

# The 28 Doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church Concepts for Children\*

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\* The complete text of each doctrinal statement as found in *Seventh-day Adventists Believe... A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Doctrines (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*) Ministerial Association, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, USA), 2005, is also included.

## **Suggestions for Using These Concepts**

Each doctrine is broken down into a number of ideas children can understand. The suggested youngest ages when children might understand each idea are noted by an X in adjacent columns. Naturally, older children can understand all the ideas for younger children.

When children understand all the ideas related to one doctrine, they will have a relatively complete mental understanding of what the doctrine means—certainly the most important aspects of the doctrine. Naturally, some technical aspects of certain doctrines are beyond the understanding of most children and must await more mature thinking. A complete “big picture” understanding of a doctrine will not emerge until children begin to think abstractly.

In your teaching, look for ways to help children understand the beliefs of their church by teaching step by step, from simple to more complex ideas. Begin teaching the ideas suggested for the ages of the children in your class. Since children mature mentally on individual timetables, some are advanced in their thinking while others will need simpler explanations. The Holy Spirit wants to enlighten the minds of children so they can understand God’s Word. Pray for the Spirit to be present when you teach.

Focus on how each doctrine amplifies our understanding of God’s grace which offers each child salvation through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. We can only be true disciples through accepting (believing) the beautiful, perfect life Jesus wants to give us in place of our sinful life. In the end God will see only Jesus’ perfect life, not our “bad” one.

## THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

### 1 - The Word of God

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
The Bible is the written Word of God.		x						
It is divided into two sections: Old and New Testaments.					x			
The Old Testament was written before Jesus was born on earth.					x			
The New Testament was written after Jesus lived on earth.					x			
The Holy Spirit gave thoughts from God to holy (good) men and women so they could speak and write what God wanted them to say. What they wrote became the Bible.					x			
The Bible tells us everything we need to know to be saved.				x	x			
What God says in the Bible is true and right.			x					
The Bible tells us how God wants us to live.			x					
The Bible tells us what is right and wrong.		x						
The Bible tells us what kind of character God wants us to have.					x	x		
Through the Bible God helps us understand the things that happen in our lives.						x		
In the Bible God tells us what to believe.						x		
The Bible gives us a set of beliefs to guide our lives. We call these beliefs doctrines. Our doctrines are developed from what God says in His Word.						x	x	x
The Bible tells us what God has done since the beginning of the world.					x			
We can believe what the Bible says about God.					x			

## 2 - The Godhead

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
There is only one true God.		x						
The one God is a God with three names: God the Father, God the Son Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.			x					
They do everything together.			x					
God has been forever. God did not have a beginning.				x				
God knows everything.			x					
God is very powerful.			x					
God tells us about Himself in different ways.					x			
We cannot understand everything about God.					x			
We worship God.				x				
We serve God.					x			
We respect and honor God.						x		
We can talk to God: this is called prayer.		x						
Jesus showed us what God is really like by the way He lived on earth.								

“The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration through holy men of God who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. In this Word, God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God’s acts in history.” Fundamental Beliefs, 1 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 11)

“There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation.” Fundamental Beliefs, 2 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 23)

### 3 - God the Father

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
God the Father has always been and will always be--He is eternal.				x				
God is the Creator of everything.	x	x						
God provides the power that gives life to everything in the world (universe).					x			
God is fair and good (holy).				x				
God is forgiving.			x					
God does not get angry easily.			x					
God is full of love.	x	x						
God is loyal and faithful.						x		
God will never forget or abandon us.			x					
When Jesus lived on earth He showed us what God is like.			x					

“God the Eternal Father is the Creator, Source, Sustainer, and Sovereign of all creation. He is just and holy, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. The qualities and powers exhibited in the Son and the Holy Spirit are also revelations of the Father.”  
 Fundamental Beliefs, 3 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 35)

“God the Eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly man, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God’s power and was attested as God’s promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final delivance of His people and the restoration of all things.” Fundamental Belief, 4 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 43)

