

Total Sabbath School Involvement

SABBATH SCHOOL
REVITALIZATION
STRATEGIC PLANS
2017 - 2020



GC Sabbath School and
Personal Ministries Department



REACH THE WORLD

Reviving the church through Sabbath School by
emphasizing the original purpose of Sabbath School:

“The Lord desires that those who are engaged in the Sabbath School work should be missionaries, able to go forth to the towns and villages that surround the church, and give the light of life to those who sit in darkness.”

—*Testimonies for Sabbath School*, p. 74.





TOTAL SABBATH SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT

Our Mission:

The mission of Sabbath School is to be a system of local church religious education that builds Seventh-day Adventist faith and practice. It builds faith through encouraging active study of the Bible and the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy. It builds practice through the application of biblical principles and the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to the individual lives of the Sabbath School members.

Our Goal: *To Make Disciples!*

“The object of
Sabbath School
work should be
the ingathering
of souls.”

—*Counsels on
Sabbath School
Work*, p. 61.

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Sabbath School and
Personal Ministries

A. REACH UP [Bible Study/Prayer]

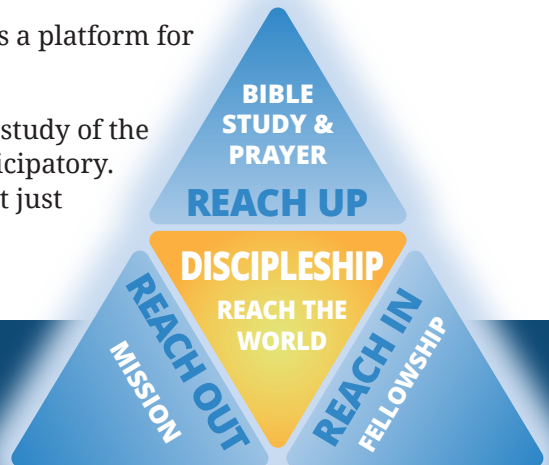
Daily focus on Bible study and prayer using *the Bible Guides*.

1. **WHY REACH UP?** Because Biblical understanding is so central to our spiritual life and mission.

OBJECTIVE: To involve Sabbath School members in daily Bible study and prayer.

KPI's (*Key Performance Indicators*)

- ▶ Revival and Reformation through Sabbath School involvement. This could be measure by annual surveys of members participating.
- ▶ Develop and implement a Sabbath School revitalization training program for Sabbath School teachers, leaders, trainers, and promoters at the local church, Conference, Union, and Division levels.
- ▶ Increase the number of people praying and studying the Sabbath School Bible guides.
- ▶ Increase the number of people attending Sabbath School.
- ▶ Increase tithe and mission offerings by increasing church attendance.
- ▶ Emphasize Sabbath School as a platform for discipleship.
- ▶ Encourage teachers to make study of the Bible in Sabbath School participatory. Study for transformation, not just information.



The three-tiered approach to total involvement includes REACH UP, REACH IN, and REACH OUT. This builds a solid base for DISCIPLESHIP to REACH THE WORLD.

2. **WHY REACH UP?** Because biblical doctrines express universal truth, and because research shows that Adventist understanding of doctrines needs attention.



OBJECTIVE: To complete development of Sabbath School Bible study guides that are strategically designed to educate all age groups in the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

KPI's

- ▶ The new Sabbath School curriculum, *My Bible Guides*, will be Bible-based, Christ-centered, doctrinally sound, and grace-oriented.
- ▶ Emphasizes the Bible and its values, and key Adventist beliefs in the Bible. Students will gain a clear understanding of the Bible and its values, from which all Adventist beliefs are derived.
- ▶ Recognizes the prophetic gift of Ellen White, drawing key lessons from the Spirit of Prophecy, Adventist history, and end-time events. From parenting tips to prophetic insights, *MyBibleGuides* contain inspirational and educational enrichment.
- ▶ Includes children in the mission of the church. The teacher's manuals for *MyBibleGuides* include time for weekly Total Member Involvement Up-reach (Bible study and prayer), In-reach (fellowship and discipleship), and Out-reach (mission and evangelism).



