people enter into an online search engine is "Sex." Pornography has always been a problem, but the invention of the Internet has made pornography accessible to many more people (and much younger people) than ever

before. Even young teenagers, who might never walk into a drugstore and buy a *Playboy* magazine, can go to an explicit website and find graphic sexual images displayed there.

- One recent survey in the U.S. showed that 32% of men and 10% of women had visited sexually explicit web sites. The same study showed that almost 18% of those who described themselves as "born-again Christians" had visited porn sites.[1]
- In the same survey, 37% of those 18-24 years old had visited pornographic websites—the highest percentage for any age group (this study did not include teens under 18).[2]
- Another study found that teenage boys aged 12-17 were among the largest consumers of hard-core pornography.[3]
- In the late 1990s researchers estimated there were about 300,000 pornography sites on the Internet. That number has almost certainly risen by now.[4]
- In the United States, there are three times as many "adult bookstores" (stores selling pornographic material) as there are McDonald's restaurants.[5]
- Americans spend more than $10 million a year on pornographic materials—that includes movies, videos/DVDs, magazines, and Internet sex sites.[6]

What You Need to Know

The word "pornography" originally meant "writing about prostitutes." Today, it's defined as "any form of media or entertainment with the intent to arouse sexually."

You'll sometimes hear people talk about "soft-core" and "hard-core" porn. "Soft" porn is what you might see in a magazine such as *Playboy* or *Penthouse*—photos of attractive nude women in suggestive poses. (Similar magazines exist for women, with similar pictures of nude men, but they are far less popular, because women are less likely to be aroused by visual images than men are). "Hard-core" porn refers to pictures or movies that depict graphic sexual poses and activity, sometimes involving violence.

Viewing pornographic material actually creates a biochemical response in your brain—a powerful chemical thrill that is addictive in almost the same way a drug is. Exposure to porn, especially at an early age, can lead to sexual addiction.

Pornography affects the way you view other people. It especially affects the way young men view young women. Guys who are "hooked" on porn begin to devalue women, seeing them only as objects or playthings, not as real people with feelings. Teenage guys often don't realize that the bodies of models they see in pornographic magazines, movies, or web sites have been surgically enhanced and photographically retouched. Real human bodies don't look like that. Pornography sets us unrealistic expectations for what sexuality should be.

What the Bible Says

Did pornography exist in Bible times? Not in the form of X-rated movies, porn web sites, or *Playboy* magazines. But the pornography industry is driven by lust—the human sex drive gone out of control, focused only on selfish pleasure outside a committed relationship. The only difference today is that movies, TV, books, magazines and the Internet have created even more opportunities to experience and explore those lustful feelings.

What does the Bible say about lust?

> "'You have heard that it was said, "Do not commit adultery." But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell'" (Matthew 5:27-29, NIV).

Jesus took the commandment "Do not commit adultery" and gave it a broader application. In Jesus'

teaching, not only is it a sin to cheat on your wife or husband; it's a sin even to entertain lustful thoughts. When we think that way, we view other people only as sex objects, not as human beings with thoughts, feelings and rights of their own.

Did Jesus really recommend gouging out your eye? No—He was exaggerating for effect. The point of His message was: Get rid of anything in your life that's tempting you to sin. If that's a stack of porn magazines, throw them out. If it's your Internet connection, cut it off. Don't play with sin.

The apostle Paul wrote:

> "Each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God" (1 Thessalonians 4:4, NIV).

Paul also gave us an excellent set of guidelines for evaluating everything we see and hear:

> "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things" (Philippians 4:8, NIV).

Can any pornographic material—even so-called "soft porn"--meet those standards? It certainly can't, and neither can lots of mainstream popular entertainment. If we want to grow in a strong relationship with God, we'll be very careful what we fill our minds with.

What the Church Says

The Seventh-day Adventist Church's official statement on pornography says:

> Diverse courts and cultures may debate the definitions and consequences of pornography... but...Seventh-day Adventists of whatever culture deem pornography to be destructive, demeaning, desensitizing, and exploitative....A society plagued by plunging standards of decency, increasing child prostitution, teenage pregnancies, sexual assaults on women and children, drug-damaged mentalities, and organized crime can ill afford pornography's contribution to these evils.[7]

What the World Says

In almost every country around the world, the standards for popular entertainment are slipping lower and lower. More nudity, more references to sex, more explicit language and situations are portrayed on television, in movies, and in print. It's even getting harder to define what constitutes pornography, since many things that would have been considered pornographic forty years ago are mainstream entertainment today. (Cultural differences are also a factor. What's acceptable in one society may be considered pornographic in another).

Most countries have some laws against selling and distributing pornography, but they're seldom effective in keeping it out of the hands of young people. The Internet is an area of particular concern, because, at this point, few laws apply to it, and laws regarding the Internet are almost impossible to enforce. That's why it's so easy for young people to access pornography on the Internet.

One issue that is a big concern in many places is child pornography—pornographic pictures or movies that show children in sexual situations. Many Christians (as well as many non-Christians) feel there should be strict laws to prevent this kind of pornography. But pornography in general is not as tightly controlled as most Christians would like, because governments feel that laws against pornography would restrict freedom of the press.

When you think about this issue, consider:

- Is it dangerous to restrict the kind of materials people can legally buy or watch?
- Are the dangers of pornography so great that it's worth restricting people's rights?

What Can I Do?

The best way to avoid getting drawn into the world of pornography is to fill your mind with positive things instead. A healthy, well-rounded life that involves lots of activity and interaction with other people will leave little time to explore the dark side of the Internet. Choose reading and viewing material that will draw you closer to God, not farther away from Him.

It's My Problem!

If you've looked at pornographic magazines, videos, or websites, and you think you may have a problem in this area, the time to stop is now. Pornography is like drug use—it tends to increase and become more addictive over time. If you're still at the stage of experimenting with it, ask for God's help to stop now.