#### 4 - God the Son

CONCEPT	AGE							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
God the Son became the man Jesus who lived on earth.			x					
Jesus made the world.		x						
Jesus came to our world to show us what God is like.			x					
Jesus came to save us from sin.			x					
Jesus will judge everyone in the world.				x				
Jesus is God and He is also a human being.					x			
Jesus was born as a baby. His mother was Mary (virgin). Jesus had no father on this earth. His Father was God in heaven. Joseph was His father (like a stepfather).		x	x	x	x			
Jesus lived on earth. He grew up from a baby to a man.			x					
He was tempted by Satan to do wrong things like we are, but He never did anything wrong. He was perfect.				x				
Jesus lived on earth to show us God's love.			x					
He did many miracles.				x				
He was the Messiah sent by God to save the world from sin.					x			
Jesus died on the cross so we would not have to die for our sins.				x				
Jesus wanted (offered) to die for us because He loves us.			x	x				
Jesus rose from the dead.			x					
He went back to heaven. He lives there now.			x					
Jesus has a work to do in heaven. He is working for us to live with Him in heaven.					x			
He will deliver His people from this sinful world.						x		
He will make everything sinless and perfect again.					x			

### 5 - God The Holy Spirit

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
God the Holy Spirit worked with God the Father and God the Son to create everything.			x					
The Holy Spirit also worked with Them to bring Jesus to earth as a Baby and to save people from their sins.					x			
The Holy Spirit gave thoughts to the writers of the Bible.				x				
The Holy Spirit gave Jesus power to heal and to forgive sins when He lived here on earth.					x			
The Holy Spirit helps people want to do the right (be good) and shows them when they are doing wrong. He helps us be like Jesus.				x				
The Holy Spirit is always with us.				x				
He gives us special gifts (abilities) so we can tell others about Jesus.					x			
He shows us what is true.				x				

“God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ’s life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to be a witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth.” Fundamental Beliefs, 5 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 69)

**THE DOCTRINE OF MAN**

**6 - Creation**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
a. God created everything. b. In the Bible He tells us about His creation.	x	x						
He made everything in six days--the heavens and the earth and all the living things.		x						
God rested on the seventh day after He created the world. He called the seventh day the Sabbath.		x						
The Sabbath helps us remember that God made the world.			x					
God made the first man and woman to be like himself.			x					
He put them in charge of the world and told them to take care of it.				x				
When God finished creating the world, He said it was very good.		x						

“God is Creator of all things, and has revealed in Scripture the authentic account of His creative activity. In six days the Lord made ‘the heaven and the earth’ and all living things upon the earth, and rested on the seventh day of that first week. Thus He established the Sabbath as a perpetual memorial of His completed creative work. The first man and woman were made in the image of God as the crowning work of Creation, given dominion over the world, and charged with responsibility to care for it. When the world was finished it was ‘very good,’ declaring the glory of God.” Fundamental Beliefs, 6 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 79)

## 7 - The Nature of Man

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
God made men and women like himself.			x					
He made each of us different. He made us so we can think and act.				x				
We depend on God for life and everything else.					x			
When Adam and Eve disobeyed God all living things began to die.			x					
We are not born perfect. Sometimes we would rather do bad things than good things.					x			
But Jesus and the Holy spirit want to help us be like God again.					x			
God wants us to love Him and each other and to take care of our world.	x	x						
God never forces people to love Him; He wants them to choose to love Him.			x					

“Man and woman were made in the image of God with individuality, the power and freedom to think and to do. Though created free beings, each is an indivisible unity of body, mind, and spirit, dependent upon God for life and breath and all else. When our first parents disobeyed God, they denied their dependence upon Him and fell from their high position under God. The image of God in them was marred and they became subject to death. Their descendants share this fallen nature and its consequences. They are born with weaknesses and tendencies to evil. But God in Christ reconciled the world to Himself and by His Spirit restores in penitent mortals the image of their Maker. Created for the glory of God, they are called to love Him and one another, and to care for their environment.” *Fundamental Beliefs, 7* (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 91)



**THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION**  
**8 - The Great Controversy**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
Jesus and Satan are fighting a war. Everyone is part of this war.				x				
When Satan was a created angel in heaven, he rebelled and wanted to make himself as important as Jesus. There was a war in heaven between Jesus and Satan. Satan lost the war and he had to leave heaven. Some of the other angels left heaven with Satan too.			x					
On earth Satan tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. This world became sinful. The world became so bad God had to destroy it with a flood.		x	x					
Satan says lies about God and His law. Satan wants to be the ruler of this world, instead of God.				x				
Because of sin and Satan, there is much evil in the world. God wants to bring His love to the world again. He wants the world to be perfect and loving again.					x			
Jesus will win the war with Satan someday.					x			
Jesus sends the Holy Spirit and the angels to guide, take care of (protect), and help us. He wants to save us from Satan.		x		x				
The angels and beings on other worlds are watching what is happening in our world.				x				
The greatest battle was fought on Calvary.						x	x	
Jesus won this battle and guarantees that He will win the great controversy.						x	x	

