

# RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL!

## Part 2

# THE WHY'S OF SABBATH SCHOOL!

FACILITATING SABBATH SCHOOL

# PASS IT ON

- Verse 1
- It only takes a spark to get a fire going
- And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing
- That's how it is with God's love Once you've experienced it
- You spread His love to ev'ryone you want to pass it on
  
- Verse 2
- What a wondrous time is spring When all the trees are budding
- The birds begin to sing The flowers start their blooming
- That's how it is with God's love Once you've experienced it
- You want to sing it's fresh like spring You want to pass it on

**A GREAT  
SABBATH  
SCHOOL CLASS  
IS LIKE A FIRE!**



- 1. It begins with a spark!**
- 2. It provides warmth!**
- 3. It provides light!**
- 4. It must be controlled!**
- 5. It must be finished properly!**



**Why is Sabbath School  
important to you?**



...Let's  
address some  
of Sabbath  
School's  
objectives.

# The important role of Sabbath School

“The Sabbath School is an important branch of the missionary work, not only because it gives to young and old a knowledge of God’s Word, but because it awakens in them a love for its sacred truths, and a desire to study them for themselves; above all, it teaches them to regulate their lives by its holy teachings.”

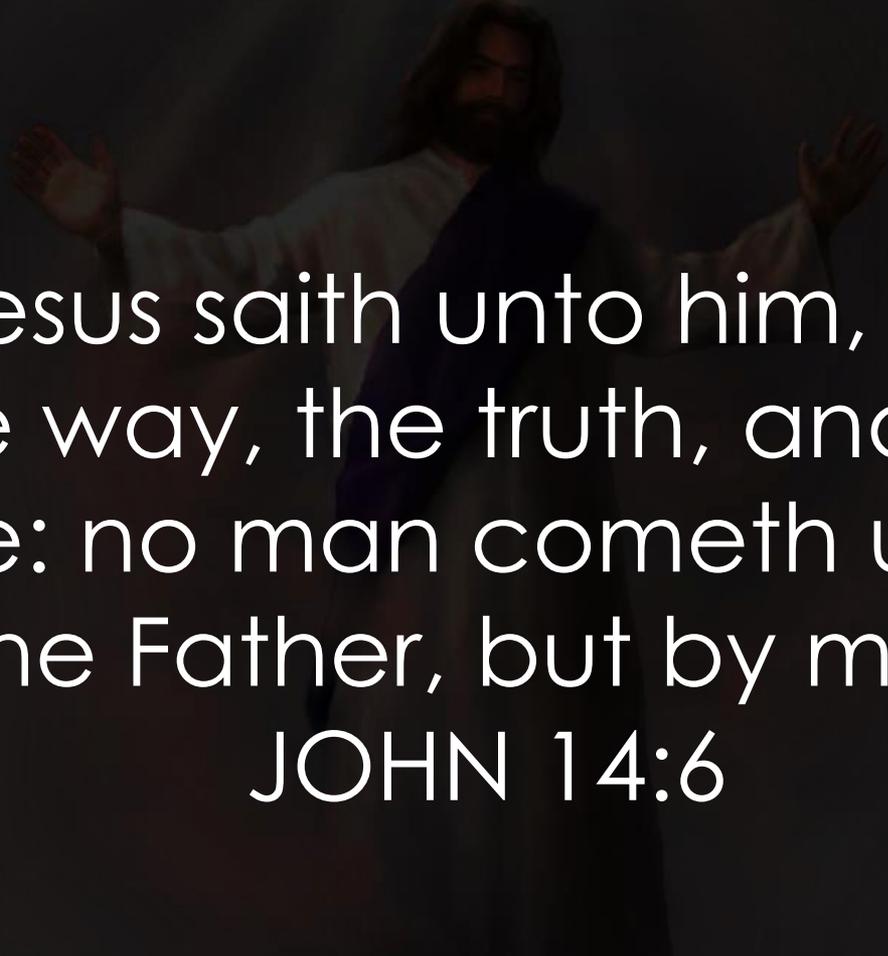
—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 10, 11

**Have you ever fallen in  
love with a person  
you've never seen  
before?**

**TRUTH IS A PERSON!**



# TRUTH IS A PERSON!



“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

JOHN 14:6

# God's great instrumentality

“The Sabbath school, if rightly conducted, is one of God's great instrumentalities to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth.”

—CSW, p. 115



# This is done through the 4 objectives of Sabbath School:

**Bible Study**

**Fellowship**

**Community  
Outreach**

**World  
Mission**

# The motto of Sabbath School

TO WIN

TO HOLD

TO TRAIN

# Life-giving power of God

“Our Sabbath schools are not what the Lord would have them to be, for there is altogether too much dependence placed upon form and machinery, while the life-giving power of God is not manifested for the conversion of souls, for whom Christ died. This order of things must be changed if our Sabbath schools meet the purpose for which they exist.”

