

LIVING OUR BELIEFS

STORIES THAT SHAPE US

Rogelio Paquini, DMin

Living Our Beliefs: Stories that Shape Us

Author: Rogelio Paquini, DMin

Cover and interior design and layout: Claudia C. Pech Moguel

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402.486.8800

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LIVING OUR BELIEFS

Hey everyone! I am excited to embark on a journey through the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This series of Bible studies is designed especially for young people like you, to help you understand and live out these core beliefs in your daily lives. We'll be exploring each belief through engaging stories from the Bible, showing how these timeless truths can guide and inspire us today.

The Power of Stories

Stories have a unique way of capturing our attention and touching our hearts. They help us see complex ideas in a relatable and memorable way. Learning from the stories in the Bible, we can better understand the principles behind our beliefs and see how they apply to real-life situations. Stories also help us connect with the experiences of others, fostering empathy and a deeper sense of community.

Purpose of these Studies

These Bible Studies provide a comprehensive and engaging exploration of the 28 fundamental beliefs. Each study will focus on a specific belief, using a Bible story to illustrate its meaning and significance. Our goal is to help you:

- Strengthen your faith and relationship with God.
- Deepen your understanding of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs.
- See how these beliefs are rooted in the Bible.
- Apply these principles to your own life.

This series is all about you and your journey of faith. As you go through each study, take the time to reflect on the stories and how they relate to your own experiences. Ask questions, share your thoughts, and be open to what God wants to teach you. Remember, this is a safe space to explore and grow in your faith. We hope these studies will inspire you, challenge you, and help you see the beauty and relevance of our beliefs.

For Instructors

Hello, instructors! Thank you for guiding our young people through this important series. Your role is crucial in helping them understand and apply the 28 fundamental beliefs. As you lead each study, encourage open discussion and create an environment where students feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and questions. Use the stories to draw out key principles and relate them to the students' lives. Your enthusiasm and support will make a significant impact on their spiritual growth.

We hope this series will be a meaningful and transformative experience for both students and instructors. Let's dive into these stories together and discover the richness of our faith!

LIST OF BIBLE STUDIES

Doctrine: God

1. **Holy Scriptures:** The story of Jesus being tempted in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11).
2. **Trinity:** The baptism of Jesus, where the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are present (Matthew 3:16-17).
3. **Father:** The creation story, where God the Father creates the world (Genesis 1:1-31).
4. **Son:** The birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 2:1-20).
5. **Holy Spirit:** The day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descends on the apostles (Acts 2:1-4).

Doctrine: Man

6. **Creation:** The creation of Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:7-25).
7. **Nature of Humanity:** The fall of man in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-24).

Doctrine: Salvation

8. **Great Controversy:** The story of Job, who faces trials and temptations (Job 1:1-22).
9. **Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ:** The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 27:32-28:10).
10. **Experience of Salvation:** The conversion of Saul to Paul (Acts 9:1-19).
11. **Growing in Christ:** The parable of the sower, illustrating spiritual growth (Matthew 13:1-23).

Doctrine: The Church

12. **Church:** The establishment of the early church in Acts (Acts 2:42-47).
13. **Remnant and Its Mission:** The story of Elijah, who remains faithful to God (1 Kings 19:9-18).
14. **Unity in the Body of Christ:** The story of the early church's unity (Acts 4:32-35).
15. **Baptism:** The baptism of the Ethiopian eunuch by Philip (Acts 8:26-40).
16. **Lord's Supper:** The Last Supper with Jesus and His disciples (Luke 22:14-20).

17. **Spiritual Gifts and Ministries:** The story of the apostles using their spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).
18. **Gift of Prophecy:** The prophecies of Daniel (Daniel 7:1-28).

Doctrine: Daily Christian Life

19. **Law of God:** The story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).
20. **Sabbath:** The story of creation, where God rests on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3).
21. **Stewardship:** The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30).
22. **Christian Behavior:** The Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus teaches about Christian living (Matthew 5-7).
23. **Marriage and the Family:** The story of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4:13-17).

Doctrine: Last-day Events (Restoration)

24. **Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary:** The vision of the heavenly sanctuary in Revelation (Revelation 4:1-11).
25. **Second Coming of Christ:** The promise of Jesus' return (John 14:1-3).
26. **Death and Resurrection:** The resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:1-44).
27. **Millennium and the End of Sin:** The vision of the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1-4).
28. **New Earth:** The vision of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-22:5).

SCRIPTURE SMACKDOWN

JESUS VS. TEMPTATION!

