

Supersleuths

Children's Sabbath 2013



Investigating the Answers to Life's Questions in God's Word

The young child today needs to find the truth for themselves and then be guided to apply it to their lives.

In this day and age bullying, death, terrorism, and abuse all influence our children. They can actively see the earth "moaning and groaning."

So what can we offer them to quell their fears and give

them the promise of a solid, certain future? Read on!

This children's Sabbath program focuses on the truths that are easily found, yet so profound for life today—truths such as being fearless, protected, preserved for heaven.

Presenting this program to your church will not only teach the children the truths of the Bible but also present these same truths to the adults.

What better way to share the truths of God's providence than through the leading of a child?

Visit our Web site for more Children's Sabbath products to make your special day even more dynamic!

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What Is Children's Sabbath?

Children's Sabbath is a day set aside by churches all over the world for the purpose of spotlighting and affirming the children in our midst. It also draws attention to the needs of children at risk in our world. This material is meant to guide and assist the coordinator in planning for Children's Sabbath.

Traditionally the North American Division celebrates this special day the first Sabbath in October. This year the date of children's Sabbath is October 5, 2013; however, if this date is not available to you, we encourage you to have a children's Sabbath whenever you can. This day provides a great "excuse" to invite neighbors, friends, and inactive members to bring their children. The more you put into planning and promoting this special day, the more impact it will have on your church and your community.

To make the most of Children's Sabbath,

- ★ make sure your pastor is on board and knows the details of this Sabbath.
- ★ plan ahead to advertise in your church and community.
- ★ present the program during the worship service.
- ★ prepare a special potluck to honor the children.
- ★ plan an outreach using *Real* magazine.
- ★ visit www.kidsministryideas.org to purchase witnessing tools children can use to share their faith.



Supersleuths

We have a great sharing tool you can use to spread the truth of God's providence.

1. How Can I Like Myself?

Ling is always worrying about what others think of her. But her Supersleuths mission reveals that a person's real value comes from what God thinks of His child.

2. Why Do Bad Things Happen?

Ricardo has been dealing with tough times and questioning whether God cares. He finds that God is always with us and that He has a plan for ending suffering forever.

3. What Happens When We Die?

A box of bones, a spooky sleepover, and a pamphlet found at the back of a church give readers clues in a hunt for the Bible truth about death.

4. Will I Always Feel Sad?

On this mission Leila finds out how to deal with her grief over losing someone close to her. She also discovers the hope of heaven!

5. How Do I Stop Being Scared?

Spiders, shots, report cards, starting a new school—every kid deals with fear. Abigail discovers the secret source of courage: turning your fears over to God.

Super Sleuth Tracts

To purchase Super Sleuth tracts to hand out to the children in your church and to your neighbors go to your local Adventist Book Center or visit www.AdventistBookCenter.com.

Planning and Promotion

Right Away	Six Weeks Before	Three Weeks Before	Children's Sabbath
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download materials from the <i>Kids' Ministry Ideas</i> Web site. • Establish a Children's Sabbath prayer support group. • Form a planning team, involving the Pathfinder and Adventurer Club directors as well as the children's Sabbath School division and VBS leaders. • Determine the specifics of your afternoon outreach activity—the venue you choose, the sponsors and adults who will accompany the children, etc. • If your church has children who are preparing for baptism, work with their families and the pastor to plan a baptism as part of the Children's Sabbath service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the church communications leader to advertise your program in the church bulletin, in local newspapers, and on local radio stations—ample inserts and announcements available for download. • Send "Supersleuths" postcards as invitations to inactive (or former) members. Hand out postcards in church, encouraging members to invite their neighbors, friends, and relatives. • Ask the church's hospitality team to plan a potluck or special meal for guests after the Children's Sabbath service. • Plan for someone to take pictures at your Children's Sabbath program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hang "Supersleuths" posters around your church and school. • Put a bulletin announcement in your church bulletin each remaining week. • Enlist several children to help with a creative announcement during church. • Start practicing the entire program in the church. (Avoid keeping kids out late on Friday night.) • Firm up final details about your outreach event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the program during the worship hour. • Provide a potluck to honor the children and their families. • Organize and implement the <i>Supersleuths</i> afternoon outreach, and take <i>Super Sleuths</i> and copies of <i>Real</i> magazine to your neighbors. 

Plan this service as an opportunity to reach out to the community as well as a way to showcase children and their ministry.