Research suggests that men who view pornography regularly actually experience less sexual satisfaction when they are involved in a sexual relationship. Even if you're young and single now, by feeding the porn habit you're damaging your future marriage and selling your future partner short. Even worse, you're damaging your relationship with God.

Pornography use often follows this typical pattern in a young man's life (it can also be a problem for women, but this is far less common):

- **Early exposure:** You're exposed to pornography when you are very young and it gets its foot in the door.
- **Addiction:** You keep coming back. Pornography becomes a regular part of your life. You're hooked and can't quit.
- **Escalation:** You start to look for more graphic pornography. You start using porn that disgusted you earlier. Now, it excites you.
- **Desensitization:** You become numb to the images you see. Even the most graphic porn doesn't excite you any more.
- **Acting out sexually:** This is the point where men make a crucial jump and start acting out the images they have seen. Some move from the paper and plastic images of porn into the real world: violence, prostitutes and maybe even rape.[8]

Break this cycle before it breaks you. If you are regularly using pornography, feel as though you're living a "double life," hiding your secret from others, and letting pornography interfere with other important relationships in your life, you may already be in the "addiction" stage. Quitting may not be so easy anymore. But God will give you His Holy Spirit's power if you reach out to Him.

- **Confess your sin to God.** Admit that what you've done is wrong.
- **Be accountable to Christian friends.** Surround yourself with people who are committed to staying sexually pure. Share your struggles with a Christian friend or an adult mentor (of the same gender as you) and ask that person to hold you accountable to stick to your decision.
- **Block off the avenues**. Stay away from places, things, even friends that tempt you back into pornography use. If Internet pornography is a big problem for you, look into Internet services that filter out pornography before it ever comes to your computer. Check out such sites as www.integrityonline.com or www.familyconnect.com.
- **Seek counselling.** If your struggle continues, you may need professional help. Don't ever be embarrassed to ask for the help you need.[9]

Real Life, Part Two

Closing the bedroom door behind him, Brad sat down at the computer and checked his e-mail. As he read his messages, his fingers moved lightly over the mouse, as if wondering what to do next.

Last weekend's youth retreat had changed everything for Brad. As he listened to Pastor Kent, Brad had felt an overwhelming desire to commit his life to God—one hundred percent. Kneeling in prayer with the other kids from his youth group, he'd made that commitment. And at the end of the last meeting, when Pastor Kent had invited them to write on a piece of paper something that was coming between themselves and God, Brad had written one word: "Porn." Folding it over so no-one could read it, he'd walked to the front along with the others and nailed that scrap of paper to a big wooden cross. With every thud of the hammer, he thought of how Jesus had loved him enough to die just so Brad's sins could be taken away.

During the retreat weekend, he'd felt so happy and excited, so full of the Holy Spirit, that all the stuff he'd been looking at online just seemed disgusting even to think about. He was so sure God had given him the victory and he'd never want that again.

But as he sat in front of the computer, he could feel the old excitement building again. Maybe it wouldn't hurt to look just once?

No, he told himself. He clicked onto a Christian youth website instead and started reading through it. Maybe he'd hang out in their chatroom or something. But then Brad realized the whole attraction of the Internet and his computer was too much for him to handle right now. He needed to be somewhere else, far from temptation. He took a deep breath, praying, "God, help me through this," and pushed away from the computer.

Picking up the phone, he called his friend Dave. "What are you doing this evening?"

"Lori and I were just heading to the library to work on that research paper," Dave said. "Do you want to come, too? Maybe Susan would come with us, too."

"Sounds great. I'll call Susan, and meet you guys at the library in half an hour. Maybe we can go out for a soda or something after we're finished studying. I'll just check with my folks, but I'm sure it'll be no problem."

Brad put down the phone at the same time as he clicked off his computer screen. Closing the door of his room behind him, he stepped outside.

[1]"Zogby Survey Looks at Sexual Web Visits," Pure Intimacy. http://www.pureintimacy.org/news/a0000031.html
[2]Ibid.
[3]Watters, Steve, "In Your Face, In Your Mind: Single Guys and Pornography," Online: http://www.pureintimacy.org/online1/essays/a0000042.html. Statistic quoted from Elise Ackerman, U.S. News and World Report, May 10, 1999.
[4]"Internet Pornography," National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families. http://www.nationalcoalition.org/safety.phtml?ID=18
[5]Haney, John. "Dancing in the Dark: The Addictive Lure of Pornography," *Youthworker*, November/December 2001, p. 46.
[6]Watters, Steve, op. cit.. Quoted from Marilyn Elias, "To psych out the Net, study humans," USA Today, February 20, 2000.
[7]"A Statement on Pornography," *Statements, Guidelines and Other Documents: A Compilation*. General Conference, 2000.
[8]Watters, Steve, op.cit.. Taken from Gene McConnell, *Toxic Porn*.
[9]Ibid.

Teen Pregnancy

Real Life, Part One

Kara sat locked in the bathroom, staring in disbelief at the home pregnancy test. She couldn't believe it--the result was positive. She was pregnant.

Kara was in her last year of high school, looking forward to a summer job, college, and lots of fun with her friends. She and her boyfriend, Jack, were pretty serious--they had had sex a few times, even though both were Christians and knew they shouldn't be doing it--but they'd never talked about getting married or anything. Now, in one moment, Kara's life had changed forever. What would she do? What would happen to her?

What's The Problem?