Introduction

Today, we're diving into an epic showdown between Jesus and temptation. In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus faces off against the devil in the wilderness, armed with nothing but the Holy Scriptures. This story teaches us the power and importance of God's Word in our lives. Let's explore these verses and discover how we can use the Scriptures to overcome challenges and stay strong in our faith!

The Authority and Power of Scripture

In the wilderness, Jesus faces three direct temptations from Satan, and each time, He responds not with philosophical debate or personal opinion, but with the phrase, "*It is written.*" This repeated declaration underscores the authority of Scripture as the final word in spiritual conflict. The Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, the infallible revelation of His will. Jesus' reliance on Scripture—even while physically weakened—demonstrates that the Bible is not merely a historical document, but a living source of divine truth and power. His example affirms that Scripture is sufficient to guide, protect, and sustain us in every trial.

Scripture as Our Spiritual Defense

Jesus' use of Scripture in this passage also reveals its role as a spiritual weapon. Ephesians 6:17 calls the Word of God the "sword of the Spirit," and in Matthew 4, we see that sword wielded with precision. The Adventist belief in the Holy Scriptures emphasizes that the Bible is the standard by which all teachings and experiences must be tested. When Satan twists Scripture to tempt Jesus, Jesus responds with a deeper, contextual understanding of God's Word, showing that true spiritual discernment comes from knowing Scripture intimately. This story teaches believers to

study the Bible diligently—not just to quote it, but to live by it, interpret it wisely, and stand firm in its truth.

Key Points

- Power of Scripture:** Jesus uses Scripture to counter every temptation, showing its authority and power
- Reliance on God's Word:** The story emphasizes the importance of relying on God's Word for guidance and strength.
- Victory through Scripture:** Jesus' victory over temptation demonstrates that we can overcome challenges by standing firm on God's Word.

Bible Study on Matthew 4:1-11

1. What was the first temptation Jesus faced, and how did He respond?

Verses: "And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."'" (Matthew 4:2-4).

2. How did Jesus use Scripture to respond to the second temptation?

Verses: "Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: "He shall give His angels charge over you," and, "In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."'" Jesus said to him, 'It is written again, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God."'" (Matthew 4:5-7).

3. What was the third temptation, and what Scripture did Jesus use to overcome it?

Verses: “Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.”’” (Matthew 4:8-10).

4. Why is it significant that Jesus used Scripture to respond to every temptation?

Verses: “But He answered and said, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”’” (Matthew 4:4).

5. How can we apply Jesus’ example of using Scripture in our own lives?

Verses: “Jesus said to him, ‘It is written again, “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.”’” (Matthew 4:7).

6. What does this story teach us about the importance of knowing and memorizing Scripture?

Verses: “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.”’” (Matthew 4:10).

7. How did Jesus’ reliance on Scripture lead to His victory over temptation?

Verses: “Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him” (Matthew 4:11).

For the Road

1. How can you make Scripture a regular part of your daily routine?

Practical Point: Set aside time each day for reading and meditating on God’s Word to strengthen your faith.

2. What steps can you take to memorize key verses that can help you in times of temptation?

Practical Point: Choose verses that resonate with you, write them down, and review them regularly to commit them to memory.

3. How can you use Scripture to encourage and support your friends and family?

Practical Point: Share verses that offer hope and guidance, and pray together using God’s Word as a foundation.

I hope this study helps you understand the power of the Holy Scriptures and how they can guide and protect us in our daily lives. Let’s embrace God’s Word and stand strong against any challenges that come our way!

TRINITY TRIUMPH

THE BAPTISM BONANZA

Introduction

The baptism of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 3:16-17, is a profound moment that vividly illustrates the doctrine of the Trinity. In this story, we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all present and active, highlighting the unity and distinct roles within the Godhead. This event helps us understand the relational nature of the Trinity and its significance in our faith.

The Trinity Revealed in Unity and Distinction

In this scene, Jesus the Son emerges from the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, and the Father's voice resounds from heaven: "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" Each Person of the Godhead is present and active, yet distinct. This affirms the Seventh-day Adventist doctrine of the Trinity: one God in three co-eternal Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father affirms, the Son obeys, and the Spirit empowers. It's not a hierarchy, but a divine harmony. This moment isn't just theological—it's deeply relational. The Father's affirmation of the Son shows love and delight, while the Spirit's descent signals divine commissioning. It's a snapshot of how the Trinity works together in the plan of redemption.