“All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God’s adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the worldwide flood. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation.”  
Fundamental Beliefs, 8 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 113)

**9 - The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
Sin (doing wrong) keeps people (us) from living forever with God.			x					
Sin is punished by dying. Everyone who sins must die forever.				x				
God loves people, even though they sin (do wrong).		x						
God sent His Son Jesus to earth to save people from their sins. He does not want us to be punished and die forever. He wants us to live with Him in heaven forever.				x	x			
Jesus lived a perfect life when He was on this earth. He did not sin.				x				
He died on a cross to take away our sins.			x	x				
He died so we would not have to die forever. He died in our place.					x			
He died so we could live with Him forever in heaven. This is a gift Jesus gives us. We cannot buy it. It is a free gift. Jesus wants to give this gift to everyone.					x			
Jesus loves us so much He would have died for just one person who had sinned.					x			
To get Jesus' gift of salvation, all we have to do is feel sorry for our sins (doing wrong), believe that Jesus died for us, and tell Him we want the gift.				x	x			
God helps us feel sorry for our sins and believe and trust in Jesus. The Bible and the Holy Spirit give us faith. This is a gift from God.					x			
When we accept the gift of salvation, we become part of God's family.					x			

“In Christ’s life of perfect obedience to God’s will, His suffering, death, and resurrection, God provided the only means of atonement for human sin, so that those who by faith accept this atonement may have eternal life, and the whole creation may better understand the infinite and holy love of the Creator. This perfect atonement vindicates the righteousness of God’s law and the graciousness of His character; for it both condemns our sin and provides for our forgiveness. The death of Christ is substitutionary and expiatory, reconciling and transforming. The resurrection of Christ proclaims God’s triumph over the forces of evil, and for those who accept the atonement assures their final victory over sin and death. It declares the Lordship of Jesus Christ, before whom every knee in heaven and on earth will bow.” Fundamental Beliefs, 9 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 121)

**10 - The Experience of Salvation**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
Because Jesus lived again we can be sure we will live forever.				x				
When we trust and believe in Jesus, we can be sure we are members of God's family and we will be saved. We will live in heaven with God forever.					x	x		
In the judgment, God sees Jesus' perfect life instead of our sinful life. He will save us if we believe and trust in Jesus. Then we are perfect in God's sight.					x	x		
God wants us to grow as His children. He wants us to be happy and choose to do the right thing always. He will help us grow because He wants us to choose His way. He wants us to be members of His family forever.			x					
When we trust and believe in Jesus, we can be sure we are members of God's family and we will be saved. We will live in heaven with God forever.					x	x		
Sin is doing what I want to do instead of what God wants me to do.			x					
Praying (talking with God) helps us feel closer to God. We can ask God for help. We can ask for forgiveness when we do wrong and feel guilty (feel bad inside). God always forgives us and takes away the guilt (bad feelings).		x	x	x	x	x		
When we become part of God's family, He changes us (we are born again). He gives us new thoughts. We want to choose to do good, we want to live like Jesus lived. We want to talk with God every day.					x			

“In infinite love and mercy God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might be made the righteousness of God. Led by the Holy Spirit we sense our need, acknowledge our sinfulness, repent of our transgressions, and exercise faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ, as Substitute and Example. This faith which receives salvation comes through the divine power of the Word and is the gift of God's grace. Through Christ we are justified, adopted as God's sons and daughters, and delivered from the lordship of sin. Through the Spirit we are born again and sanctified, the Spirit renews our minds, writes God's law of love in our hearts, and we are given the power to live a holy life. Abiding in Him we become partakers of the divine nature and have the assurance of salvation now and in the judgment.” Fundamental Beliefs, 10 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 133)

