

## Central Study Hour – Sabbath School Lesson Notes

### *“The Least of These”*: Lesson 10, “Living the Gospel”

#### SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read the title. *Is living the gospel about what you don't do, not sinning? Doesn't it have to be about what you do as well? Yes! It's about the actions you take. Is it about doing good works?*  
Read the Memory verse. The memory verse is about both grace and good works the right way.  
Share highlights from the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, especially the passage from *Faith and Works*, p. 24.  
Even the most loving good works do not earn even 1/100<sup>th</sup> of our salvation!  
*What is the correct way to see good works?*  
Read the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

#### SUNDAY: “For God so Loved....”

*Why does **John 3:16** say “**For God so loved the world**” instead of so loved mankind?*  
It's interesting that the Greek word translated as world in John 3:16 is *kosmos* which doesn't mean mankind, but everything God created; the whole organized entity of this world. This includes the animals, the forests, the rivers, lakes, flowers, and of course, it includes mankind. The quarterly author puts it this way: “This verse is about salvation for mankind, but the plan of salvation has implications for the whole of creation too.”

#### **Read Romans 8:22-23.**

*What does this teach about the broader issues in the plan of salvation?*  
Salvation isn't just for me. The whole world is suffering until the gospel finishes its work and the great controversy is over.  
Read the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph (“Of course, on one level....”).

#### **Read John 3:16-17.**

*How does verse 17 contribute to a broader understanding of verse 16?*  
The purpose of Jesus' first coming was not to bring condemnation but salvation. Jesus had to come as redeemer before He could rightly come as Judge.  
Share/read the final two paragraphs.

#### MONDAY: “Compassion and Repentance”

Share highlights from the first paragraph. Ask if they really believe the final sentence of this paragraph. Then ask: *Without God's intervention in our lives, what would we be?*  
Share highlights from the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph.

*What was it in each of the following verses that moved Jesus with compassion?*

**Matthew 9:36** – The people were weighed down by the cares of this life and also confused.

**Matthew 14:14** – So many people were sick and suffering from physical ailments.

**Luke 19:41-42** – Their ignorance caused them to lose opportunities, and it seems willfully so.

**John 11:35** – Jesus felt great compassion at their sorrow over the death of a loved one.

*How can we have a heart that is softened to the pain around us?*

Share key points of the 3rd paragraph of the narrative (that answer the above question).

Read and ask the questions from the box at the bottom of the page.

(In answer to the first question, can most of us see our own struggle with selfishness – not caring enough? In answer to the second question, haven't we all fallen short? Since we are not better than others, don't we all have the same need of Jesus?)

TUESDAY: "Grace and Good Works"

**Read Ephesians 2:8-10** (the memory text).

*What do these verses tell us about the relationship between grace and good works?*

God's gift of grace cannot be replaced by good works, but it is to lead us to good works.

(Optional if time) **Read Titus 2:11-14.** *What parallels do you see with Eph. 2:8-10?*

Grace and salvation and God's intention for people to have good works. (Note: Titus includes a 2<sup>nd</sup> coming emphasis and context that is not mentioned in Eph. 2:8-10.)

Read the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph (starting with "God's grace, expressed...")

Read/share highlights of the final two paragraphs.

**Read 1 John 3:16-17.** *How do these verses so powerfully capture what our response to the cross should be? If we should be willing to die for others, at the very least, should we not help them in their need, really have compassion in actions?*

Read the quotation from *The Desire of Ages*, p. 504 from the Teachers' Comments, p. 133.

WEDNESDAY: "Our Common Humanity"

All who came Jesus with a sincere and honest purpose were warmly received with genuine concern. It didn't matter if they were the worst of sinners, tax collectors for the Romans, lepers, Roman soldiers, Samaritans, Pharisees, or little children.

*What do each of the following texts teach us about our common humanity?*

**Malachi 2:10** – We all have the same Father/Creator so why should we treat anyone poorly.

**Acts 17:26** – All nations, all races are "**made of one blood**" and all should seek the Lord and find happiness in Him according to verse **vs. 27**.

**Romans 3:23** – All alike are sinners and fall short of God's glory so we should understand we all have the same need of Jesus. No one is by nature better than another.

**Galatians 3:28** – We are all one in Christ whether male or female, Jew or Gentile, or whatever might be different about us. All have equal access to God.

*How should each of the above ideas influence our attitude toward others?*

We should be "bound together by the gospel, by the saving love of God that calls us to oneness in Him: '**For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free**' (1 Cor. 12:13)." It's important to include everyone!

THURSDAY: “The Everlasting Gospel”

Revelation describes the gospel message with a special application for the last days. It’s “the good news about Jesus and all that entails—at the end of time.”

**Read Revelation 14:6-7.**

*Who is the gospel for?* The gospel is for everyone on earth before it is too late! (**Verse 6**)

*What does **verse 7** show is needed to get rid of evil?* Judgment.

Share highlights under the “Judgment” section from the narrative.

*To whom is judgment good news?* Those who have been mistreated, abused, and oppressed.

*“Worship.”* In **Isaiah 58**, “God explicitly stated that the worship He most desired was acts of kindness and care for the poor and needy (see Isa. 58:6, 7).”

*Why is the emphasis in **Rev. 14:7** to worship God as Creator?*

*It connects worship to the Sabbath because the Sabbath shows that God is the Creator. The Sabbath points to the only one who can be God, that He is the Sovereign Lord of the universe, the only one that can be rightfully and reasonably worshipped. He is the source of all life!*

*“Creation.”* Creation also shows the value of every human being.

Read the first sentence (starting with “As we have seen....”).

**Close the lesson:**

Go to Teachers’ Comments page 136.

With the starting sentence below, read down to and include the powerful quotation from Ellen White, ***Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 100** to close.

Starting sentence:

If we have converted hearts, compassion will “flow forth from an authentic relationship with Christ Jesus, a relationship in which...”