

Faith Connections

HEROES

**For I can do everything through
Christ, who gives me strength.**
Philippians 4:13 (NLT)



Essential Question:

What can we learn from heroes that will enable us to be heroes for God?



Big Idea:

God uses heroes to reveal who He is.

1. CREATION

- God created human beings in His image
- While created in His image, each human being is also unique
- God's plan is that each of us reveal His character in ways that demonstrate the gifts He has given

2. FALL

- Humanity took on a sinful nature because of wrong choices
- God's image in human beings has been blurred because of sin
- Nature was affected as a result of sin
- Human beings find it difficult to see a God who is loving, involved, and forgiving

4. RE-CREATION

- In giving His Son, God was the ultimate hero in the salvation of His Creation
- With the second coming of Christ, our true Hero restores His perfect Creation

3. REDEMPTION

- God enables us to act according to His will
- God gives flawed humans the privilege of revealing His character through heroic acts, whether small or great



**There is no longer Jew or Gentile,
slave or free, male and female.
For you are all one in Christ Jesus.**
Galatians 3:28 (NLT)



Essential Question:

Why is it important for Christian witnesses to understand the people and cultures of the world?



Big Idea:

God calls Christians to share the Gospel with the whole world.

1. CREATION

- God created human beings to demonstrate to the universe that His law is fair and achievable
- Human beings would have opportunity to interact with Him, the angels, and beings on other worlds
- God intends that His people live in unity

2. FALL

- The law of love, in the hearts of human beings, was replaced with a spirit of selfishness and pride
- Due to this selfishness and pride, human beings have been in conflict with one another
- As a result, we have developed prejudices that interfere with meaningful relationships

4. RE-CREATION

- When God's gospel is shared throughout the world, we will once again live in harmony with God, one another, angels, and beings in unfallen worlds
- The spirit of pride and selfishness will be replaced with God's law of love

3. REDEMPTION

- When we are committed to Him, our relationships reflect His influence in our lives
- Our mission is to share our personal knowledge of God with the world
- God calls us to proclaim the Three Angels' message with mighty power
- Because of this mission, we must understand people and cultures different from our own



LIVING THINGS

**"Then God looked over all he
had made, and he saw that it
was very good!"**
Genesis 1:31 (NLT)



Unit Essential Question:

How do living things reflect the character of our Creator?



Unit Big Idea:

Living things reflect the wonder of God's creativity.

1. CREATION

- In the beginning, God created all living things
- God's Creation was perfect
- Nature is God's second book, teaching lessons about Him
- God intends that human beings delight in His created works

2. FALL

- As a consequence of sin, living things engage in a struggle for survival
- Original creations have diminished in number, size, form, and beauty
- Extinction and death show the effects of sin



4. RE-CREATION

- The Creator has promised a new heaven and a new earth
- All created things will live in harmony
- Sin, suffering, and death will be no more

3. REDEMPTION

- God's Creation continues to inspire us
- God's creativity in the natural world awakens the human expression of beauty
- The book of nature continues to reveal lessons about God

WALKING WITH GOD

“... O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”
Micah 6:8 (NLT)



Essential Question:

How can understanding the spiritual journey of Christians influence my own walk with God?



Big Idea:

God's love for us is revealed by His presence throughout our Christian journey.

1. CREATION

- God values intimate relationships with His created beings
- God wants to walk and talk with His family on a daily basis
- God intends that this relationship bear witness to the universe that He is loving, fair, and worthy to be praised
- The Sabbath is a memorial to Creation and provides a special time to rest and be with Him

2. FALL

- Satan's deception led to a breach in the relationship between God and His family
- When we choose to believe lies about God's character we experience separation from Him
- Separation results in being unable to clearly understand Him and His will
- Satan uses worldly values to distract humankind
- Self-reliance replaces reliance upon God

4. RE-CREATION

- God will end sin so that we once again see Him clearly
- As we walk with God He will wipe away the tears that have blurred His image
- Redemption brings a depth to our relationship with God that unfallen beings and angels cannot comprehend

3. REDEMPTION

- Prayer opens our hearts to God as to a friend
- God's law is a revelation of His character
- Bible stories reveal a God who still speaks with His family
- Scripture outlines the plan of salvation
- Nature demonstrates the tender care of a heavenly Father
- God communicates specific messages to His people through prophecy



FRIENDS AND FAMILY

“So now I am giving a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.”
John 13:34 (NLT)



Essential Question:

In what ways do our actions influence the well-being of others?