To get the ball rolling for your Children's Sabbath program, work with your pastor to develop a vision for Children's Sabbath and assemble a team to follow through on the organization and planning. Meet together as often as necessary; this lowers confusion among your leaders and keeps misunderstandings at a minimum.

To get the children involved in the preparation and outreach, share with them the logo and the theme; talk about its meaning; encourage children to pray every day and to investigate the love of God. Guide them in seeking God through the verses in the Bible.

Normally the children's coordinator organizes Children's Sabbath. If your church has not appointed a children's coordinator, ask the pastor to appoint someone to act as coordinator for this particular day.

First Planning Meeting Agenda

1. Cast a vision for your Children's Sabbath service; pray together that God will bring the vision to life.
2. Delegate—distribute responsibility for the various parts of the service to adults or older teens that will coach the participants for that segment of the service.
3. Choose children to fill the needs in the program, such as participating during the service, reading scripture, or special music.
4. Brainstorm additional creative touches for your program.



Order of Service

Theme: "Supersleuths"

Investigating Scripture is the answer to life and all its complexities. Finding promises and hiding them in our hearts will equip us for whatever we encounter in life.

Praise and Worship

Let the children lead if possible; see the list of suggested songs on the next page.

Welcome—Pastor

Share the "Dear Pastor" letter with your pastor. Be sure he or she knows everything that is happening. This is a wonderful opportunity for the pastor to introduce the children's ministries leaders in your church; his or her public recognition and support are invaluable.

Opening Hymn—No. 290, "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

Opening Prayer

Let a child lead if possible.

Call to Worship—Responsive Reading

This is written to be led by one or more children.

Special Music

A theme song has been provided for the children to sing. You may choose whatever is appropriate for your congregation and the children you have to work with.

Sermon: "Supersleuths"

The skit provided is appropriate for the sanctuary; however, this may not fit the needs of your congregation. Keep in mind that whatever you do, the important thing is to have the children in the forefront the entire Sabbath.

Baptism (optional)

Children's Sabbath is always the first Sabbath of October. Plan baptismal classes around this date—this is a wonderful time to show your church the level of commitment to God that children are capable of.

Closing Hymn—No. 377, "Go Forth, Go Forth With Christ," *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

Closing Prayer

Have the scripture sharers stand at the back of the church and hand out the supersleuth scriptures to the members as they leave. If you feel really festive, share a Happy Cookie with them, too!

Leader Tips

- Allow the children to lead as much as possible.
- Find “behind the scenes” things the quieter children can do.
- Ask the Pathfinders and Adventurers to collect the offering—encourage them to come to church in their uniforms.
- Have the children hand out the supersleuth scriptures and Happy Cookie after the service is over.
- Have the children make a thank-you card for the pastor and his or her family, and present it to them during the praise and worship time.
- Try to have the kids memorize their parts—the program will flow much easier if they do.

Praise and Worship Music

Suggested Songs From *He Is Our Song*

- No. 42 “Behold, What Manner of Love”
- No. 15 “I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord”
- No. 41 “Our God Reigns”
- No. 88 “Thy Word”
- No. 2 “Come Into His Presence”

Suggested Songs From *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

- No. 524 “‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”
- No. 100 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
- No. 108 “Amazing Grace”
- No. 86 “How Great Thou Art”
- No. 111 “It Took a Miracle”

Suggested MP3 Downloads

- “I’m a Supersleuth”
- “What a Mighty God”
- “Joshua 23:14”
- “Isaiah 38:7”

Accompaniment tracks can be purchased as MP3 downloads at www.kidsministryideas.com.

Praise Songs



A praise and worship time between the Sabbath school hour and the divine service is a great opportunity to bring your congregation into an atmosphere of worship.

Begin with an upbeat song, and as the praise and worship time winds down, choose songs that are slower and more contemplative, with the final song being an introduction into the worship service.

Get the kids involved in this portion of the service—especially those who may not want to stand up front alone. The songs included are suggestions—choose music that fits your church’s culture.



Responsive Reading

From Psalm 119

The highlighted portions can be read by a choir of children, a few children, or even one child. Be sure to have someone lead the adults in their part.

Our Lord, you bless everyone who lives right and obeys your Law.

Thinking about your commands will keep me from doing some foolish thing.

I will do right and praise you by learning to respect your perfect laws.