11 - Growing in Christ

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
When Jesus died on the cross, He won the victory in the war with Satan.				X				
Jesus has more power than Satan. Someday Satan will be destroyed.				X				
Because Jesus won the war with Satan, He can make me strong. I can say "No!" to Satan's temptations because Jesus is more powerful than Satan.				X				
Jesus loves me very much. He will give me joy and peace.			X					
The Holy Spirit lives in me and will always help me.					X			
When I accept Jesus' love and do what He tells me, I don't need to feel terrible anymore about the bad things I have done. Jesus forgives all the bad things.			X					
I don't need to be afraid of Satan or anything the evil angels want to do. Jesus is more powerful than anything evil.				X				
Jesus wants me to grow up to be like Him. He wants me to have a character like His.					X			
Talking with Jesus (praying) every day helps me become more like Jesus.			X					
I can always ask Jesus and the Holy Spirit to help me. They love to help me.					X			
When I put Jesus' words, the Bible, into my mind, I am becoming more like Jesus. I can read or listen to Bible stories every day and memorize Bible verses. I can think about what Jesus is telling me in the Bible, and I can listen to the Holy Spirit talking to me.					X			
Jesus wants me to remember and think about all the wonderful things He has done for me and to tell Him, "Thank you!" He loves to hear me say it!			X					
Jesus loves to hear me singing praise songs to Him.		X						
I am becoming more like Jesus when I worship Him in church with others who love Him.			X					
I am becoming more like Jesus when I show my love for Him by helping other people, by doing kind deeds, and loving other boys and girls and grownups, even if they don't love me.			X					

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
Jesus wants me to tell everyone about His victory over Satan and how He can forgive sins and give everyone a new happy life.				X				
When Jesus and the Holy Spirit are with me, everything I do can be a spiritual experience. I will know that Jesus is walking with me all the time, every day.						X		
When I am close to Jesus, Satan cannot win the victory in my life. Jesus and the Holy Spirit protect me from Satan.						X		

“By His death on the cross Jesus triumphed over the forces of evil. He who subjugated the demonic spirits during His earthly ministry has broken their power and made certain their ultimate doom. Jesus’ victory gives us victory over the evil forces that still seek to control us, as we walk with Him in peace, joy, and assurance of His love. Now the Holy Spirit dwells within us and empowers us. Continually committed to Jesus as our Saviour and Lord, we are set free from the burden of our past deeds. No longer do we live in the darkness, fear of evil powers, ignorance, and meaninglessness of our former way of life. In this new freedom in Jesus, we are called to grow into the likeness of His character, communing with Him daily in prayer, feeding on His Word, meditating on it and on His providence, singing His praises, gathering together for worship, and participating in the mission of the church. As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience. (Ps. 1:1,2; 23:4; 77:11,12; Col 1:13,14; 2:6, 14, 15; Luke 10:17-20; Eph 5:19,20; 6:12-18; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:17,18; Phil 3:7-14; 1 Thess. 5:16-18; Matt. 20:25-28; John 20:21; Gal 5:22-25; Rom 8:38,39; 1 John 4:4; Heb. 10:25).” Fundamental Beliefs, 11 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, pp. 149-150)

**THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH**

**12 - The Church**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
The church is God's family on earth.		x						
God loves His family very much.		x						
The members of the church are people who love God.			x					
In church we worship and learn about God and His Word.			x					
We celebrate the Lord's Supper which helps us remember how Jesus died for us.			x					
The people of the church show everyone God's love by helping them and telling them about Jesus who wants everyone to live with Him in heaven.				x				
Christ died to make His church ready for the Second Coming.					x			
God's church is made up of people in all places and all times.				x				

“The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, for service to all mankind, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word, and from the Scriptures which are the written Word. The church is God’s family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that he might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish.” Fundamental Beliefs, 12 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 163)

**13 - The Remnant and its Mission**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
God has a special church in the time before He comes again.					x			
This church will keep all God's commandments and have faith in Jesus.						x		
This church will worship God and tell everyone everywhere about God's judgment.						x		
This church will tell everyone everywhere that Jesus died on the cross to save them from their sins and that Jesus is coming back again soon.					x			
Everyone who believes in Jesus has a part in telling others about His coming.				x				

