



**BE LIKE
JESUS**



CHILDREN'S SABBATH PROGRAM

October 1, 2011

Children's Sabbath Program Guide

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 and for drawing attention to the needs of children at risk in our world.

Children's Sabbath is scheduled for the first Sabbath in October, but your church may choose to observe it at any time. This is a great opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends (or inactive members) to bring their children or grandchildren. The more you put into planning and promoting this special day, the more impact it will have on your church and your community. This material was developed for Children's Sabbath, October 1, 2011.

What To Do With This Program

- Plan ahead to advertise in your church and community
- Present the program during the worship service
- Prepare a special potluck to honor the children
- Distribute Real magazine around the community
- Hand out KidZone Bible study cards
- Provide the Bible study programs so the children can share them
- Visit www.adventsource.org to purchase witnessing tools children can use to share their faith

The program this year encourages children (and adults) to share Jesus with others. Our prayers is that these materials will make a difference in the lives of people in your community.

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Prepared by the Children's Ministries Department
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www.adventsource.org

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Be Like Jesus, Go Fish! was written to complement the Go Fishin' Mission Adventure Camp Child Evangelism and VBS kit. This kit, along with other uniquely Adventist program, is available at www.adventistbookcenter.com.

Theme

Be Like Jesus, Go Fish!

There is no greater goal a parent or teacher could have than to see children long to be like Jesus. The example He has given in His life is a reminder to all of us that when we are connected firmly with God, our desires change. We move from a self-centered focus to a focus that emphasizes others first. The blessings that come when we choose to be like Jesus impact not only those we reach out to, but we are changed forever as well. Age is unimportant when it comes to the calling of the Holy Spirit and the ability of a child to be obedient and respond to Jesus and His calling. Our heavenly Father goes to great lengths to save us and to reach us, whether we are a child or an adult. It is our duty and privilege to say, "I want to be like Jesus."



As we gather to celebrate our children, this theme reminds us that:

- Children are uniquely called and gifted to share God's love with others.
- The strongest form of evangelism for children is peer-to-peer.
- Adults have the privilege and responsibility to recognize and encourage these gifts.
- We have been given a Savior who longs for us to be like Him.

Using This Program Guide

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

The information in this brochure is meant to guide and assist the coordinator.



Planning and Promotion

Children's Sabbath is an opportunity to reach out to the community through the God-given talents of our children in the church. As you prepare for your Children's Sabbath program, work closely with your pastor to develop a vision for Children's Sabbath. Organize a team to follow through on the organization and planning.

To get the children involved in the preparation and outreach, share with them the logo and the theme; talk about its meaning and encourage children to pray every day that their hearts will be open to the example Jesus has given and they will say, "I want to be like Jesus!"

Right Away

1. Order materials well in advance, while supplies of free items last (see Materials List on p. 6). Establish a Children's Sabbath prayer support group.
2. Form a planning team, involving the Pathfinder and Adventurer Club directors as well as children's Sabbath School division and VBS leaders.
3. At the first meeting of the planning team:
 - Cast a vision for your Children's Sabbath service; pray together that God will bring the vision to life.
 - Delegate responsibilities for the various parts of the service to adults or older teens who will coach the participants for that segment of the service.
 - Choose children to fill the roles, such as participating during the sermon time, Scripture, or special music.
 - Brainstorm additional creative touches for your program.
4. 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.



Six Weeks Ahead

1. Ask the church communication leader to advertise your program in the church bulletin, in local newspapers, and on local radio stations (find sample inserts and announcements at www.childmin.com/ChildrensSabbath).
2. Send “Be Like Jesus, Go Fish!” postcards as invitations to inactive (or former) members. Hand out postcards in church, encouraging members to invite their neighbors, friends, and relatives.
3. Ask the church’s hospitality team to plan a potluck or special meal for guests after the Children’s Sabbath service.
4. Plan for someone to take pictures at your Children’s Sabbath program. Send pictures and a write-up to local media, your conference, and the North American Division (see address on p. 2).

Three Weeks Ahead

1. Hang “Be Like Jesus, Go Fish!” posters around your church and school.
2. Enlist several children to help with a creative announcement during church.
3. Start practicing the entire program in the church. (Avoid keeping kids out late on Friday night.)

Children’s Sabbath

1. Present the program during the worship hour.
2. Provide a potluck to honor the children and their families.
3. Provide an outreach activity such as taking Voice of Prophecy KidZone Bible study sign-up cards and Real magazines to your neighbors.
4. Give the children each a special tool to use in witnessing such as Evangecubes, Faithbands, or Wordless books available through AdventSource.