- Every year in the United States, almost a million teenage girls become pregnant. That's 10% of all girls between 15 and 19; 19% of all those who are sexually active.[1]
- In other developed countries, teen pregnancy rates are lower: England and Canada have only half the rate of teen pregnancies the U.S. has, while the U.S. rate is nine times higher than that of the Netherlands or Japan.[2]
- In developing countries, the circumstances are often different, but the problem still exists. In Nicaragua, for example, as many as 45% of registered pregnancies each year happen to girls between 15 and 19[3] (article on Nicaragua).
- In Africa, three out of four women become pregnant in their teens; 40% of all births occur in women under 17[4] (Teen Pregnancy: World Pop. page).
- While some teen pregnancies in the developing world can be accounted for by earlier marriages, many are unplanned, unwanted pregnancies which result in poorer health and higher death rates for both mothers and babies. Worldwide, girls age 15 to 19 give birth to 15 million babies a year, and more girls in this age group die from pregnancy-related causes than from any other cause.[5]

What You Need to Know

The vast majority of pregnancies outside marriage are unplanned--whether they occur in teenagers or young adult women. Most young people know they're not ready to become parents, but because they believe they're ready to be sexually active, pregnancy often catches them by surprise.

There was a time when becoming pregnant outside of marriage was considered a tremendous social shame in most cultures. That's not the case in many societies today. Pregnancy outside of wedlock is becoming more common and more acceptable. But it still creates difficulties, pain and challenge.

That's because it was never part of God's original plan. The Bible clearly lays out God's design for the family: one man and one woman, faithful to each other in a lifelong relationship, staying together to raise children. Casual sexual relationships and unplanned babies weren't in the picture.

But as human beings, we fail. We don't follow the pattern exactly. And although that creates problems, God works with our failures. If we honestly want to follow God's will in the future, He can help us deal with the mistakes of the past--even something as huge and life-changing as an unplanned pregnancy.

What the Bible Says

When we look at the Creation story in Genesis, we see God's plan for the human family.

> "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and

> over every living creature that moves on the ground'" (Genesis 1:27, 28, NIV).
> In Genesis 2, when the story of the creation of woman is told in more detail, Adam sees Eve and says, "'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.'" The Bible goes on to say: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:23, 24, NIV).

God planned for marriage to be a permanent, lifelong joining of two people. Out of that union would come children. When we change the plan, everyone suffers—the children most of all.

What the Church Says
The Seventh-day Adventist Church places a high value on marriage and family. The church teaches that the ideal home is one where

> ...father, mother and children can express themselves fully, meeting each other's needs for belonging, love, and intimacy. Here identity is established and feelings of personal worth are developed. The home is also the place where, by God's grace, the principles of real Christianity are put into practice, and its values transmitted from one generation to the next.[6]

As we've seen, when we move away from the biblical ideal for marriage and sex, we make it much more difficult to create the kind of family where this atmosphere of love can exist.

What the World Says
Sex between unmarried teenagers is more widely accepted today than it ever was, yet society is struggling with the problems it creates. Teenage parents are usually not well-prepared financially or emotionally to raise children. Everyone recognizes that this is a huge problem, yet our society continues to "sell" sex to teenagers through the popular media—movies, TV, and music which glorify sex outside marriage, even among teenagers. In the United States in recent years, several popular television shows have featured episodes where a teenage character loses his or her virginity—almost always with positive results. The true challenge and difficulty of pregnancy outside marriage is rarely shown in the media.

What Can I Do?
The good news about teen pregnancy is that it's one of the few social problems that's 100% preventable. If you follow God's plan for human relationships--save sexual intimacy until marriage--there is no chance you'll have a baby before you're ready. You owe it to yourself, your future partner, and your future children to follow God's plan. Abstinence--just saying "No" to premarital sex--is a 100% effective method of birth control.

What about "safe sex"? Many societies today encourage young people to use condoms or other methods of birth control to prevent unwanted pregnancies, as well as guarding against sexually transmitted diseases. But the fact is that none of these methods is 100% guaranteed to prevent pregnancy. Some methods are more effective than others; most have to be used under exactly the right conditions in order to work. If a couple has definitely decided to become sexually active, any method of birth control will work better than using no protection at all. But every birth control method currently known to human beings has a failure rate—every method, that is, except abstinence.

Abstinence isn't an easy choice. It takes a lot of strength and determination, support from friends and family, and most of all, God's divine power in your life. Abstinence isn't popular in twenty-first-century society—but it is possible. And it does work.

It's My Problem
If you are pregnant and not married, what can you do?

God forgives us for our past sins, but He doesn't erase the consequences of our sins. In the case of an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, the consequence is a new human life. As responsible Christians, we need to be prepared to deal with that new life. A young woman who becomes pregnant also needs to deal with the changes this experience will bring to her own life. (The young man who fathers the child also has challenges to deal with, but part of life's unfairness is that it's much easier for the man to avoid responsibility than for the woman). If you become pregnant before marriage, no matter what you choose to do, your life will never be the same. But if you have put yourself and your child in God's hands, you can be confident that He will bring something good out of this experience.

As you make your decision about what to do next, remember that you are not alone. You may be afraid to talk to your parents, thinking that they will disapprove and be angry. Almost certainly, your parents will be disappointed, but almost all parents will react with love and support rather than with anger and rejection. Remember that the focus of your conversation with them should not be on what has happened in the past, but on what is going to happen in the future. Your pregnancy is a fact; enlist your family's help to decide how best to deal with it.

Other good sources of help are your doctor, who can provide you with informed counsel about your choices. The options you'll want to consider carefully and prayerfully are:

1. ***Single Parenting***

   In some cultures, raising a child alone is becoming a more-and-more acceptable option. In the United States in 1998, 28% of all children--about 20 million--lived with just one parent. In Canada, about one in seven families are single-parent families. In North America, there is usually no social shame or disapproval attached to raising a child alone (although the reality may be different within your church community).

   However, there is still a price to pay for choosing to raise your child alone. In the U.S., children of single mothers are five times as likely to live in poverty than children in two-parent families. Research suggests there may be emotional and social problems for children raised in single-parent families. And the task of raising a child alone is tremendously difficult and exhausting for the parent who chooses to do so.

   Still, this is the choice more and more pregnant singles make--to keep their own babies and raise them. It may be a good choice for you, if you have a strong network of family and community support to back you up. Some questions to consider are: Are your own parents willing to help you raise your child? Is the baby's other parent willing to stay involved and help? Do you have other family and friends who can assist you? Have you completed your education? Do you have a way to support you and your child financially? Do you have the emotional and spiritual strength necessary for this task?

