

TEACHER'S GUIDE



Planks and Specks

Third Quarter 2023

## **REAL-TIME FAITH TEACHER'S GUIDE Third Quarter 2023**

World Sabbath School Directors:  
**Jim Howard, Justin Kim**

General Conference Adviser:  
**Ted N. C. Wilson**

Biblical Research Institute Adviser:  
**Clinton Wahlen**

Design:  
**Review and Herald Design Center**

Circulation:  
**Rebecca Hilde**

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## **The Real-Time Faith Writers**

**Troy Fitzgerald**, Washington, U.S.A.  
**Tim Gillespie**, California, U.S.A.  
**Andrea King**, California, U.S.A.  
**Trudy Morgan-Cole**, Newfoundland, CANADA  
**Judy Shull**, Michigan, U.S.A.  
**Celeste Perrino-Walker**, Vermont, U.S.A.

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## **WHAT THE LESSONS ARE ABOUT**

**The emphasis of this curriculum** is God's kingdom of grace, being a recruited member (steward, citizen) of that kingdom, and the battle between it and the kingdom of evil. Being in God's kingdom requires action—being doers and not just listeners (James 1:22) of how to live as God's citizens on this earth.

The first lesson of each quarter of the two-year cycle is a different section of the Sermon on the Mount, which is "at once Christ's inaugural address as King of the kingdom of grace and also the constitution of the kingdom" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 322).

After the first lesson of each quarter, each of the other lessons (or sets of lessons) is about a different challenge, right, or privilege in the "real time" of being a citizen of God's kingdom. A Christian never knows what he or she will be encountering next.

The curriculum includes two websites:

- [www.realttimefaith.net](http://www.realttimefaith.net), where students and teachers can access additional resources.
- [www.guidemagazine.org/rtf](http://www.guidemagazine.org/rtf), where students can explore each week's topic with other earliteens.

## HOW TO USE THE TEACHER'S GUIDE

- >> **STEP 1: Read through the entire Preparing section of the *Teacher's Guide* to become familiar with the lesson concepts.** You will be best able to use the teaching material if you thoroughly understand the core concepts of the lesson.
- >> **STEP 2: Read the rest of the *Teacher's Guide* material for the week, including the student lesson.** Get an idea of the options provided for teaching the concepts. Go to [www.realtimefaith.net](http://www.realtimefaith.net) to find additional resource material that might be available.
- >> **STEP 3: Choose the specific options you will use in teaching the lesson.** There are more options provided than you will be able to use. Try to choose something from each category: **Beginning, Connecting,** and **Applying.** Keep in mind that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.
- >> **STEP 4: Note when and how you will distribute or refer to the student lesson during the program.** The student lesson for each week is integral to the teaching process and will be referred to throughout. The lesson should be distributed to the students (if they don't already have it) a week in advance so that they may study it in preparation for Sabbath School.
- >> **STEP 5: Collect the materials you need to conduct the lesson.** Once again, keep in mind that student participation is vital.
- >> **STEP 6: Prepare the student lessons.** If you keep the student Bible study guides at church, remove the appropriate student lesson for the week and prepare it for distribution. If the students take their Bible study guides home at the beginning of the quarter, make arrangements to be able to teach the lesson smoothly even if the students forget to bring that week's lesson back with them. (Have the necessary Bible references listed on the board, have additional copies of the student illustration available, etc.)
- >> **STEP 7: Keep the end in mind.** Plan to wrap up your lesson with a summary of what the students have learned.

Teachers, in your role as a discipler of youth, the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department wants to help you in every way possible to be equipped for this important work. You are encouraged to go to [www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com](http://www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com). There you will find resources to help you be more intentional and fruitful in the discipling of your students.

# O V E R V I E W



## Real-Time Faith Sabbath School for Earliteens **Teacher's Guide**

### JULY

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1

#### **GROWING STRONGER IN JESUS • 7 • Better With Time**

God has saved us, but we must continually give Him the control of our lives in very intentional ways in order for Him to change us.

8

#### **DEALING WITH ADDICTIONS, Part 1 • 17 • Living in Chains**

Teens need a much more thorough knowledge of the real dangers of addiction in order to be prepared to deal with real-life temptations.

15

#### **DEALING WITH ADDICTIONS, Part 2 • 27 • Broken Chains**

Christ-centered advice can help a teen to deal with their own addiction or to understand and help a friend or family member with an addiction.

22

#### **FRIENDSHIP • 37 • What's Best for You**

Jesus values our friendship. He also wants us to share the gift of friendship as we learn to make and keep lasting human relationships that draw us closer to Him.

29

#### **GUYS AND GIRLS, Part 1 • 49 • God Speaks Both Languages**

When we create a secure and positive environment in which each gender can express themselves, teens can come to realize that God has specific roles for each of them.

# AUGUST

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5

## **GUYS AND GIRLS, Part 2 • 59 • You Can't Take It Back!**

The interplay between guys and girls is very important in the understanding of what constitutes healthy relationships between the genders.

12

## **SETTING STANDARDS • 69 • The Many Loves of Sara**

Young Christians need to know that human bodies and human sexuality are good creations of a good God—not products to be advertised and sold.

19

## **GOD IS HOLY! • 79 • Watch Your Language!**

Many young people don't think their choice of language matters.  
Can words hurt? What difference does a little word make?

26

## **QUIET DESPERATION • 89 • Strength for Our Daily Need**

Depression, anxiety, and fear are the battles that many young people are confronting.  
But we can be agents of hope to those in despair.

# SEPTEMBER

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2

## **GOD'S WAY IS BEST • 101 • Does Liberty Have Perimeters?**

Jesus' principles for our lives are opposite to those the world promotes. The more we know of Jesus, the better able we are to understand the true from the counterfeit.

9

## **GOD'S WITNESSES • 111 • Heroes of Faith: Paul**

To accomplish something great for God, we must be willing to move out of our comfort zones and run the risk of being called fools.

16

## **MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE • 121 • Blessed Assurance**

Music is a central part of youth culture. We need to teach discernment so that teens can choose wisely, based on principle.

23

## **FAMILY MATTERS • 129 • Someone Knows Your Name**

Looks sensitively and biblically at the various types of families in which earliteens find themselves.

30

## **JUDGING • 143 • A Tale of Two Judges**

God is not simply telling us to mind our own business; He reminds us that we need His forgiveness to deal with the sin in our own lives so that we are able to help others.

# PLANKS AND SPECKS

Third Quarter 2023

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REAL-TIME FAITH® is a Sabbath School curriculum offering an application-oriented study of Scripture for earliteens.