Big Idea:

Jesus is our example as we learn to love and serve others.

1. CREATION

- God is our Father and we are His sons and daughters
- He intends that lives be enriched through relationships with family and friends
- He wants us to live in harmony

2. FALL

- The family structure has been eroded
- Relationships are broken due to selfishness, distrust, offense, and misunderstanding
- People are insensitive to the suffering of others

4. RE-CREATION

- God's character will be perfectly reproduced in His children
- Families will be reunited
- Relationships will be restored
- God Himself will dwell with His redeemed family

3. REDEMPTION

- God invites us to minister with Him in meeting the needs of others
- The Holy Spirit transforms hearts, helping us respond to others in a Christ-like manner



ENVIRONMENT

“The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.”
Genesis 2:15 (NLT)



Essential Question:

What role do we play in preserving God's creation?



Big Idea:

God has given us the responsibility of caring for His creation.

1. CREATION

- God created the heavens and the earth to declare His glory and handiwork
- Everything God created was perfect and good
- God gave us the responsibility of tending His creation

2. FALL

- God sent the Flood when worship of His creation replaced worship of its Creator
- The Flood altered the earth and its resources
- Human beings have misused and neglected His creation
- Earth's resources are being depleted

4. RE-CREATION

- All of creation will once again reflect God's glory
- The earth will be made new, never to be destroyed again
- Earth's resources will sustain the redeemed throughout eternity

3. REDEMPTION

- Human beings continue to be awed by the beauty and splendor of God's Creation
- God enjoins us to exercise stewardship over the resources, opportunities, and advantages He has given
- God grants us wisdom in caring for His world



PERSONAL FEELINGS AND GROWTH

"... We ask God to give you complete knowledge of His will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better."
Colossians 1:9-10 (NLT)



Unit Essential Question:

How do our life experiences help us grow closer to God?



Unit Big Idea:

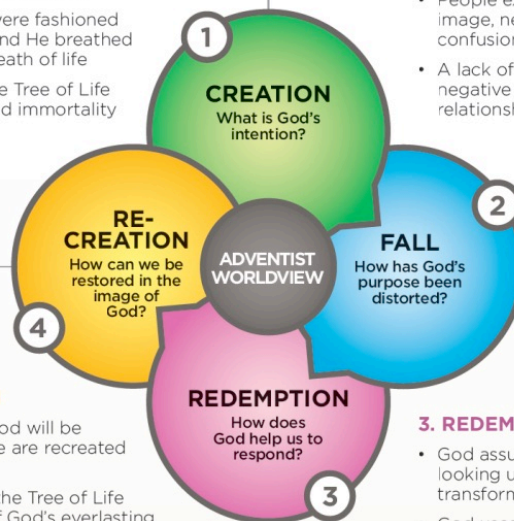
God expresses His love by helping us grow through life's experiences.

1. CREATION

- God created a perfect world where His children would grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and physically
- Adam and Eve were fashioned in God's image and He breathed into them the breath of life
- The fruit from the Tree of Life ensured vigor and immortality

2. FALL

- Wickedness has stunted our spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical growth
- People experience poor self-image, negative feelings, and confusion
- A lack of self-control has a negative effect on us and our relationship with God and others



4. RE-CREATION

- The likeness of God will be restored when we are recreated in His image
- The leaves from the Tree of Life give assurance of God's everlasting favor and presence
- Natural inclinations will again be Christ-centered
- God will wipe away all tears and the painful memories will be forgotten

3. REDEMPTION

- God assures us that by continually looking upon Him we will be transformed into His likeness
- God uses various methods to restore us to His original design
- Life experiences provide opportunities for us to grow spiritually, mentally, physically, and emotionally

YESTERDAY

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8 (NLT)



Unit Essential Question:

How does understanding the past build our trust in God?