   Be sure to seek counseling from your pastor, your doctor, or a professional counsellor if you choose the challenging task of being a single parent.

2. ***Marriage***

   It's usually not a good idea to rush into marriage just because a baby has been conceived. Marriage is a serious, lifetime decision. If you have had a casual sexual relationship with a partner who does not have the qualities you are looking for in a marriage partner, marriage would almost certainly be a mistake. A stable, two-parent home is the best place to raise a child, but a hasty, poorly planned marriage will not create a stable home. If you are still very young, or if neither partner has completed their education or has a steady job, marriage may not be the best option.

   However, if you are in a serious, committed relationship and have made the mistake of becoming sexually involved before you were ready to get married, you may want to think about marriage

now that a baby is on the way. If you are sure your partner is someone you would choose to marry, planning to marry now rather than later may provide your baby with the gift of two loving, committed parents who can raise their child together.
If marriage seems like it may be an option in your case, counsel carefully with your pastor, and perhaps, with a professional counselor. Any young couple planning to marry should have premarital counseling; this is especially true when marriage plans are hurried because a baby is on the way.

An unplanned pregnancy is not the ideal start to a marriage, but with God's guidance and blessing, you can grow a strong Christian home.

3. Adoption

Adoption, once a common choice for a mother whose baby was born out of wedlock, has now become much less frequent, especially in the United States. In 1965, about 19% of single mothers in the U.S. gave their babies for adoption; in 1995 the number was less than 2%. As single parenting is more accepted in society, fewer mothers want to lose all contact with their children.

Adoption does have some painful realities. You will lose control of your child's future, and in most cases you will not have any contact with your child until he/she is grown up--although in some places, "open adoptions" are becoming more common, allowing for continued contact between the birth parents and the adoptive family. You may not agree with all the choices an adoptive family will make for your child.

On the positive side, there are still thousands of loving, caring Christian couples wanting to adopt children--often because they are unable to have their own children. If you choose to have your child adopted, he or she has a better chance of being raised in a stable environment with parents who can support him or her financially, emotionally and spiritually.

If adoption seems like an attractive prospect to you, discuss it carefully with your partner, your own family, your pastor and your doctor. There are many ways to proceed with adoption--you may choose to go through a private adoption agency, or with a government adoption. If you are interested in finding a Seventh-day Adventist home for your child, contact:

ADVENTIST ADOPTION AND FAMILY SERVICES
6040 SE Belmont Street Portland, Oregon
97215 USA
Phone (503) 232-1211 Fax (503) 232-4756 E-mail: adventistadoption@msn.com
Website: www.adventistadoption.com

4. Abortion

In secular society, abortion is often considered a solution to an unplanned pregnancy. The Seventh-day Adventist Church, like most other Christian denominations, does not recommend abortion as a solution in this situation. (To find out more about why this is, read the Abortion brochure in this series). As a parent-to-be, your focus should be on providing your child with the best possible life, rather than getting rid of an unwanted problem. Abortion should only be an option in cases where your own health or the health of your unborn child is so seriously threatened that there is no other acceptable option. Please seek the advice of a Christian doctor and a good professional Christian counselor before choosing this option.

If you are unmarried and pregnant right now, you may feel as though you have no future and no options. But you do have choices, and you do have hope. God has not abandoned you. No matter what your past holds, if you commit the future to Him, He walks beside you all the way.

Real Life, Part Two

Kara sat alone in her room, holding the photo of Baby Evan. It was hard to believe a month had passed since she'd held him in her arms. Her body was recovering from the trauma of giving birth; she wasn't sure her heart would ever recover.

Yet, she knew she'd done the right thing. When she first met Ted and Judy Williams and saw what kind, caring Christian people they were, she knew they'd be far better parents for her baby than she and Jack could ever be. The whole pregnancy thing had driven a wedge between her and Jack: they weren't even dating now. If she tried to keep and raise the baby, she'd be truly on her own. And the Williamses wanted a baby so badly—and had so much to offer.

The part she liked best, after talking with the social worker and the adoption agency, was that Ted and Judy were interested in an "open adoption." It didn't mean she'd be in and out of their house all the time—that would have been too painful, and anyway, they lived across the country. But they wanted to keep in touch with her, send letters and photos, tell her what was happening in her baby's life, and plan for a visit someday. Kara felt she was giving away her baby to a better home, but not losing him completely.

Still, it had been so difficult, holding Evan's tiny, perfect warm body close to her in the hospital and knowing she was giving him up. Seeing the joy in Judy's eyes when she held him the first time helped, but Kara knew there'd always be an empty spot in her own heart.

Her life wasn't going to go on as if nothing had happened. Carrying Evan inside her for nine months had changed a lot of things. People in the community—even her friends at school and church—looked at her differently now. She'd never be so casual again about the choices she made, about sex outside of marriage. She knew what she wanted now. She wanted to hold a baby like Evan again and know she and her husband would raise him and love him.

Someday, Kara figured, that would happen—if it was God's plan. In the meantime, there was still college and a career ahead. She still had plans and choices to make. And while she did, her son would be growing up in a home surrounded by love.

It was the best gift she could have given him—but it still hurt.

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[1]"Teen Sex and Pregnancy," The Alan Guttmacher Institute. Online: http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/fb_teen_sex.html

[2]Ibid.

[3]Fonesco, Roberto, "Highest Teen Pregnancy Rate in Central America." Online: http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/47/308.html

[4]"Teenage Pregnancy: World Population Awareness." Online: http://www.overpopulation.org/teenpreg.html

[5]"Claiming the Future." The Progress of Nations 1998, UNICEF. Online: http://www.unicef.org/pon98/

[6]"Marriage and the Family," *Seventh-day Adventists Believe: A Biblical Exposition of 17 Fundamental Doctrines*. General Conference, 1988.