B. REACH IN [Fellowship]

Daily focus on fostering church unity

WHY REACH IN? Because the Church is called to be a spiritual community characterized by love and mutual care, reflecting God's love and presence.

OBJECTIVE: To enhance unity and community among Sabbath School members.

KPI's

- ▶ Make plans to visit, pray, and care for missing or hurting members.
- ▶ Pray and discuss ways to minister to the needs of church families, inactive members, youth, women, and men, and initiate various ways to get the church family involved.
- ▶ Make seeking and reclaiming former and inactive members a priority.
- ▶ Implement comprehensive and practical training in conflict resolution.
- ▶ Encourage the Sabbath School class to meet for fellowship outside the Sabbath School time.
- ▶ Help develop a synergistic approach to church life through Sabbath School.



C. REACH OUT [Mission]

Daily focus on mission to our communities and to the world.

WHY REACH OUT? Because of the local church's importance as a beacon to its community, its crucial role in organizational

structure, and its primary responsibility for recognizing and responding to mission opportunities in the community.

OBJECTIVE: To encourage Sabbath School leaders, teachers, and classes to take the initiative in communicating the three angels' messages and carrying out the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

KPI's

- ▶ Pray for your community. Make plans to reach your community through regular acts of kindness and compassion that connect people to Jesus.
- ▶ Plant churches using the “Branch Sabbath School model.”
- ▶ Pray for the world. Involve all ministries in the church as you plan short-term and long-term soul-winning projects.
- ▶ Increase the number of church members prayerfully participating in outreach.
- ▶ The key to Sabbath School revival is having every member involved in the mission of saving souls by practicing what they learn in Sabbath School.
- ▶ Develop a class project to reach your community or develop a TMI global mission project.
- ▶ Support Total Member Involvement initiatives. Set a goal of increasing active participation.
- ▶ Emphasize the need to support world mission by increasing Sabbath School world mission offerings.
- ▶ Team up with Adventist Mission to emphasize mission stories—through the Mission Spotlight DVD and Mission quarterlies in the Children’s and Adult Sabbath School classes. The mission stories need to be a vital part of active Sabbath School programming.



Desired Outcomes

To help each of our members to:

- ▶ Become disciples of Jesus.
- ▶ Understand the Bible text and Bible history by teaching effective, engaging lessons.
- ▶ Understand the historical, theological, and missiological development of the Adventist Church.
- ▶ Develop stronger relationships and unity among class members.
- ▶ Have a passion for reclamation of former and inactive members.
- ▶ Learn how to organize the Sabbath School class for community outreach.
- ▶ Train Sabbath School members for mission.
- ▶ Become empowered for leadership.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT TOTAL MEMBER INVOLVEMENT IN SABBATH SCHOOL

Dedicate the first 15 minutes of each lesson to plan, pray and share:*

- ▶ **REACH IN:** Plan to visit, pray, care for missing or hurting members, and distribute territory assignments. Pray and discuss ways to minister to the needs of church families, inactive members, youth, women and men, and various ways to get the church family involved.
- ▶ **REACH OUT:** Pray and discuss ways of reaching your community, city, and world, fulfilling the Gospel Commission by sowing, reaping, and keeping. Involve all ministries in the church as you plan short-term and long-term soul-winning projects. TMI is about intentional acts of kindness. Here are some practical ways to become personally involved: 1. Develop the habit of finding needs in your community. 2. Make plans to address those needs. 3. Pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ **REACH UP:** Lesson Study. Encourage members to engage in individual prayer and Bible study—make study of the Bible in Sabbath School participatory. Study for transformation, not information.

TMI	Time	Explanation
Fellowship Outreach World Mission	15 min.*	Pray, plan, organize for action. Care for missing members. Schedule outreach. Mission story. Mission offering.
Lesson Study	45 min.*	Involve everyone in the study of the lesson. Ask questions. Highlight key texts.
Lunch		Plan lunch for the class after worship. THEN GO OUT AND REACH SOMEONE!

**Adjust times as necessary.*