“The universal church is composed of all who truly believe in Christ, but in the last days, a time of widespread apostasy, a remnant has been called out to keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. This remnant announces the arrival of the judgment hour, proclaims salvation through Christ, and heralds the approach of His second advent. This proclamation is symbolized by the three angels of Revelation 14; it coincides with the work of judgment in heaven and results in a work of repentance and reform on earth. Every believer is called to have a personal part in this worldwide witness.”  
 Fundamental Beliefs, 13 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 181)

**14 - Unity in the Body of Christ**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
God loves everyone. He loves people of different colors, who speak different languages, and come from different parts of the world.	x							
God loves everyone the same.		x						
We should love everyone the same as God does.		x						
Everyone is important to God. No person is more or less important than another person.				x				
We all need to help each other in the church.			x	x				

“The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children.” Fundamental Beliefs, 14 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 201)



**16 - The Lord's Supper**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
The Lord's Supper was started by Jesus with His disciples.			x					
The Lord's Supper helps us remember that Jesus died for us.				x				
The bread reminds us of Jesus' body and the grape juice reminds us of Jesus' blood. They remind us that He died on the cross for our sins.					x			
The Lord's Supper is for people who believe and trust in Jesus to save them.					x			
We must get ready to take part in the Lord's Supper. We are ready when we feel sorry for our sins and confess them to Jesus and to anyone we have done wrong to.					x			
Washing the feet of other people means that we love them and we want to serve (help) them like (as) Jesus did.					x			

“The Lord's Supper is a participation in the emblems of the body and blood of Jesus as an expression of faith in Him, our Lord and Saviour. In this experience of Communion Christ is present to meet and strengthen His people. As we partake, we joyfully proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again. Preparation for the Supper includes self-examination, repentance, and confession. The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love. The Communion service is open to all believing Christians.” Fundamental Beliefs, 16 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 225)

**17 - Spiritual Gifts and Ministries**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
God [Holy Spirit] gives each person special abilities to use to help others.				x				
Even children have these special abilities.					x			
God wants all of us to use our special abilities.					x			
Our special abilities should be used to show Jesus' love to those who do not know Him.					x			

“God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts which each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, apostolic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God’s varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love.” Fundamental Beliefs, 17 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 237)

**18 - The Gift of Prophecy**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy.					x			
Ellen G. White had this gift. She was a prophetess.					x			
The books she wrote help us understand God and teach us how to live.					x			
Her books also tell us that the Bible is the most important guide for living.					x			

“One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White. As the Lord’s messenger, her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction. They also make clear that the Bible is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.” *Fundamental Beliefs*, 18 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 247)

**THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

**19 - The Law of God**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
The Ten Commandments tell us how God wants us to live. They tell us what is right and wrong.			x					
Jesus showed us how to obey (keep) the Ten Commandments when He lived here on earth.			x					
The Commandments show us God's love. Everyone should obey (keep) them.				x				
When we love God we want to obey (keep) the Commandments.				x				
The Commandments tell us how to show our love for God and for other people.					x			
Jesus and the Holy Spirit want to help us obey (keep) the Commandments.			x					
Obeying (keeping) the commandments protects us from trouble and makes us happy.								

“The great principles of God’s law are embodied in the Ten Commandments and exemplified in the life of Christ. They express God’s love, will, and purposes concerning human conduct and relationships and are binding upon all people in every age. These precepts are the basis of God’s covenant with His people and the standard in God’s judgment. Through the agency of the Holy Spirit they point out sin and awaken a sense of need for a Saviour. Salvation is all of grace and not of works, but its fruitage is obedience to the Commandments. This obedience develops Christian character and results in a sense of well-being. It is an evidence of our love for the Lord and our concern for our fellow men. The obedience of faith demonstrates the power of Christ to transform lives, and therefore strengthens Christian witness.” Fundamental Beliefs, 19 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 263)

20 - The Sabbath

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
After creating the world in six days, God rested on the seventh day. This was the first Sabbath.		x						
The Sabbath helps us remember that God made the World.			x					
It also reminds us that God will recreate the earth someday and make it perfect again.				x				
The fourth commandment in God's Law says the seventh-day is the Sabbath.			x					
The Sabbath is from sunset on Friday to sunset on Sabbath.		x						
We show that we love God by the things we do on the Sabbath.			x					
On the Sabbath we go to church, spend time with our family, tell others about God, and learn more about God.			x					
On the Sabbath we do special things that help us learn about God. We do not do our regular work on the Sabbath.			x					
The Sabbath is a happy day for everyone who believes in Jesus.			x					
The Sabbath is a sign that God loves us and we love Him.				x				
When Jesus came to earth, He kept the Sabbath and showed us how we should keep it.			x					