Basic Water Safety



Reason for the new honor - Beginner's Swimming Honor is based on the Red Cross level 3 requirements. With recent changes to the level 3, it is now imposable for a club to do the Beginner's Swimming Honor in a backyard pool. Level 3 requires a pool to be 9 foot deep. The desire of the Investiture Achievement Committee was to require a swimming level to be taught in order to protect our Youth from drowning.

Therefore the proposed Basic Water Safety Honor is based on elements from the Red Cross Levels 1 & 2 but adapting those requirements that can be done in a backyard pool (being 2-3 feet deep) under adult supervision, not necessarily using a lifeguard or water safety instructor. For safety and in case of an emergency, always have an adult observing all participants who is not part of the teaching process. Resources: YouTube videos show how to teach many of these requirements

1. Enter and exit the water un-assisted.

The point is to teach how to get in and out of a pool without assistance and safely.

2. While holding your breath, fully submerge your face under water for five seconds.

This can be done by sitting on the bottom or by bending over and putting just the face in the water, as long as the full face stays covered for the full time.

3. Alternately inhale through the mouth above the surface and blow bubbles through the mouth/nose, with face completely submerged, seven time rhythmically and continuously.

This is called Rhythmic Breathing. It can be accomplished by bobbing up and down if the pool is deep enough or by leaning over and putting the face in the water to blow the bubbles, then lifting the head or turning the head for the breath, then placing the face back in the water to blow the bubbles again. This is not to be done quickly but over at least two seconds blow the air out then take a full breath of air to blow again. This teaches breath control.

4. Open your eyes under water and retrieve submerged objects two times.

This is to practice breath control while giving them a purpose and helping them to feel more comfortable under water.

5. Front float for five seconds.

Lean forward with both arms stretched out above head with fingers straight and hands open. Take a deep breath and continue leaning forward until body is parallel with the bottom of pool and face is in the water. To prevent water getting in the nose, blow bubbles out the nose slowly. If you start to sink, kick your legs a few times and move arms back and forth. When through, feel bottom of pool and stand up.

6. Front glide for two body lengths.

Follow the instructions for the front float but push off to get momentum to glide. If the pool is not big enough for two body lengths, go from one side of the pool to the other.

7. Back float for fifteen seconds.

While supporting the head/back, have them lay back in the water with arms out and legs out. Have them lay head back. Do not let them go until they are ready and say it is ok. Have them keep lungs as full as possible.

8. Holding on to the side of the pool, kick with your feet for twenty seconds.

The purpose is to build endurance and practice technique in a pool that may not be large enough to swim in. The recommended kick is the flutter kick. Keep knees as straight as possible, bending at the waist. If the pool is to shallow the frog kick that is part of the breaststroke may be used.

9. Using arm and leg motion, swim five body lengths.

No particular stroke is required. If the pool is shallow, do the best they can. They may have to go back and forth in the pool to get five body lengths.

10. Learn to put on a Life Jacket and float for thirty seconds.

Not only is it important to learn how to put on a Life Jacket but also learn to trust that it will hold the one wearing it up.

11. Demonstrate water safety by:

- **a.** How to call for help in case of an emergency.
- **b.** Learn how to release a cramp.
- **c.** Demonstrate reaching assist.
  Can use a towel, rope, shirt, umbrella, arm or leg to reach out to someone who is in need of help without getting in the water to help them
- **d.** Learn at least ten safety rules when around water.
  1) May include: Never swim alone.
  2) Do not swim without an adult or lifeguard present.
  3) Always ask permission.
  4) Do not run near water.
  5) No pushing.
  6) No diving except where it is safe.
  7) Do not jump in close to others.
  8) Wear sunscreen and limit exposure to sun.
  9) Do not swim if lightning is possible.
  10) Do not enter water over your head until you can swim well.
  11) Do not dunk another person.

Skill Level 1

New in 2011

Recreation
North American Division
2011 Update

Crisis Intervention



1. Be at least in the 10th grade.
2. Identify and list the nature of the crises and human needs in at least two of the following passages.
   - **a.** John 8:1-11
   - **b.** Luke 15:11-32
   - **c.** Luke 8:40-56
   - **d.** Matthew 8:1-22
3. Describe for your instructor some of the human needs and crisis situations that teenagers in your community face today. Describe some of the crisis situations that families face. This may be done in a group discussion setting.
4. Discuss your own motives for wanting to help your friends when they face personal or family crisis. What about strangers? This may be done in a group discussion setting.
5. Describe at least three types of human needs and give a real-life example of each.
6. Explain the steps in a crisis intervention process and apply each step to a case study.
7. Demonstrate a grasp of basic listening skills by conducting an interview of at least 10 minutes duration. This interview must either be observed by an observer who can recognize listening skills, or taped for review by your instructor. The interview does not have to be with a person who is in crisis, but it must be a real conversation not pretend or role-playing.
8. Explain how to make a referral to a professional counselor or pastor.

Skill Level 3

Original Honor 2009

Outreach
North American Division
2009 Update

Ecology



1. Construct a diagram of a fresh-water pond ecosystem with pasted-on animal cutouts.
2. Pick one mammal, bird, reptile, and amphibian from your home environment, and for each construct a diagram of its ecological pyramid.
3. Know the meaning of the following terms:
   - **a.** Ecology
   - **b.** Community
   - **c.** Food chain
   - **d.** Commensalism
   - **e.** Ecological succession
   - **f.** Plankton
   - **g.** Conservation
   - **h.** Climax community
   - **i.** Eutrophication
   - **j.** Biome
4. Make detailed field observations and a careful library book study of the habitat of some small animal in your own environment. Write a report of about 700 words, one-half from your field observations and one-half from your book study.
5. Define an ecosystem and state what the basic biological and physical factors are that keep it a balanced system.
6. Investigate the disposal of trash in your community. How much is disposed per family per day? per week? per year? How better can it be taken care of?
7. Check the daily paper for one month for the nearest large city for the air pollution level or air quality and plot on graph paper the results for the month. Find out what caused the peaks on your graph.
8. List ten ways in which you might actively work to improve the environment in which you live. Put four of these into practice.
9. Find a Spirit of Prophecy quotation and a Bible text pertinent to ecology, and be able to explain their relevance and application to our day.