Materials List

- “Be Like Jesus, Go Fish!” poster (11” x 17”)
- “Be Like Jesus, Go Fish!” invitation postcard
- “Be Like Jesus, Go Fish!” bookmark
- “Jesus is my BFF” pins
- Go Fishin’ Mission Adventurer Camp Accompaniment Track
- Evangecubes
- Faithbands

To order these materials, visit www.adventsource.org.

You can download the poster, postcard, and bookmark from www.childmin.com/ChildrensSabbath and print the quantity you need.



THEME: Be Like Jesus, Go Fish!



Order of Service

Praise and Worship

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Special Music

Be Like Jesus, Go Fish!

Baptism (optional)

Closing Hymn

Praise and Worship Time

If your church does not have praise and worship time between the Sabbath School hour and the worship service, this is a great opportunity to start one. This allows you 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.



Involve the children in the praise and worship part of the service, especially those who may not want to stand up front alone—they might be willing to stand up front with a group of their peers announcing and leading/singing the songs.

Praise and Worship Songs

All music is available at your local ABC, at www.adventistbookcenter.com, or www.adventsource.org

Suggested Songs from the Go Fishin' Mission Adventure Camp CD

- No. 1—"Go Fish!"
- No. 3—"I Will Make You Fishers of Men"
- No. 2—"Hooked on Jesus"
- No. 5—"John 3:16"

Suggested Songs from the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

- No. 308—"Wholly Thine"
- No. 190—"Jesus Loves Me"
- No. 623—"I Will Follow Thee"
- No. 193—"Savior, Teach Me"
- No. 624—"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"
- No. 245—"More About Jesus"
- No. 251—"He Lives"

Suggested Songs from *He Is Our Song*

- No. 155—"Rejoice in the Lord Always"
- No. 128—"I've Got a River of Life"
- No. 130—"Pass It On"
- No. 140—"We Are His"



Words to Be Like Jesus!”

When I grow up I can be anything;
 President or royalty, doctor, lawyer, scientist.
 Are some of the suggestions on my list!
 Out of all the possibilities
 There is one that really appeals to me.
 I want to be, I want to be like Jesus!
 I want to be like Jesus, He is a faithful friend.
 I want to be like Jesus, His love will never end.
 Jesus knows what I need and He'll never, ever leave.
 I want to be, I want to be like Jesus!
 I want to be, I want to be like Jesus!



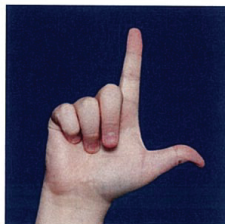
Go Fishin' Hook-Be Like Jesus

We are using American Sign Language to help the children learn and remember the point of Children's Sabbath. Have the children sign B-L-J while saying, "Be Like Jesus."

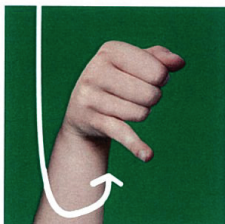
B (Be)



L (Like)



J (Jesus)



Welcome

Cast: Pastor

Thank you for joining us on this special Sabbath. On the first Sabbath of each October, our world church celebrates all the children who are in our care. We celebrate them by allowing them to present the worship hour to us. As your pastor, it's extremely important to me that you see our young people in action. It is important to me that they know they have a place. We need them for the growth of our church, for their many talents, and for their pure love and devotion to Jesus.

Sometimes we forget the impact our children can have on this world—and this church. No doubt, when the service is done today, we will all praise the Lord for our young people and their testimony of God's love and God's sure calling.

God bless you as we worship together

Opening Hymn

No. 539—"I Will Early Seek the Savior," *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

Opening Prayer

Cast: All Children

The children may opt to pray their own prayer—often their sweet prayers are moving and very touching. Here is an example if needed.

Boy or girl: Dear Jesus, Thank You for this beautiful Sabbath day. Thank you for coming to live on this earth and for giving us the chance to be like You. Please be with us now because we want to know You more, so we can be more like You. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.



Call to Worship

Invite as many children as possible to participate in this part of the program. Have them stand at the front with their Bibles or have them memorize their portion of the verses; alternate each line or verse having as many children read or recite as possible.

Select a group of children to read Philippians 2:5-11. This translation is taken from the *International Children's Bible*, a very accurate translation written at a 3rd grade reading level. Using this version of the Bible will be easy for the children to understand and very direct when read to the adults.

- Child: In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus.
- Child: Christ himself was like God in everything.
- Child: He was equal with God.
- Child: But he did not think that being equal with God was something to hold on to.
- Child: He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing.
- Child: He was born to be a man and became like a servant.
- Child: And when he was living as a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God.
- Child: He obeyed even when that caused his death—death on a cross.
- Child: So God raised Christ to the highest place.
- Child: God made the name of Christ greater than every other name.
- Child: God wants every knee to bow to Jesus—
- Child: everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.
- Child: Everyone will say, “Jesus Christ is Lord”
- Child: and bring glory to God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

[Children exit the platform.]