—CSW, p. 157



# Moral transformation needed

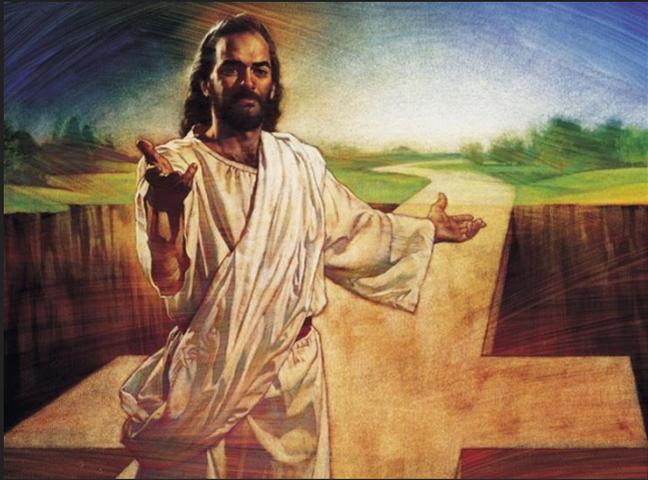


“How sad it is to think of the great amount of mechanical work that is done in the Sabbath school, while there is little evidence that there is moral transformation in the souls of those who teach and who are taught!”

—CSW, p. 66

## Ministers to guide

“There is much to be done in the Sabbath work also, in bringing the people to realize their obligation



and to act their part. God calls them to work for Him, and the ministers should guide their effort.”

—5T, p. 256



**THE SPARK!**

# THE POWER OF ENTHUSIASM!

- “On a certain occasion, when Betterton, the celebrated actor, was dining with Dr. Sheldon, archbishop of Canterbury, the archbishop said to him, "Pray, Mr. Betterton, tell me why it is that you actors affect your audiences so powerfully by speaking of things imaginary." "My lord," replied Betterton, "with due submission to Your Grace, permit me to say that the reason is plain: It all lies in the power of enthusiasm. We on the stage speak of things imaginary as if they were real, and you in the pulpit speak of things real as if they were imaginary." {CT 255.1}

# WHO IS THE REAL TEACHER?

○ “But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

○ **JOHN 14:26**

# TEACHING IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”

—*Ephesians 4:11*

**SPIRITUAL GIFTS COME  
THROUGH SPIRITUAL PEOPLE!**



**HOW DO YOU CULTIVATE  
A DEEPER SPIRITUAL  
WALK?**

# GET CONNECTED!

“I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

○ JOHN 15:5

# STAYING CONNECTED...

- Pray always.
- Have a consistent devotional life.
- Study your Bible but also read the Spirit of Prophecy. (ie. Sword vs. Bazooka)
- Keep up your habit of witnessing individually, as well as communally.

## More than an instructor

“Teachers in the Sabbath school have a missionary field given them to teach the Scriptures, not, parrot-like, to repeat over that which they have taken no pains to understand. ‘They are they which testify of Me’—the Redeemer, Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered.”



—CSW, pp. 18, 19

# Study, discover new truth, then communicate it

“If we would study the Bible diligently and prayerfully every day, we should every day see some beautiful truth in a new, clear, and forcible light.”

—RH, March 4, 1884



# Four important things for teachers

1. Spend time with the Scriptures

2. Become acquainted with the Holy Spirit

3. Do much praying

4. Have much serious thought



**THE  
WARMTH!**

**WHAT'S THE ATMOSPHERE  
LIKE IN YOUR CLASS... IS  
IT WARM?**

# A teacher is a feeder

“If teachers in the Sabbath school felt the love which they should feel for these lambs of the flock, many more would be won to the fold of Christ.”

—CSW, p. 76

## The power of caring

“Teachers should come close to the hearts of the scholars, by aptness, by sympathy, by patient and determined effort to interest every scholar in regard to the salvation of the soul.”

—CSW, p. 114

# The need for building relationships

Pay attention to the atmosphere of learning.

Try to get acquainted with class members.

Take time to show love and concern for each person.



# Optimal teaching/learning situation — the family school

“And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

—Deut. 6:6, 7

“There should be family schools, where every student will receive special help from his teachers, as members of the family should receive help in the home. Tenderness, sympathy, unity, and love are to be cherished.”

—*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 152

# Jesus' family school

Jesus spoke of His disciples as “my mother and brethren.” They lived together, ate together, traveled together, and learned together. Sometimes they disagreed violently. They argued vigorously. But Jesus' love glued them together. In this “family” setting, they learned to love and trust each other. Eventually, after three years with the Master Teacher, “. . . each was ready to concede to another the highest place” (Desire of Ages, p. 646).