Skill Level 2

Original Honor 1972

Nature
General Conference
2001 Edition

Fungi



1. Give the name of five classes of fungi and examples of each.
2. Identify fifteen common fungi of your locality. Draw or photograph them from live specimens.
3. Name three important fungi and tell what their value is.
4. Tell the life history of one example of each of the following:
   - **a.** Rust
   - **b.** Mold
   - **c.** Mushroom
   - **d.** Yeast
5. Identify five fungus plant diseases.
6. Know what safety precautions to observe when handling fungi.

Skill Level 2

Original Honor 1937

Nature
General Conference
2001 Edition

Knot Tying



1. Define the following terms:

a. Bight
b. Running end
c. Standing part
d. Underhand loop
e. Overhand loop
f. Turn
g. Bend
h. Hitch
i. Splice
j. Whipping

2. Know how to care for rope.

3. Describe the difference between laid rope and braided rope and list three uses of each.

4. Identify the following types of rope:

a. Manila
b. Sisal
c. Nylon
d. Polypropylene

5. What are some advantages and disadvantages of synthetic rope?

6. Do the following to rope:

a. Splice
b. Eye splice
c. Back splice
d. Finish the end of a rope with a double crown, whipping, or a Matthew Walker's knot.

7. Make a six-foot piece of three-strand twisted rope from native materials or twine.

8. From memory tie at least 20 of the following knots and know their common uses and limitations. Demonstrate how they are used.

Anchor bend
Bowline
Bowline on a bight
Butterfly loop knot or Alpine
Butterfly knot
Carrick bend
Cat's paw
Clove hitch
Constrictor knot
Crown knot
Double bow
Double sheet bend
Figure eight
Fisherman's bend
Fisherman's loop
Halter hitch
Hunter's bend
Lariat or Bowstring knot
Lark's head
Man harness knot
Miller's knot
Packer's knot
Pipe hitch
Prusik knot
Sheepshank
Sheet bend
Slip knot
Slipped half hitch
Slipped sheet bend
Square knot
Stevedore's knot
Strangle knot
Surgeon's knot
Tautline hitch
Timber hitch
Two half hitches

Skill Level 2

Original Honor 1975

Recreation
General Conference
2001 Edition

Language Study



1. Read and translate from sight a passage of at least 300 words from a book or magazine in a language not native to you.
2. Carry on a simple but sustained conversation in a modern foreign language for a period of not less than five minutes.
3. Listen to an address or statement of not less than two minutes' duration made by a person to whom the foreign language is a native tongue, and translate the same into your own language.
4. Write a simple letter in the foreign language of your choice, telling what contacts you have been able to make with persons whose native tongue is the language you have chosen.
5. Know and repeat from memory the Pathfinder Pledge and Law in this foreign language.
6. Write or tell orally about the foreign population in your vicinity and what opportunity you have to converse with those who speak the language you have studied.

Note: After your choice of a modern foreign language has been made, obtain a suitable textbook in that language and study it thoroughly.

Skill Level 2

Original Honor 1938

Outreach Ministries
General Conference
2001 Edition

Red Alert



1. Tell what you should do to prevent injury and/or possible loss of life in the following situations:
   - **a.** A fire in your house, a neighbor's house, and a public building.
   - **b.** If you are stranded in a car in a blizzard or desert
   - **c.** Motor vehicle accident
   - **d.** Earthquake
   - **e.** Flood
   - **f.** Tornado
   - **g.** Hurricane
   - **h.** Thunderstorm
   - **i.** Atomic emergency
   - **j.** Rock or snow avalanche
   - **k.** Your boat or canoe capsizes in open water
2. When telephoning for help in an emergency situation, what essential information should be given and who should hang the telephone up last?
3. Demonstrate what emergency first aid measures you should take in the following situations?
   - **a.** Someone's clothes catch on fire
   - **b.** A severely bleeding wound
   - **c.** Someone is choking
   - **d.** Someone swallows poison
4. Do the following:
   - **a.** Draw an escape route for your family in case of fire in your home when your normal exits are blocked.
   - **b.** Practice with your family a home fire drill.
   - **c.** Discuss with your examiner the procedures for safely getting people out of your church and school in case of a fire. Consideration should be given as to how to prevent panic.
5. What should you and your parents do to prevent abduction of children in your family? What should you do if you are abducted?

Skill Level 1

Original Honor 1986

Health & Science
General Conference
2001 Edition

Rocks and Minerals



1. What is the difference between rocks and minerals?
2. Have a collection of at least 15 specimens correctly labeled with collector's name, date, and the locality in which it was found.
3. Define and name two examples each (from specimens or pictures) of:
   - **a.** Igneous
   - **b.** Sedimentary
   - **c.** Metamorphic
4. What is meant by Mohs' scale of hardness? Name the minerals in order in Mohs' scale.
5. Define the following:
   - **a.** Cleavage
   - **b.** Specific gravity
   - **c.** Luster
   - **d.** Color
   - **e.** Streak
   - **f.** Texture
   - **g.** Crystal
6. Name four uses for rocks and four uses for minerals.
7. Locate four Bible incidents in which a rock was significant.
8. List the foundation stones of the New Jerusalem and tell where you found the information.