“The beneficent Creator, after the six days of Creation, rested on the seventh day and instituted the Sabbath for all people as a memorial of Creation. The fourth commandment of God’s unchangeable law required the observance of this seventh-day Sabbath as the day of rest, worship, and ministry in harmony with the teaching and practice of Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a day of delightful communion with God and one another. It is a symbol of our redemption in Christ, a sign of our sanctification, a token of our allegiance, and a foretaste of our eternal future in God’s kingdom. The Sabbath is God’s perpetual sign of His eternal covenant between Him and His people. Joyful observance of this holy time from evening to evening, sunset to sunset, is a celebration of God’s creative and redemptive acts.” Fundamental Beliefs, 20 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 281)

21 - Stewardship

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
Everything in the universe belongs to God.			x					
God gave us the earth. He wants us to take care of it.		x						
God has given us many things. He wants us to use them to help other people.				x				
God wants us to use our time and our money to help others.				x				
One-tenth of our money belongs to God. We call this the tithe. We give God the tithe.				x				
We also give offerings to God to help everyone in the world learn about Him.			x					
Giving to God helps us to be unselfish.			x	x				
We give offerings because we are thankful for what God has given us and done for us.		x	x	x				

“We are God’s stewards, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to Him for their proper use. We acknowledge God’s ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellowmen, and by returning tithes and giving offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church. Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. The steward rejoices in the blessings that come to others as a result of his faithfulness.” Fundamental Beliefs, 21 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 301)

22 - Christian Behavior

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
I want to live like Jesus did.		x						
Jesus wants me to be healthy and happy.		x						
I will eat foods that makes me healthy and strong.		x						
I will not eat the unclean foods the Bible tells me not to eat.				x				
I will exercise and sleep every day.			x					
I will not smoke or chew tobacco and will not drink alcohol.			x					
I will not use harmful drugs.				x				
I will choose only good entertainment, including TV programs, video games, music, and other activities.			x					
I will wear clothes that are neat, clean, and modest.					x			
I will wear clothes that look good on me, but do not attract attention to myself.						x		
I will do these things because I want to keep my mind pure, my body strong, and have a character like Jesus.					x			

“We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the principles of heaven For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things which will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness.” Fundamental Beliefs, 22 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 311)

23 - Marriage and the Family

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
Jesus made the first family in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were the first family.		x						
Families are the way God wants people to live together.		x						
God wants families to love and help each other as long as they live. God will help families do this.		x						
God wants grown-ups to marry people who also love God and are members of His church so they can be a family who loves God.					x			
It makes God sad when people divorce. He wants them to love each other always.			x					
God gave children parents to teach them how to love and obey God.	x	x						
God wants parents to love each other and their children as Jesus loves His church.					x			

“Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship. For the Christian, a marriage commitment is to God as well as to the spouse, and should be entered into only between partners who share a common faith. Mutual love, honor, respect, and responsibility are the fabric of this relationship, which is to reflect the love, sanctity, closeness, and permanence of the relationship between Christ and His church. Regarding divorce, Jesus taught that the person who divorces a spouse, except for fornication, and marries another, commits adultery. Although some family relationships may fall short of the ideal, marriage partners who fully commit themselves to each other in Christ may achieve loving unity through the guidance of the Spirit and the nurture of the church. God blesses the family and intends that its members shall assist each other toward complete maturity. Parents are to bring up their children to love and obey the Lord. By their example and their words they are to teach them that Christ is a loving disciplinarian, ever tender and caring, who wants them to become members of His body, the family of God. Increasing family closeness is one of the earmarks of the final gospel message.” Fundamental Beliefs, 23 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, pp. 329-330)