“You will come close to them in loving sympathy, visiting them at their homes, learning their true condition by conversing with them concerning their experience in the things of God, and you will bear them in the arms of your faith to the throne of the Father. . . . You must win their affection if you would impress religious truth upon their hearts.”

—*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 68



“Love, the basis  
of creation and  
redemption,  
is the basis of  
true  
education.”

—*Education*, p. 16

# How can we create “family” Sabbath School classes?

- Call your students by name
- Greet each personally
- Place yourself on the level of the learner
- Be warm and accepting
- Follow the six-point plan

## Six-point plan

1. Welcome and introduce all visitors.
2. Make a brief missions appeal, calling attention to the class goal.
3. Mark the attendance record yourself and assign members to visit all regular and prospective members who are present.



## Six-point plan



4. Encourage daily lesson study.
5. Report to the class the amount of offering today.
6. Take Personal Ministries report.



**THE LIGHT!**



**“Thy word [is]  
a lamp unto  
my feet, and  
a light unto  
my path.”**

**PSALM 119:105**

**HOW OFTEN DOES YOUR  
CLASS ADDRESS  
QUESTIONS YOU  
PERSONALLY HAVE?**

# Steps in lesson preparation:

## Prayer

“**ASK** and it shall be given to you;  
**SEEK**, and you shall find; **KNOCK**  
and the door will be opened to  
you.”

—Matthew 7:7

# Steps in lesson preparation:

## Have a teachable attitude

“In searching the Scriptures, you are not to endeavor to interpret their utterances so as to agree with your preconceived ideas.”

—CSW, p. 25



## Steps in lesson preparation (cont.):

### Study the Bible texts for the week's lesson

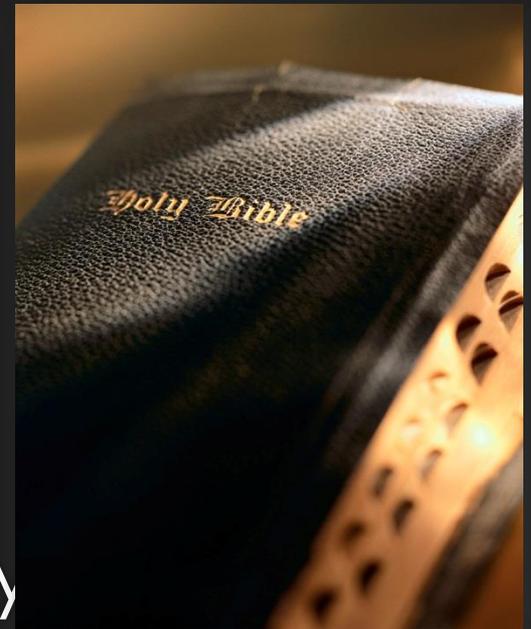
Say the Bible text over and over from different translations. Read the verses within the context so as to get the full intention of the writer.

Let God speak to you. As truth is revealed, and the meaning comes to your mind, write down key points.

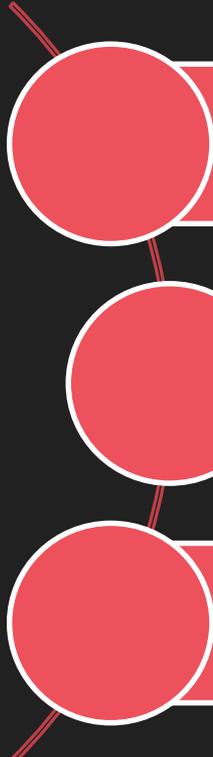
## Steps in lesson preparation (cont.):

### Study other resources on the same subject

- Use a Concordance
- Look at a Bible Atlas
- Study Bible Commentaries
- Read the Spirit of Prophecy
- Use different Bible translations



# Plan your lessons to cover :



**The goal of the lesson**

**Three or four key points to be covered**

**Application to life experience**



**THE  
CONTROL!**

**DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE  
CONTROLLING YOUR  
CLASSES?**

○ Challenges can be fun within the right environment and the right support!



# Dealing with conflict...!



“Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised [is] wisdom.”



Proverbs 13:10

(...otherwise, Conflict Resolution course)

**HOW CAN WE USE  
CONFLICT TO OUR  
ADVANTAGE?**

# Resolving conflict

Pose conflicting opinions regarding an issue based on your Sabbath School lesson. Guide the class in a search of the Scriptures to resolve the problem.

# Support an opinion or belief

This is a valuable technique for getting your class into the Word. The teacher leads the class into purposeful Bible study to support a position or belief. The opinion or belief should be an integral part of the Sabbath School lesson.