Special Music

Ask an adult to work with the children to prepare a special music song. We recommend “Be Like Jesus”—sheet music is included on pages 17-19. For the accompaniment track, purchase the Go Fishin’ Mission Adventure Camp CD online at www.adventsource.org or www.adventistbookcenter.com or at your local Adventist Book Center.



Be Like Jesus, Go Fish!

The theme and purpose of this program is to show how we can be like Jesus in our daily lives. In order to do that, we have to know who Jesus is. While a script is written, this program is open to the children choosing their own examples of seeing Jesus in others. Feel free to adapt this service to fit your church's worship style, needs, abilities, and the personalities of your children. Keep in mind that not all children will want to speak up front, and you may need to be creative to involve them in other ways.

Cast:

Pastor—dressed in modern fishing clothes. Ask your pastor to fill this role.

Child #1—dressed in regular Sabbath clothes.

Child #2—dressed in a Bible-time outfit.

Child #3—dressed in scrubs with a stethoscope around his or her neck.

Child #4—dressed in work clothes with a hard hat, gloves, and a tool belt.

Child #5—dressed as a teacher with glasses, textbooks, etc.

Pastor: It's not in your bulletins, but I'd like to have the kids come up for a short children's story. Can you all do that?

Have the pastor begin; meanwhile a child is trying to quietly get his or her attention.

Pastor: Ahoy there! My name is _____ and I'm the pastor here at the _____ church. I want to welcome you to our gathering this morning and share with you.....

Child #1: Psst!

Pastor: Oh! (*Pastor glances down at the child then bends down and whispers*) What is it? I'm trying to tell a story here.

Child #1: I just want to know why you are dressed like that.

Pastor: I don't usually come to church dressed like this, do I?

Child #1: Shakes his or her head.

Pastor: And it seems kind of funny for me to be up here with my fishing vest and hat on, doesn't it?

Child #1: Nods his or her head.

Pastor: Well, there is a very good reason I'm dressed like this. You see, Jesus is my very best Friend. I love Him more than anything in the world. This week I was



studying the book of Matthew and through the scriptures Jesus asked me to do something. He asked me to go fishing.

Now, I thought that was kind of strange—I don't even like fish! They are slimy, stinky, and some have prickles. You have to wrestle some fish to the ground before you can catch them!

I shared with Jesus how I felt about fish and you know what He told me? "Go fish!" So I bought all this gear and I've been wearing it ever since. Funny thing is, Jesus keeps telling me to go places where there are no fish—like here at church!

Child #1: Pastor, you are confused. But don't worry; I think we can help you.

Have all the children move off of the front steps and sit in the front rows. Have the pastor and child #1 sit in the front of the church (they both have access to a microphone).

Child #2: *(Walks up on the platform.)* My name is Simon and Jesus called me to fish. At the time, I was a little angry because I'd been fishing all night and hadn't caught even one fish. But Jesus told me to try one more time and you know what? We had more fish than we could pull up into the boat. I was amazed! And I wanted Jesus to fish with me in my boat from then on. But Jesus did a funny thing. He looked at me and said, "Simon, I don't want you to fish for fish—I want you to fish for men!"

I was imagining what it would look like to reel in a catch and have a curly-headed guy on the end of my hook. Or to pull up a net and find it filled with lots of people! It just didn't make any sense to me. But Jesus is my very best Friend and I decided to spend some time with Him learning more about this new catch of the day—I learned more about Jesus; I learned how to become a fisher of men. *(Moves to the side of the platform.)*

Child #1: This is probably what you were reading, Pastor. It's in Matthew 4:18-20.

"Jesus was walking by Lake Galilee. He saw two brothers, Simon (called Peter) and Simon's brother Andrew. The brothers were fishermen, and they were fishing in the lake with a net. Jesus said, 'Come follow me. I will make you fishermen for men.' At once Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed him."

Child #1: I think Jesus has called you to do the same thing. Let's learn more about this.



