

Ellen White,
Visionary
Second Quarter 2012
for Kids

Mission to Planet Earth

**“The Son of Man
came to seek and
to save the lost”
(Luke 19:10).**

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More Than a Warrior

BY JERRY THOMAS

Illustrated by Kyle T. Webster

Drawing from Ellen White's insights, author Jerry Thomas imagines what 12-year-old Jesus might have thought as He discovered His purpose.

I have always known that I was different. Oh, I like to play with My friends and My brothers. We run and laugh when we aren't helping our fathers work. But My mother says that I ask more questions than any six other kids combined.

She taught Me so much about God and how He has blessed our people. I learned about Adam and Eve and Abraham and Moses. "Even though the Romans rule us now," she said, "God has promised to send the Messiah, a mighty king, a warrior to defeat our enemies and make our people a great nation again."

Over and over she told me I was special. "You were a gift from God, Jesus. And He has a special plan for Your life."

When I was old enough to read, I had more questions. "Mother, the Scripture talks about a Messiah who suffers for His people, someone who takes their punishment. What does that mean?"

Mother just shook her head. "Jesus, I don't have any more answers to Your questions. You need to learn from the rabbi."

But the rabbi didn't like to answer My questions. "You're too young to know anything," he said. "Learn to repeat what you are told."

The year I turned 12, I was finally allowed to go to Jerusalem and visit the Temple for myself. "The teachers there will have answers for You," Mother said.

The long walk gave Me time to think about the questions I wanted to ask, such as "What is the purpose for My life?"

But when I stood in the Temple courtyard, I forgot My questions. All I could do was stare as the priest placed the lamb on the altar and raised his sharp knife. I knew then that the Messiah My people waited for was more than a warrior.

The priest threw incense onto the fire, and a cloud of smoke rose up to the sky. As it did, it seemed as if heaven opened up and a flood of light poured into My soul. This was God's plan for My life. My Father in heaven had sent Me to keep the promise that Someone would come to save His people—all of His children on

earth who choose Him. Gazing up toward the light, I could now see Myself as a man: teaching, healing, suffering, then . . .

I stumbled back against a wall and sat down on the cold rock floor. My mind was racing; it was almost too much to accept. I was beginning to understand why I was here on earth. *I am the true lamb that My Father in heaven has sent. I will become the Savior for His people.* Then I prayed, “If that *is* the purpose for My life, Father, then guide My footsteps.”

After a few moments I heard the voice of a rabbi teaching in a nearby room. My mind was bursting with a newfound desire to share My understanding of the Scriptures. So I went in to listen. And to ask questions.

That’s where My mother found Me two days later. “Jesus,” she cried, “why did You do this to us? Your father and I have been worried sick. We searched everywhere for You.”

“Why were you searching for Me?” I asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be doing My Father’s business?” When they seemed confused, I pointed up toward heaven. I could feel that light shining on Me again.

I don’t have all My answers yet, but My heavenly Father is guiding My feet. He has a mission for Me—and now I’m beginning to understand it.

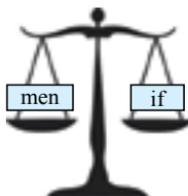
For 18 years after Jesus understood who He was, He lived at home in Nazareth. He was a good son, a good brother, and a friend to all. His ultimate mission stayed hidden in His heart until the time was right for it to begin.



Tipping the Scales

BY HELEN LEE ROBINSON

According to Ellen White, Jesus carried a weight after discovering His mission in life (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 92). What was this weight that Jesus chose to bear? To discover the answer, select the word in each pair that is “heavier”—that is, the word that contains more letters.



Answer on p. V10

While Jesus was visiting the Temple as a boy, He began to realize that His life was different. Ellen White says in *The Desire of Ages* that Jesus was discovering the “_____.” To figure out what this was, color in all the spaces containing only one dot. (Don’t be fooled by the spaces with two or three dots!)