Implications for Our Faith and Identity

This passage also teaches us how the Trinity relates to us. Just as Jesus was baptized and affirmed, so are we invited into that same relational dynamic. Baptism becomes a moment where we publicly join the family of God—affirmed by the Father, united with the Son, and filled with the Spirit. The Trinity isn't a distant doctrine; it's the foundation of our spiritual identity. Seventh-day Adventists hold that the Trinity is central to understanding God's love, mission, and presence. Matthew 3:16-17 reminds us that our

faith is rooted not in abstract belief, but in a God who exists in perfect relationship—and invites us into that same communion.



Key Points about the Doctrine of the Trinity in the Story

- Unity in Diversity:** The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons but one in essence and purpose.
- Divine Affirmation:** The Father's voice from heaven affirms Jesus as His beloved Son, showing the relational aspect of the Trinity.
- Holy Spirit's Presence:** The Holy Spirit descends like a dove, symbolizing peace and the anointing of Jesus for His ministry.



Bible Study on Matthew 3:16-17 (NKJV)

- How does the presence of the Trinity at Jesus' baptism demonstrate their unity?

Verse: "When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him." (Matthew 3:16)

- What is the significance of the Holy Spirit descending like a dove?

Verse: "He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him." (Matthew 3:16)

- How does the Father's voice affirm Jesus' identity and mission?

Verse: "And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:17)

- In what ways do we see the distinct roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in this passage?

Verse: “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:16-17)

5. How can we experience the presence of the Trinity in our own lives?

Verse: “He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.” (Matthew 3:16)

6. What does it mean for us to be “beloved” by God, as Jesus is?

Verse: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

7. How does the Trinity model perfect relationship and community?

Verse: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:17)

For the Road

1. How can you cultivate a deeper relationship with each person of the Trinity?

Practical Tip: Spend time in prayer, addressing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit individually, and seek to understand their unique roles in your life.

2. What steps can you take to affirm and encourage others, as the Father affirmed Jesus?

Practical Tip: Make a habit of speaking words of affirmation and encouragement to your friends and family, recognizing their value and potential.

3. How can you be more aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence and guidance in your daily activities?

Practical Tip: Start each day with a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, decisions, and actions, and be attentive to His promptings throughout the day.

I hope this study helps you and others deepen your understanding of the Trinity and apply these principles to daily life!

CREATION CRAZE

DISCOVERING DAD'S DESIGN

Introduction

The creation story in Genesis 1:1-31 is a foundational narrative that reveals the doctrine of the Father. It shows God as the Creator, who brings order out of chaos and life out of nothingness. This story helps us understand the Father's power, wisdom, and love in designing the universe and everything in it. By studying this passage, we can appreciate the Father's role in the Trinity and His ongoing relationship with His creation.

The Father as Creator and Sustainer

Genesis opens with the words, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” This is not a vague deity—it’s the personal, purposeful Father who initiates life. Each day of creation reveals His wisdom and care: light to dispel darkness, land to support life, vegetation to nourish, and finally, humanity made in His image. The Seventh-day Adventist belief in the Father emphasizes His role as the sovereign Creator, who is both transcendent and intimately involved. He doesn’t just set the universe in motion—He shapes it with love, declares it “good,” and blesses it with order and beauty. This shows that the Father is not distant or abstract, but deeply relational and intentional.

The Father’s Relational Nature and Purpose

When God says, “*Let Us make man in Our image,*” we glimpse the relational nature of the Trinity, with the Father at the heart of divine community. Creating humans in His image means we are designed for relationship—with Him and with one another. The Seventh-day Adventist doctrine of the Father affirms that He is not only the source of life but also the source of love, purpose, and identity. His delight in creation, especially in humanity, reflects a Father who desires connection, not control. Genesis 1 ends with God

blessing the seventh day—a rhythm of rest and communion that invites us into His presence. In this way, the doctrine of the Father is not just about origin—it’s about ongoing relationship, responsibility, and reverence.

Key Points about the Doctrine of the Father in the Story

- Creative Power:** The Father initiates creation, demonstrating His omnipotence.
- Order and Purpose:** The Father designs the universe with intentionality and purpose, reflecting His wisdom.
- Relational Aspect:** The Father creates humanity in His image, highlighting the relational nature of the Trinity.

Bible Study on Genesis 1:1-31 (NKJV)

1. How does the creation story reveal God’s power and authority?

Verse: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

2. What does it mean that God created light and separated it from darkness?

Verse: “Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.” (Genesis 1:3-4)

3. How does the creation of the sky and the waters show God’s order and design?

Verse: “Then God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.’ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so.” (Genesis 1:6-7)