- Child #3: *(Walks up on the platform.)* I may be too young to do surgery or admit a patient to the hospital, but I'm not too young to be like Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus became like a servant. That means He did lots of things for others—He didn't worry that it wasn't His job. And when I'm older and a doctor, I want to be just like that. I want to take care of those who are poor and unable to take care of themselves. Jesus is teaching me how to be humble and see how to make others comfortable and happy first. Jesus is my very best Friend, and I want to be just like Him. *(Stands beside "Simon.")*
- Child #1: Philippians 2:7-8 says, "[Jesus] was born to be a man, he humbled himself and was fully obedient to God."
- Child #4: *(Walks up on the platform.)* Jesus and I have something in common. Do you know what that is? We both want to grow up and be like our fathers. My dad is the best construction worker in the world and I'm going to be just like him when I grow up. And you know what else? My dad knows Jesus—in fact, Jesus is his very best Friend. Every night we have worship and we learn more about the kind of person Jesus was when He lived here. He was respectful of others and He stood up for what was right. There is a story where He makes people leave the church building because they weren't keeping it holy. They were more worried about getting money from cheating than they were in being honest or respectful of God's house. I'm glad Jesus and I have something alike—I want to be just like my dad—I want Jesus to be MY best Friend too.
- Child #1: Now, brothers and sisters, we ask you to respect those people who work hard with you, who lead you in the Lord and teach you. Respect them with a very special love because of the work they do with you. I Thessalonians 5:12-13.
- Child #5: When I grow up, I want to be like Jesus so I'm going to be a teacher.
- Child #1: Did you know that God is your daddy just like He is Jesus' dad? In fact, Jesus said, "My true brothers and sisters and mother are those who do the things that my Father in heaven wants" (Matthew 12:50). So if you want to be like Jesus, you are a true child of God.

- Child #5: Wow! I'm a child of God and Jesus is my brother. I want to be just like Him. Jesus was a teacher and people would ask Jesus questions because they wanted to know what God was like. Some of them asked questions because they wanted to catch Him



saying something wrong. Jesus is still teaching people now. We read the Bible and see what He and His followers have to say and it teaches us how to live; how to be like Jesus.

Child #1: In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. Christ Himself was like God in everything (Philippians 2:5-6).

Pastor: Wow! This is a lot to think about. So Jesus isn't calling me to be a fisherman?

Child #1: Not a fisherman who fishes for fish.

Pastor: What He really wants is for me to be like Him.

Child #1: That's right.

Pastor: I know the Bible is full of stories and writings that talk about Jesus—how kind, loving, and compassionate He was. He was honest, respectful, loyal, and a true friend. He was led by the Holy Spirit and spent time talking with God through prayer. These are all things that He wants to do in me?

Child #1: Yes, Pastor. That's correct. And you know what? He wants to do these things in me too!

Child #3: It's true—I don't have to wait until I'm older to care for others.

Child #4: And I don't have to wait until I'm older to honor and respect others and stand for things that are right.

Child #5: And I can begin teaching others today about Jesus and His love.

Child #2: And none of you have to wait until you are older to be fishers of men. All you have to do is spend time getting to know who Jesus was and is. He will change your life. When that happens people will want to know more about Jesus because they will see Him in you.

Choose a few children to go up front one at a time and say "I want to be like Jesus" as they are walking up.

Children: *(separately)* I want to be like Jesus.

(While they are doing that, have all the other kids come up and when they are all standing up front have them say together)

All: We want to be like Jesus. Don't you?

Pastor: And a little child shall lead them.



Baptism [optional]

Closing

Child: Thank you for being with us on this wonderful Sabbath day. If you want to know more about Jesus, please come forward after the service. The pastoral staff is available to speak with you. Our closing hymn is number 311, “I Would Be Like Jesus”.

Closing Hymn No. 311—“I Would Be Like Jesus,” *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

Closing Prayer

Cast: boy or girl

Child: Heavenly Father, thank You for the blessings You give us. Thank You that through Your Spirit, we can be like You. We love you. Amen.



Be Like Jesus!

Sylvia Pittman
arr. Brian DiBlassio

When

The first system of music is in 4/4 time. It features a vocal line with a whole rest followed by a quarter note 'When'. The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has a series of chords and a melodic line with a slur and an accent (>) over the final note. The bass clef has a simple bass line.

5

I grow up I can be an - y - thing — Pres i dent or roy al ty —

The second system of music starts at measure 5. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'I grow up I can be an - y - thing — Pres i dent or roy al ty —'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a melodic line.

9

Doc tor law yer sci en tist — are some of the sug ges tions on my list! — Out of

The third system of music starts at measure 9. The vocal line continues with the lyrics 'Doc tor law yer sci en tist — are some of the sug ges tions on my list! — Out of'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a melodic line.

13

all the poss i bil i ties ___ there is one that real ly ap peals ___ to me ___

17

I want to be ___ I want to be ___ like Je sus! ___

21

I want to be ___ like Je ___ sus, ___ He is a faith ___ ful friend. ___

25

I want to be ___ like Je ___ sus, ___ His love will nev ___ er end. ___

29

Je sus knows what I need ___ and He'll nev er, ev er leave. ___

33

I want to be ___ I want to be ___ like Je sus ___

37

I want to be ___ I want to be ___ like Je sus! ___

slowly
mp

Red.