**THE DOCTRINE OF LAST THINGS**  
**24 - Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary**

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
God has a sanctuary in heaven.					x			
In this sanctuary Jesus is ministering (working) for us.					x			
Jesus is our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary because He died to save us. He is working now to save us.						x		
Jesus began His work in the heavenly sanctuary after he went back to heaven from earth.						x		
In 1844 Jesus began the last part of His ministry for us--the investigative judgment.						x		
The judgment shows who among the dead has accepted the free gift of salvation Jesus offers.					x			
The dead who have accepted Jesus' gift of salvation will be resurrected when he comes again--the first resurrection.				x				
The judgment also shows who among the living people has accepted the free gift of salvation Jesus offers and who have faith in Jesus, keep God's commandments and are ready to be taken to heaven to live forever.					x			
The judgment shows who was right in the war between Jesus and Satan. It shows that God is right to save those who believe in Jesus. They will live forever with God.					x			
When the judgment is done, there will be no more opportunity to accept salvation. Everyone will have decided whose side they are on--Jesus' or Satan's					X			
Assurance - If I love and obey Jesus I don't need to be afraid of the judgment.					x			
The Israelite sanctuary was for people to learn about the Sanctuary in heaven					x	x		

## 25 - The Second Coming of Christ

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
Jesus will come again. Everyone in the world will see Him in the heavens when He comes. He will come with all the angels.		x						
When Jesus comes, He will resurrect the people who believed and trusted in Him to save them.			x					
The resurrected people and the living people who believe and trust in Jesus to save them will be taken to heaven. They will live forever. The wicked people will die.			x					
We do not know when Jesus will come again.			x					
The Bible prophecies show that Jesus' coming is getting nearer.					x			
We must always be ready for Jesus to come.			x					
Knowing that Jesus will come again makes me happy.			x					

“The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Saviour’s coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ’s coming is imminent. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times.” Fundamental Beliefs, 25 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 371)

“There is a sanctuary in heaven, the true tabernacle which the Lord set up and not man. In it Christ ministers on our behalf, making available to believers the benefits of His atoning sacrifice offered once for all on the cross. He was inaugurated as our great High Priest and began His intercessory ministry at the time of His ascension. In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2300 days, He entered the second and last phase of His atoning ministry. It is a work of investigative judgment which is part of the ultimate disposition of all sin, typified by the cleansing of the ancient Hebrew sanctuary on the Day of Atonement. In that typical service the sanctuary was cleansed with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the heavenly things are purified with the perfect sacrifice of the blood of Jesus. The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent.” Fundamental Beliefs, 24 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, pp. 347-348)

26 - Death and Resurrection

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
Because of sin all living things must die, including people.				x				
God will give eternal life (live forever) to the people who accept salvation through Jesus.				x				
The dead people do not know anything. Their bodies do not work anymore. They cannot think or feel. They are in the grave until Jesus comes.			x					
When Jesus comes He will resurrect (give life to) the good (righteous) people. Everyone who believes in Jesus and trusts Him will come out of the grave to live again.			x	x				
The resurrected people, along with the living good (righteous) people will go to heaven with Jesus. They will live forever.			x	x				
The evil (unrighteous) people will be resurrected (brought back to life) a thousand years later.						x		

“The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, the resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later.” *Fundamental Beliefs, 26* (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 387)

27 - The Millennium and the End of Sin

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
The Millennium lasts for a thousand years after Jesus come and takes His people to heaven.						x		
The saved people will be living in heaven.						x		
They will be helping Jesus judge the wicked dead.						x		
There will be no people on earth--only Satan and his angels.						x		
The earth will be deserted and all messed up.						x		
At the end of the millennium (the thousand years), Jesus and the saints and the Holy City will come down from heaven to earth.						x		
The wicked dead will then be resurrected (brought to life again). With Satan and His angels they will surround the Holy City. They will try to destroy the City, but God will send fire to burn them up and clean up the mess on the earth.						x		
There will never be any more sin or sinners. Satan will be dead. No one will ever do anything bad again.						x		

“The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections. During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels. At its close Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth. The unrighteous dead will then be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever.”  
 Fundamental Beliefs, 27 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 403)

28 - The New Earth

CONCEPT	AGES							
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	8-9	10-11	12-13	14-15
God will make a new home for the saved people on the new earth.		x						
The saved people will live on the new earth forever.			x					
God will live on the new earth with His people.			x					
Everything will be perfect.			x					
Nothing will ever die or be hurt. Everyone will be happy all the time.			x					
There will be no more sin.			x					
The war between Jesus and Satan has ended.				x				
Everything and everyone will know that God is love.					x			
God will be the King forever.					x			

“On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love; and He shall reign forever. Amen.” Fundamental Beliefs, 28 (from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, p. 417)