BY HELEN LEE ROBINSON

Hidden Purpose





Answer on p. V10

You've Got Issues

Jesus discovered His purpose when He was 12. How do I discover my purpose in life?

Great question! Let's consider how Jesus figured out His life purpose. Luke 2:52 says that "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (NKJV).^{*} In the wonderful chapter "As a Child" (see note at bottom of next page), Ellen White helps us understand how Jesus grew in wisdom. First, Jesus' mom talked to Him a lot about God. He learned Scripture songs and Scripture stories and lessons. Jesus learned that God's law gives us a glimpse into God's heart of love, and that obeying God's law brings happiness.

Jesus also spent time in God's outdoor library—nature. As Jesus studied plant and animal life, He began to understand that His purpose was to bless and help others. Jesus went out of His way to make everyone happy. He was sympathetic and helpful to old people and sad people as well as to His family and playmates. Even wildlife and domestic animals were happier in His presence!

Angels and the Holy Spirit impressed Him little by little with the reason for His existence. As He faithfully and cheerfully did chores around the house and worked with his stepdad in the family's carpenter shop, He learned that doing work with excellence was part of His purpose.

Every young person may gain knowledge as Jesus did. As you try to get to know God through His Word, angels will come close to you and strengthen your mind to understand what you are reading. As you think about God and pray to Him, you will become more like Jesus. Being careful and diligent about doing your chores and homework will also help you understand your purpose in life.

Sometimes your family, church, Pathfinder club, or school may organize activities to help others, such as soup kitchens or mission trips. Say yes to these adventures whenever you can. Every time you participate in activities to help others, you are learning more about your life purpose.

It's quite possible that all these things will help you understand that what is most important in life is knowing God and becoming like Him, and helping others do the same. That's our ultimate purpose in God's eyes.

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For more on this important subject, you can read the entire chapter titled “As a Child” in *The Desire of Ages* or in *Messiah*, Jerry Thomas’ easier-English adaptation of *The Desire of Ages*. In the White Estate adaptation of *The Desire of Ages*, titled *Humble Hero*, the chapter is “The Child Jesus.”



Ask Cindy

Q. *Is Jesus God?*

A. *The short answer is yes, Yes, and YES!*

Let's look in the Scriptures to see how we come to that conclusion. Why don't you get your Bible and underline the texts in this study? Then you can find them quickly if someone asks *you* this question!

First of all, Jesus Himself said He is God. In **John 8:58** Jesus calls Himself "I am." This was the most sacred name for God in the Hebrew language. So Jesus is either God, as He claimed to be, or He was an imposter, a wannabe. It doesn't make sense to say He was not divine but was just a good man or a prophet, because good men do not lie!

Now let's look in the Old Testament at **Isaiah 9:6, 7**. Here we find that Jesus, who is God the Son, is given the very same titles as God the Father.

Luke 5:20-24 tells us that Jesus had the power to forgive sin, a power possessed only by God.

In **John 20:28-30** Jesus accepted worship from Thomas. Worship of created beings is forbidden, according to **Revelation 19:10** and **Matthew 4:9, 10**.

Jesus existed from eternity (**John 1:1-3**). He was never created—so He is worthy of worship as our God.