## Reconcile different points of view

A Sabbath School lesson may present two opposing points of view on a subject. As a method of involving class members in a Scripture search, present the opposing views in a brief lecture and ask the class to research the question and be ready to report their findings.

# Reconcile different points of view (cont.)

## Example:

Lesson topic: “Christian Perfection”

Points of View: (1) Perfection is relative, (2) perfection is the same as victory, (3) perfection is having Christ’s imputed righteousness.

What is your opinion? Write a paragraph supporting it with Bible texts.



**THE END!**

Change is the goal  
of teaching



## Step 1: How to transfer truth into life

“...and they should not cease their labor until they have evidence that the precepts of heaven are not only accepted by the understanding of the pupil, but written upon the heart.”

—*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 37

## Lay plans

“Let them [Sabbath School teachers] lay plans to make a practical application of the lesson.”

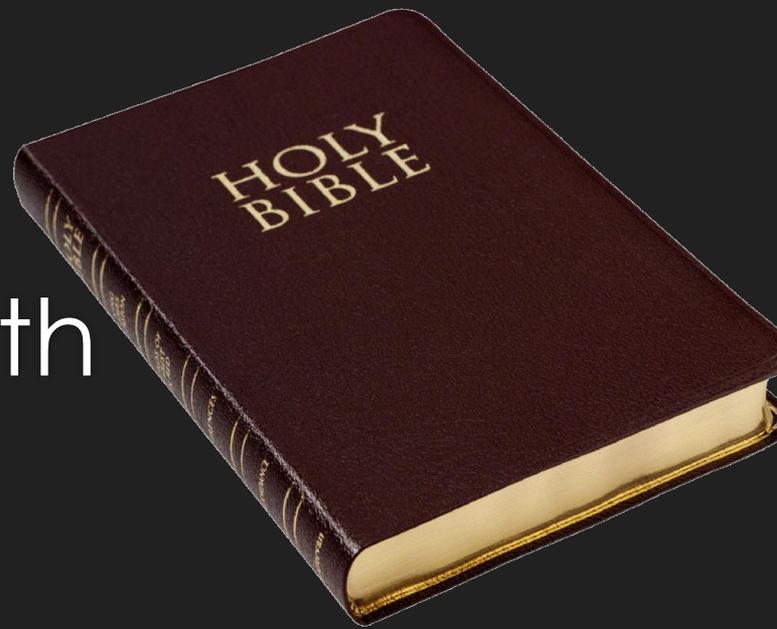
—CSW, pp. 113, 114

# Helping the learner to apply truth

- We must lead our pupils into the Word to search for answers to life's problems.
- Teach the old, old story in contemporary terms.
- Illustrations and generalization are valuable aids in application.
- Focus all efforts in bringing change about.
- Lead the members through simulation.

“The principles of truth  
impressed upon the  
heart, line upon line  
and precept upon precept,  
will produce right action.”

—CSW, p. 68



# Lead the members through experiences of application:

- Ask probing questions.
- Confront the class with alternatives.
- Lead them into actual or imaginative predicaments that require application of truth.
- Focus attention on sub-Christian attitudes and activities.

# Lead the members through experiences of application: (cont.)

- Allow the members to express doubt, wonder, skepticism, and curiosity about points of application.
- Help the members to interpret their own experiences.



# The promise of God

“The Lord has made ample provision that teachers may have increased ability from Sabbath to Sabbath, that they may teach to some purpose, working as for time and eternity.”

—CSW, p. 104

# Personal qualifications of a successful Sabbath School

**1. A knowledge of Christ**

**2. A knowledge of the Bible**

**3. A knowledge of the students**

**4. A knowledge of self**

# 1. A knowledge of Christ

All Christian teaching must revolve around Christ, and every teacher must know Him personally. One must not only know ABOUT Christ, that He was born of a virgin in the fullness of time; He was the Messiah; He lived a sinless life, He was crucified, buried, and resurrected—**one must know HIM**, and be personally acquainted with Him.

## 2. A knowledge of the Bible

The teacher for God needs to know his or her Bible, or at least have a general understanding of it as a whole and a specific knowledge of the doctrine. He must have a personal knowledge of the power of the gracious promises of God's Word in the transformation of his own life.

### 3. A knowledge of the students

It is important for the teacher to know the family, work, and where the students live; their program, and their joys. To know the students, the Sabbath School teacher should visit his or her class members at their homes.



## 4. A knowledge of self

We must not pretend before God. Our everyday lives—our thoughts, our language, behavior, prayer life, and family life—must be real. We must not wear a mask for the Sabbath. To know and admit to the real self is to become needful of Christ's righteousness and covering mercy.