Young people can live a clean life by obeying your word.

I worship you with all my heart . . . I treasure your word above all else.

Obedying your instructions brings as much happiness as being rich.

I will study your teachings and follow your footsteps. I will . . . remember your words.

Encourage me, as you have promised to do . . . And be kind enough to teach me your Law.

I follow your rules, Lord. . . . I am eager to learn . . . help me to understand more and more.

Take away my foolish desires, and let me find life by walking with you.

I am your servant! . . . I long for your teachings.

Show me your love and save me, Lord, as you have promised.

I will keep obeying your Law forever and ever.

I have gained perfect freedom by following your teachings.

I love your commands! They bring me happiness.

I love and respect them and will keep them in mind.

You have blessed me because I have always followed your teachings.

Everyone:

I treasure your word above all else. . . . You, Lord, are my choice, and I will obey you.

Supersleuths



Cast:

- ◆ Tyrone, the supersleuth
- ◆ Joss, his friend
- ◆ 7 scripture sharers

Props:

- ◆ desk
- ◆ two chairs
- ◆ large magnifying glass
- ◆ computer screen
- ◆ Bible
- ◆ iPod
- ◆ scripture promises
- ◆ pens or pencils

The supersleuth promises are highlighted in green. Have different children or a choir of children recite the verses while Tyrone and Joss are still on the stage. They can be looking at their Bibles, iPod, computer, etc., while the children recite the verses. As far as possible, have the verses memorized.

Setting:

Tyrone is sitting at his desk with an open Bible in front of him. He moves from the Bible to the computer, studying what he sees. He stops and writes a verse down on a small slip of paper; then continues his searching.

Offstage you hear a woman say, "Go on upstairs Tyrone is in his room."

Joss *(yelling over his shoulder):* Thanks, Mrs. M! Hey, Ty, whatcha doin'?

Tyrone looks up at the congregation, holds a huge magnifying glass up to his face, then slowly turns and faces his friend.

Joss *(laughing):* What are you doing? What's with the goofy magnifying glass?

Tyrone *(putting magnifying glass down):* Oh, you know how I love to investigate stuff! I call myself a supersleuth! I'm using this for inspiration.

Joss: Inspiration for what?

Tyrone: Last night my family went out for Chinese food, and I got a fortune cookie. My fortune said, "You can change the world."

Joss: And you believed it? Trust me, you keep carrying around that magnifying glass, and the only change you will make is losing me for a friend!

Joss laughs and shoves his friend playfully.

Tyrone: Such a funny guy!

Joss: I try! Seriously, Ty, you know fortunes aren't real, right?

Tyrone: Oh, believe me, I know. Remember Mr. Randall, who taught that Sabbath school class on the book of Deuteronomy? Remember the verses he made us learn?

Joss: Yep! And how he said "disgusting"? I can recite them to this very day.

Both boys recite the verses from memory emphasizing the words "disgusted" and "disgusting," making faces when they say the words.



And don't try to use any kind of magic or witchcraft to tell fortunes or to cast spells or to talk with spirits of the dead. The Lord is **disgusted** with anyone who does these things, and that's why he will help you destroy the nations that are in the land. Never be guilty of doing any of these **disgusting** things! Deuteronomy 18:11, 12.

Joss and Tyrone laugh together.

Joss: One thing is for sure—Mr. Randall is a great teacher! The look on his face when he said “disgusting” was a crack-up. But I’ve never forgotten the verse or the lesson.

Tyrone: I know! Here’s the thing: the fortunes in fortune cookies are random thoughts written by people, right?

Joss: Or a computer program. They definitely aren’t from God.

Tyrone: Well, we have promises—things God has said through the writers of the Bible. These are from our God who is more powerful than anyone or anything else. What if we searched like true supersleuths and found those promises and wrote them down? Then we could hand them out like fortunes in a fortune cookie.

Joss: What? You mean bake a bunch of cookies and put Bible promises in them?

Tyrone *(excited and then confused)*: Yeah! No! Wait, I’m not going to bake cookies, but I am writing Bible promises down on little cards that I can give to people. Some of the verses are random things God has said, but some are for specific people. Like this one here.

Tyrone holds up a small card and hands it to Joss. Joss reads it aloud.