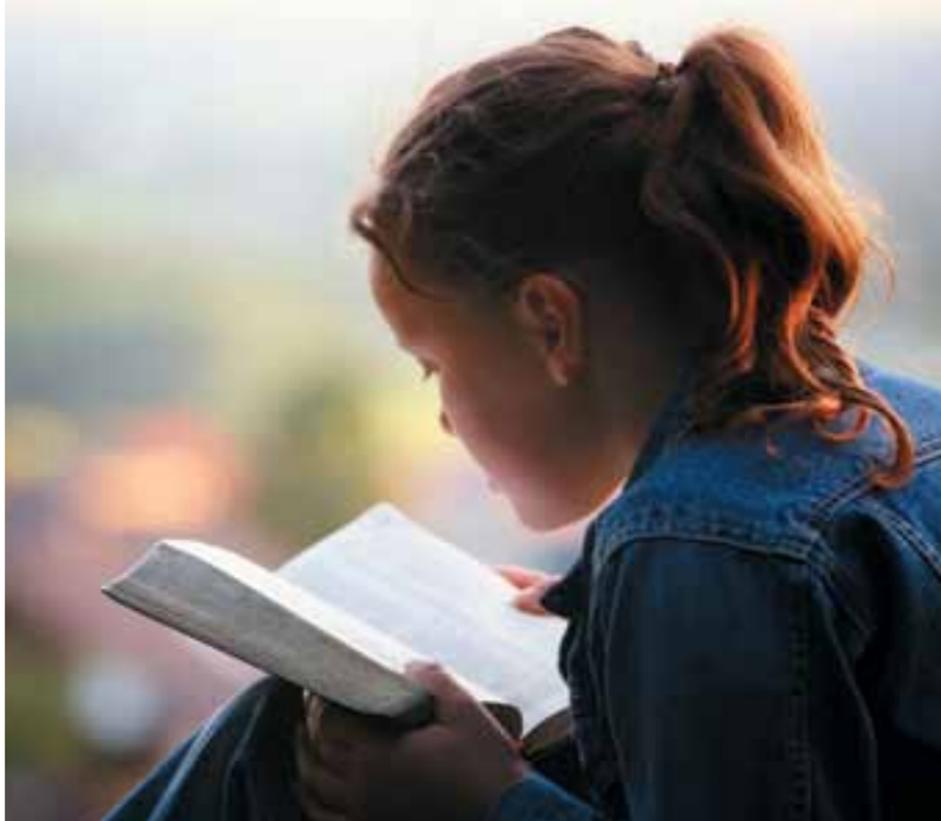
In **Hebrews 1:8** the Father calls the Son "God."

Colossians 2:6, 9 states that the fullness of the Godhead is in Jesus. (The Godhead represents one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three Persons who have existed together for all eternity.)

According to **Colossians 1:16, 17**, God the Son (Jesus) was the active agent in creating our world.

In **John 5:18** Jesus described Himself as equal with God the Father. The Jews understood this and wanted to kill Him for blasphemy. We, too, must choose to accept Jesus' own claims to be God, as well as the statements of the Father that Jesus is God, or cast Him aside as an imposter.

Answers: *Tipping the Scales*, p. V5: "Weight of responsibility for the salvation of men" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 92). *Hidden Purpose*, p. V6, V7: "mystery of His mission" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 78).



As for me, I worship Jesus as my God, my Creator, and my Best Friend! I hope you will, too.

This Bible study is adapted from *41 Bible Studies for Teens*, by Cindy Tutsch. You can get the whole set from www.adventsource.org.

Cindy

What Do You Want to Know?

Ask youth pastor Cindy Tutsch any question about Ellen White, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or the Bible—especially questions on next quarter’s *Visionary* topic: “Ellen White’s Spiritual Journey.” Just send your e-mail to cindytutsch@hotmail.com. All of your questions will be answered—and we might even put some of them in a future issue of *Visionary*!



About Ellen White

Ellen White was born in 1827 near Portland, Maine, U.S.A. Seventh-day Adventists believe that God called her to be a prophet and gave her messages through dreams and visions, as foretold in such Bible passages as Joel 2:28, 29 and Ephesians 4:11-13.

Ellen White's writings bring messages of hope that express the love of Jesus for every person. She proclaimed that the Ten Commandments are based on God's great love and that God will help His children keep His commandments as a response to that love. Ellen White dedicated her entire life to serving others.

The editors of *Visionary* invite you to read Ellen White's writings for yourself to discover, enjoy, and build a stronger friendship with Jesus.

For more fun stories and puzzles, visit our online edition of *Visionary* at www.whiteestate.org/vez.

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