Skill Level 2

Original Honor 1937

Nature
General Conference
2001 Edition

Rural Development



1. Explain to your instructor why some countries in our world are called "developing" countries and why others are called "developed" countries.
2. Name ten developing countries and list two things that ADRA is doing in these countries that would fall under the description of "relief" and two things that would fall under the description of "development".
3. Read what Ellen White has written about why we have the poor with us in *Desire of Ages*, Chapter 70, entitled "The Least of These My Brethren". Summarize what you have learned from this chapter in 50 words or less.
4. View an ADRA video report (www.adra.org) on development activities in other countries than your own, and participate in a discussion about what you see following the video.
5. Participate in one of the following field trips or group projects:
   - **a.** Go on a mission trip to a disadvantaged rural area in another country or within your own nation.
   - **b.** Raise funds and contribute to the contents of an ADRA-kids-box of your choice (http://kids.adra.org).
   - **c.** A 24-hour group fast and educational "lock-in" session with your youth group focused on understanding the needs of the poor in developing nations, and designed to raise funds for rural development.
6. Listen to or watch a presentation about a person who grew up in a rural, underdeveloped area. Discuss with a Pathfinder staff, club, unit or class how the following differed from your life:
   - **a.** What they wore or ate
   - **b.** How they kept warm or cool
   - **c.** What home, church or school was like

Skill Level 2

Original Honor 2009

Outreach
North American Division
2009 Update

Spiders



1. Do one of the following:
- **a.** Collect, identify, and preserve at least 16 species of spiders. Place on each specimen bottle a label showing the locality and date of capture and the spider's common or scientific name.
- **b.** Make colored drawings or paintings of at least 16 species of spiders, life size or larger and in natural coloring. Label each with its common or scientific name.
- **c.** Take color photos of at least 16 species of spiders. Identify each picture as to its locality, date taken and the common or scientific name of the spider.

2. What is the largest member of the spider family?

3. Write or give orally a description (forty words or more) of a spider that has gained notoriety in your region.

4. Give three ways in which spiders differ from insects.

5. Make a careful drawing of an orb web.

6. What other kinds of webs are there besides the orb web?

7. What do spiders eat? Make a list of victims found in spider webs.

8. For what is a spider web useful?

9. Find two references in the Bible to spiders and their webs.

10. What are the chief enemies of spiders?

11. How do spiders:
- **a.** Help us?
- **b.** Hurt us and our property?

Skill Level 2

Original Honor 1945

Nature
General Conference
2001 Edition

Swimming—Beginner's



Have completed the Basic Water Safety honor.

Complete the requirements for Red Cross Level 3 Swim Level or the YMCA Equivalen

Water Entry Skills:
1. Enter water by jumping from the side of the pool or a dock into a safe area.
2. Headfirst entry from the side in a sitting position.*
3. Headfirst entry from the side in a kneeling position.*

* Headfirst entry should NOT be taught unless the water depth is at least 9 feet.

Breath Control and Submerging:
1. Bobbing while moving toward safety – demonstrate in chest-deep water at least five times.
2. Demonstrate rotary breathing at least 10 times.

Buoyancy:
1. On front, demonstrate the survival float at least 30 seconds in deep water.
2. On back, demonstrate moving into a back float in deep water and hold the float at least 30 seconds.

Changing Positions:
1. Change from a vertical to horizontal position on the front, in deep water.
2. Change from a vertical to horizontal position on the back, in deep water.

Treading Water:
1. Demonstrate treading water for at least 30 seconds in deep water.

Front Swim:
1. Push off in a streamline position, then begin the flutter kick. Kick in streamline position 3-5 body lengths.
2. Push off in a streamline position, then begin the dolphin kick. Demonstrate 3-5 body lengths.
3. Demonstrate the front crawl, at least 15 yards, with good rotary breathing.

Back Swim:
1. Demonstrate the elementary backstroke, with smooth finning and whip kick for at least 15 yards.

Side Swim:
1. Demonstrate the side scissors kick for at least 10 yards.

Water Safety:
1. Reach or Throw, Don't Go—reaching assists, demonstrate.
2. Think Twice Before Going Near Cold Water or Ice—discuss/demonstrate.
3. Look Before You Leap—understand and demonstrate.

Passing Skills:
Jump into chest-deep water from the side, swim the front crawl for 15 yards, maintain positions by treading water or floating for 30 seconds and swim elementary backstroke for 15 yards.

Recreation
General Conference
2001 Edition

Skill Level 1

Original Honor 1944

Teaching



1. What education is needed for teaching the following:
   - **a.** Elementary school
   - **b.** Secondary school
   - **c.** College
2. What is re-certification?
3. Interview at least two teachers with the following questions:
   - **a.** Why did you choose to become a teacher?
   - **b.** What part of teaching do you like the best?
   - **c.** What part of teaching do you like the least?
   - **d.** What do you do to get ready for a school year?
   - **e.** What do you do to get ready for a school day?
   - **f.** What teacher-related activities do you do after school is out each day?
   - **g.** What are some qualities of a good teacher?
   - **h.** What are the responsibilities and duties of a teacher?
4. Explore the Bible and the book Education by Ellen G. White to learn what teaching methods Jesus used. Present a three-minute oral report on what you learned.
5. If you are 16 years old or younger, do the following for a minimum of 40 minutes per week for three weeks:
   - **a.** Assist a teacher in designing and preparing a bulletin board.
   - **b.** Assist a teacher in preparing learning aids.
   - **c.** With the supervision of a teacher, teach a child or class at least one concept.
6. If you are older than 16 years, do three of the following:
   - **a.** Teach an adult's or children's Sabbath School class for a minimum of six weeks.
   - **b.** Teach in one day in each department of Vacation Bible School.
   - **c.** Teach two Honors from the Honors Handbook.
   - **d.** Assist in teaching requirements for one of the AY classes, culminating in investiture.
   - **e.** Teach at least one year in an elementary or secondary school or in a college.