Don't be afraid. I am with you. Don't tremble with fear. I am your God. I will make you strong, as I protect you with my arm and give you victories. Everyone who hates you will be terribly disgraced; those who attack will vanish into thin air. You will look around for those brutal enemies, but you won't find them because they will be gone. I am the Lord your God. I am holding your hand, so don't be afraid. I am here to help you. Isaiah 41:10-13.

Tyrone: I’m going to give that to Dink. He was crying the other day because one of the bigger kids in his class was bullying him.

Joss: Everybody in Dink’s class is bigger than he is!

Tyrone *(to himself as if thinking out loud)*: I wonder if he minds being called Dink. I need to find out what his real name is.

Joss *(reading the cards Tyrone has made)*: Ty, this is a really good idea. I know this verse will mean a lot to Dink.

Tyrone: And there’s so much more. I’ve already made about ten of my supersleuth promise cards. Want to help me make more?

Joss: Sure! I’ve got my Bible with me on my iPod. *(Joss pulls out his iPod and starts navigating to his Bible app.)* One of my favorite verses is Psalm 27:10. It was one of the first verses I learned after my mom left Jace and me with Grandma and then took off.

Scripture 1



Even if my father and mother should desert me, you will take care of me. Psalm 27:10.

- Tyrone: I'm sorry that happened to you, but I'm glad you moved here. You are the best friend I've ever had. We wouldn't have met if you hadn't come to live with your grandma.
- Joss: Yep! That's all part of God taking care of me! Let's give that promise to Jace!
- Tyrone: Cool! Here's another verse I found.

Scripture 2



Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel Philippians. 4:6, 7.

- Tyrone: I'm going to give that to my mom. She is so worried about my dad since he deployed overseas.
- Joss: There's lots of people we can give that verse to. Did you know Cinda gets so nervous she gets sick every time the teacher calls on her in class? I'm gonna share this with her, too.
- Tyrone: Great idea! Let's see what else we can find.
- Joss: Ty, can we find a promise that helps someone deal with sickness?
- Tyrone: Sure! Let's do an electronic search.
- Ty turns to his computer and starts to search. Joss is looking at his iPod.*
- Joss: How about this one?

Scripture 3



For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13, NIV.

- Tyrone: That's a GREAT verse. I found this one, too.

Scripture 4



You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body, and I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvelous! Of this I have no doubt. Psalm 139:13, 14.

- Joss: Oohh—you know the person we need to share that with? Your sister! When I came over the other day, I heard her talking on the phone. Did you know she thinks she’s ugly? She thinks she’s fat, ugly, and a total loser. NOT!
- Tyrone: I’m NOT going to tell her you think she’s pretty! (Ty smiles.) But I will share the verse with her. You can’t read that verse without feeling good about yourself. If God created me—put me together—and everything He does is marvelous. . . . Wow! That’s pretty awesome.
- Joss: Hey—don’t go getting all excited about yourself there, “marvelous” one. We’ve got more verses to find.
- Tyrone: What about a verse to help people when someone dies? When my grandpa died, my dad kept quoting a verse in 1 Thessalonians.
- Joss: Oh! I bet it’s 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18!

Scripture 5



With a loud command and with the shout of the chief angel and a blast of God's trumpet, the Lord will return from heaven. Then those who had faith in Christ before they died will be raised to life. Next, all of us who are still alive will be taken up into the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the sky. From that time on we will all be with the Lord forever. Encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18.

- Tyrone: I really like that. How about this one?

Scripture 6



He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever. Revelation 21:4.

- Tyrone: There are so many bad things that happen in life, but it’s good to know that God has an answer for everything. He is in control.
- Joss: I’m going to see if I can find a verse that says that! *(He scrolls through his Bible app.)*
- Tyrone: God is awesome! You know, I never would have guessed that the Bible has answers to the problems that happen today. I mean, He provided manna and stuff, but it wasn’t until I became a super scripture sleuth that I found out His Bible contains answers to all the stuff today—bullying, death, sickness, being fearful, and even how marvelous I am!
- Joss: You mean how marvelous we BOTH are—Dink, too!
- Tyrone: As much as I’d like to be more marvelous than you and Dink, I have to admit it’s true. God made us all to be marvelous.
- Joss: I found the verse!