Unit Big Idea:

Yesterday reminds us that God is in control and gives us hope for tomorrow.

1. CREATION

- God intended that daily experiences with Him would bring new insight
- Each day would build on itself; our trust in Him would grow as we interacted with Him

2. FALL

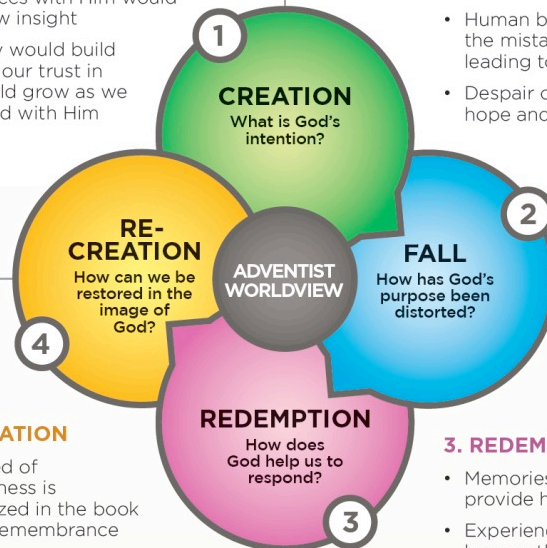
- Satan tempts us to forget how God has led in the past
- Human beings often repeat the mistakes of the past, leading to unrest and chaos
- Despair causes people to lose hope and fear the future

4. RE-CREATION

- Every deed of righteousness is immortalized in the book of God's remembrance
- The final judgment will vindicate God's character and glorify His Law
- Jesus will retain the marks in His hands, which tell the story of redemption and the price by which it was purchased

3. REDEMPTION

- Memories of God's leading provide hope for the future
- Experiences of others offer lessons that enable us to succeed in our mission
- Biblical stories give examples of how God wants us to live godly lives while living in a sinful world



SOCIAL ISSUES AND CULTURE

**"Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help ... Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon."
Isaiah 58:6, 7, 10 (NLT)**



Unit Essential Question:

In what ways does God call us to respond to the needs of others?



Unit Big Idea:

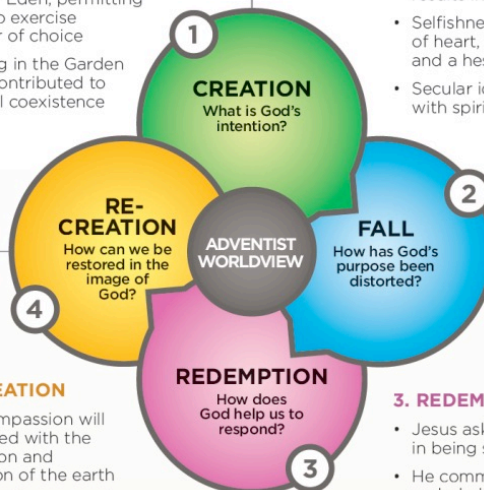
God is worshipped when we react compassionately to the turmoil in our world.

1. CREATION

- God placed the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the midst of the Garden of Eden, permitting humans to exercise the power of choice
- Everything in the Garden of Eden contributed to a peaceful coexistence

2. FALL

- Sin creates schisms between people and cultures
- The quest for supremacy results in conflict and turmoil
- Selfishness has led to coldness of heart, lack of compassion, and a hesitation to get involved
- Secular ideologies clash with spiritual values



4. RE-CREATION

- God's compassion will be revealed with the destruction and re-creation of the earth
- Humans will once again experience a peaceful coexistence with each other and with God

3. REDEMPTION

- Jesus asks us to emulate Him in being servant leaders
- He commissions us to advocate on behalf of those in crisis
- God's character shines forth when we sacrifice our time, resources, and talents to assist those in need