Skill Level 2

Original Honor 1944

Vocational
General Conference
2001 Edition

Urban Development



1. Explain the process of urbanization and list some of the human needs that it creates, especially for the poor.
2. Read the chapters in Ministry of Healing by Ellen White entitled "Help for the Unemployed and Homeless" and "The Helpless Poor," and write a one-page summary of the key points.
3. Interview the pastor or Adventist Community Services leader or Inner City Program coordinator in an inner-city Seventh-day Adventist Church arid ask how the church is meeting the needs of the poor in the community. Take notes during the interview.
4. Present a 15-minute report on how a youth group might help in the urban development problems the church is sponsoring. The report may be presented one-on-one to your instructor or youth-group adult sponsor, or it may be presented in a **group setting.**
5. Spend at least four hours in one of the following field trips as a participant observer:
   - **a.** Go out with a street ministry team that provides food and/or blankets or coats to the homeless in an urban neighborhood,
   - **b.** Go out with a health screening van that operates in an urban neighborhood.
   - **c.** Go out with a Christian work team that is repairing or building urban housing for the poor.
   - **d.** Work in a soup kitchen or homeless shelter in an urban neighborhood.
   - **e.** Volunteer in an Adventist Community Services center located in an urban neighborhood.
6. Attend a worship service in a church in an urban neighborhood made up of a different ethnic group than your own. List for your instructor the things you observed that were different than what you have grown up to be used to in your own culture. Then list the things that were similar to what you are used to.
7. Write a proposal of at least four pages for an urban development project that could be conducted largely by teen and/or young adult volunteers. Include objectives, action plan, personnel needed, schedule and budget. This proposal may be written by an individual or as a team project in a work team of no more than four persons.

Skill Level 3

Original Honor 2009

References:

Cry of the Urban Poor by Viv Grigg, Missions Advanced Research Center, Monrovia, California (1992)

Urban Ministry by David Claerbaut, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan (1983)

Youth Ministry in City Churches by Eugene C Roehlkepanain, Group Books, Loveland, Colorado (1989)

Outreach
North American Division
2009 Update

INVESTITURE ACHIEVEMENT MATERIALS

Record Cards

Friend	#002976
Companion	#002977
Explorer	#002978
Ranger	#002979
Voyager	#002980
Guide	#002981



Record Charts

Friend	#002982
Companion	#002983
Explorer	#002984
Ranger	#002985
Voyager	#002986
Guide	#002987
Set of 6	#002988

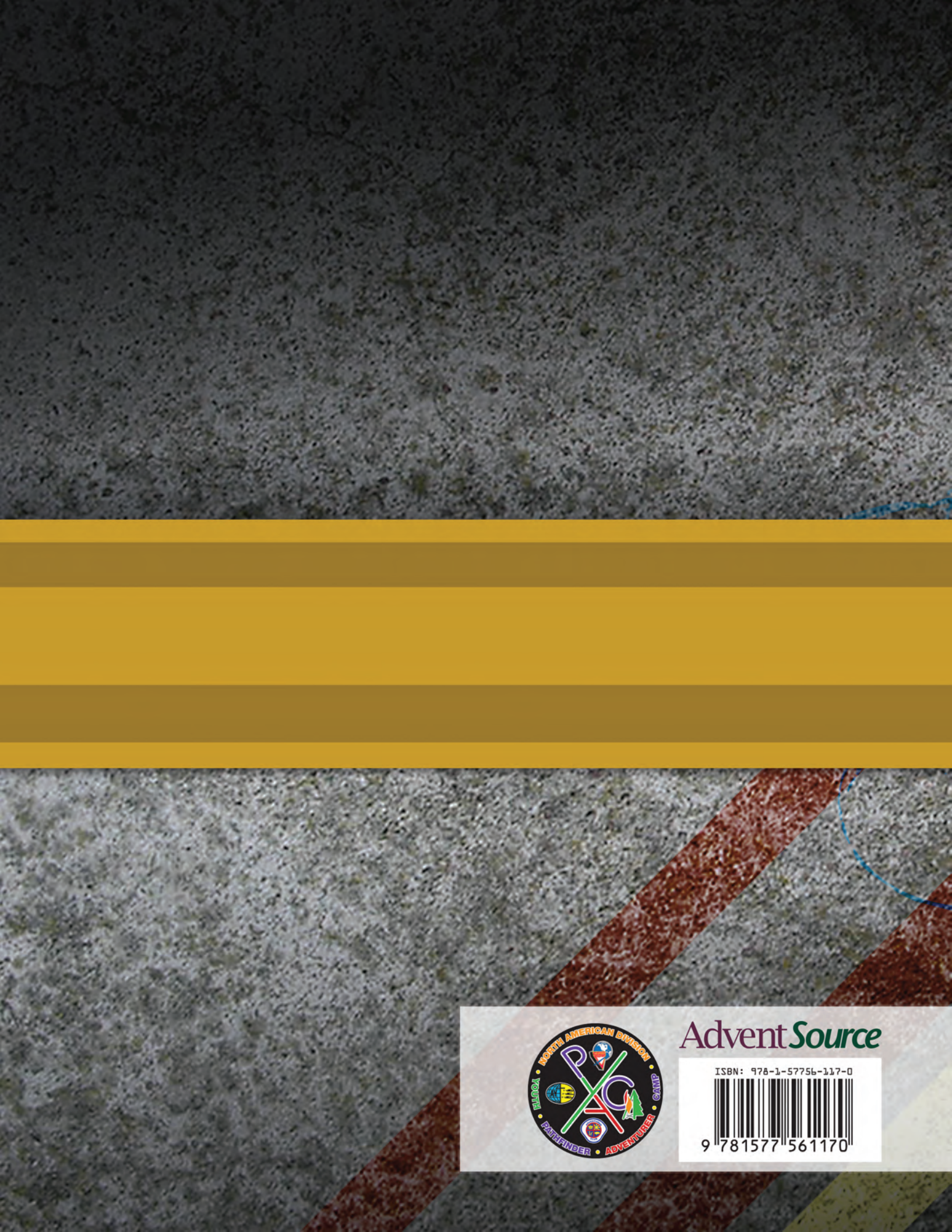


Record Journals

Friend	#002970
Companion	#002971
Explorer	#002972
Ranger	#002973
Voyager	#002984
Guide	#002985



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ISBN: 978-1-57756-117-0

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