Scripture 7



Be humble in the presence of God's mighty power, and he will honor you when the time comes. God cares for you, so turn all your worries over to him. Be on your guard and stay awake. Your enemy, the devil, is like a roaring lion, sneaking around to find someone to attack. But you must resist the devil and stay strong in your faith. You know that all over the world the Lord's followers are suffering just as you are. But God shows undeserved kindness to everyone. That's why he appointed Christ Jesus to choose you to share in his eternal glory. You will suffer for a while, but God will make you complete, steady, strong, and firm. God will be in control forever! Amen.

1 Peter 5:6-11.

Joss: I want to help pass these out. I can think of lots of people who need to be reminded of God's place in our lives. We kinda forget and think we are in control, and then we get all down and frustrated.

Tyrone: Wow—that's the truth! Let's make a few more and then share them. Hey, Joss, do you smell that?

Joss: Smell what? (*Joss smells the air.*) Mmmm, your mom is making her famous Happy Cookies.

Tyrone: You bet! Hey, guess we are both supersleuths now! Let's go eat some cookies.

Tyrone and Joss exit as they are talking.

Joss: That's OK, but I'm not going to carry around that SUPER-goofy magnifying glass—that's just plain SUPER silly! There's nothing marvelous about that thing at all!

<h1>Happy Cookies</h1> <p>Share a Happy Cookie and supersleuth scripture with your church members.</p>	<p>Preheat oven to 350°F Bake for 12 minutes</p>	<p>Makes 24 cookies</p>
	<p>Ingredients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">2½ cups English Walnuts⅔ cup maple syrup1 tbsp light olive oil2 tsp vanilla extract1 tsp salt⅓ cup flax meal½ cup whole-wheat flour⅓ cup dairy-free carob chips, raisins, or other dried fruits	<p>Instructions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Grind 1½ cups of the walnuts in the blender or food processor, leaving some coarsely ground. Pour into a mixing bowl.2. Blend remaining 1 cup of walnuts with the maple syrup, oil, vanilla extract, and salt in a blender. Mixture should be smooth and creamy.3. Add blended mixture to the ground walnuts. Add remaining ingredients and mix well.4. Form cookies by placing slightly more than 1 tablespoon of batter on nonstick cookie sheet. Flatten with the back of a spoon coated with oil. (Using a small scoop sprayed with oil works well.)5. Bake for 12 minutes. Watch closely, as oven temperatures can vary.

I'm a Supersleuth

Theme Song



I'm a supersleuth
Seeking out the truth.
I read my Bible every day,
Just to see what God will say.
I'm a supersleuth!

Point both thumbs at self.
Cup rounded hands over eyes like binoculars.
Hold hands out like a book.
Point up toward heaven.
Point both thumbs at self.

I'm a supersleuth
Seeking out the truth.
I hide God's Word in my heart
That's how every day should start.
I'm a supersleuth!

Point both thumbs at self.
Cup rounded hands over eyes like binoculars.
Put both hands over heart.
Tap wrist like you are tapping a watch.
Point both thumbs at self.

I'm a supersleuth
Seeking out the truth.
The Bible is the rule;
It is my sleuthing tool.
Because I'm a supersleuth.
Because I'm a supersleuth.
I am a supersleuth!

Point both thumbs at self.
Cup rounded hands over eyes like binoculars.
Hold hands out like a book and move apart as if measuring.
Move hands back like a book.
Point both thumbs at self
Point both thumbs at self
Have each child strike a different "sleuth" pose

Dear Pastor:

We all know how important it is to have the pastor preach on Sabbath. It's tradition—more than tradition. It's your calling and a very important part of our certitude—the part where we recognize you as our leader, our shepherd.

The NAD children's ministries staff doesn't want to take away from your calling, and we want only to strengthen your personal ministry and the church's at the same time. That's why we are excited about the first Sabbath in October.

October 5, 2013 is Children's Sabbath throughout the North American Division. We have been celebrating this special day for over ten years. This is a Sabbath when the children step up to the plate and share the gospel from their point of view. This is perhaps the day when a teacher, a church leader, and yes, even a preacher may be introduced to their calling for the very first time.

This October 5, why not allow your children's ministry staff to guide the children as they show up front how deep and strong their love of God is? You will be blessed—and you get a day off from preaching.

One Sabbath. That's all we ask.

- ◆ One Sabbath to affirm the children in your church.
- ◆ One Sabbath to let them share their light with the adults and their peers.
- ◆ One Sabbath to feel the thrill of being a leader.
- ◆ One Sabbath to make a difference.

Thank you for celebrating Children's Sabbath at your church. Sit back and enjoy.