

RETOOL YOUR SCHOOL!

Part 1

WHAT DO SABBATH SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES HAVE IN COMMON?

**SABBATH
MORNINGS!**

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graph TD; A[SABBATH MORNINGS!] --- B[SABBATH SCHOOL]; A --- C[CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES]
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**SABBATH
SCHOOL**

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

THIS WEEK:

1. THE DRAWING POWER OF SABBATH SCHOOL
2. THE WHY'S OF SABBATH SCHOOL
3. THE MAIN AIM OF SABBATH SCHOOL
4. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY I
5. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY II

**THE DRAWING POWER OF
SABBATH SCHOOL!**

HAVE YOU HEARD OF POKEMON GO?



...IT CAUSED A STAMPEDE IN CENTRAL PARK!



What percentage
of members are
drawn to come to
Sabbath School?



Recent findings show that Sabbath School attendance has dropped from **80%** of church membership to **40%** of church membership in the past 30 years.

Although the condition of every church may differ, it is a real challenge to bring attendance as high as church membership.

BUT THIS IS SOMEWHAT OF TREND...

Seventh-day Adventist Millennials

Up or Out?

Barna Group

Examine. Illuminate. Transform.

NAD Conference | Nov 2013

So why do
people not
come to
Sabbath
School?



So why do
people not
come to
Shabbat
School?



WHAT WILL DRAW
PEOPLE TO
SABBATH
SCHOOL?



“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all [men] unto me.” John 12:32



SO WHAT WAS HIS METHOD?



THE POWER OF THE QUESTION...

KEEPING IN MIND WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF INTENTIONALITY...



**FIRST WE MUST UNDERSTAND
SABBATH SCHOOL'S ORIGINS!**

**TRIVIA:
WHEN WAS THE
FIRST SABBATH
SCHOOL CLASS
HELD?**



THE
YOUTH'S INSTRUCTOR,

CONTAINING

SABBATH-SCHOOL LESSONS

AND OTHER CHOICE, ORIGINAL MATTER; ALSO, CAREFUL SELECTIONS
FROM RELIGIOUS BOOKS AND PAPERS, ADAPTED TO
THE WANTS OF THE YOUTH.

VOLUMES I & II.

PUBLISHED AT THE ADVENT REVIEW OFFICE,
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

1852.

5109

Our Sabbath School

- 1852 - James White, a former teacher, publishes the *Youth Instructor*.
- 1853 – The first Sabbath School class is held in Rochester, New York.

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THE EDEN SABBATH SCHOOL...



THERE WAS ANOTHER SCHOOL...

- “Heaven is a school; its field of study, the universe; its teacher, the Infinite One. A branch of this school was established in Eden; and, the plan of redemption accomplished, education will again be taken up in the Eden school...” {AH 547.4}

THE EDEN SABBATH SCHOOL...

- “Everything lovely and attractive was theirs to enjoy, and everything seemed wisely adapted to their wants; and that which they prized above all other blessings, was the society of the Son of God and the heavenly angels, for they had much to relate to them at every visit, of their new discoveries of the beauties of nature in their lovely Eden home, and they had many questions to ask relative to many things which they could but indistinctly comprehend.” {SR 29.2}

"NOW THE SERPENT WAS MORE SUBTIL THAN ANY BEAST
OF THE FIELD WHICH THE LORD GOD HAD MADE."

GENESIS 3:1



CAN WE HEAR THE SUBTLETY?



SSSSSSS... Gets the attention!

SCRIPTURES

SABBATH

SECOND COMING

STATE OF THE DEAD

SPIRIT OF PROPHECY

SALVATION

SANCTUARY

WHICH DID SATAN DO TO EVE?

- PREACH A SERMON TO HER?
- SING A SONG TO HER?
- STICK HER UP?
- ENGAGE HER IN CONVERSATION?

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“Triangle of learning”

A child remembers:

10% of what he reads

20% of what he hears

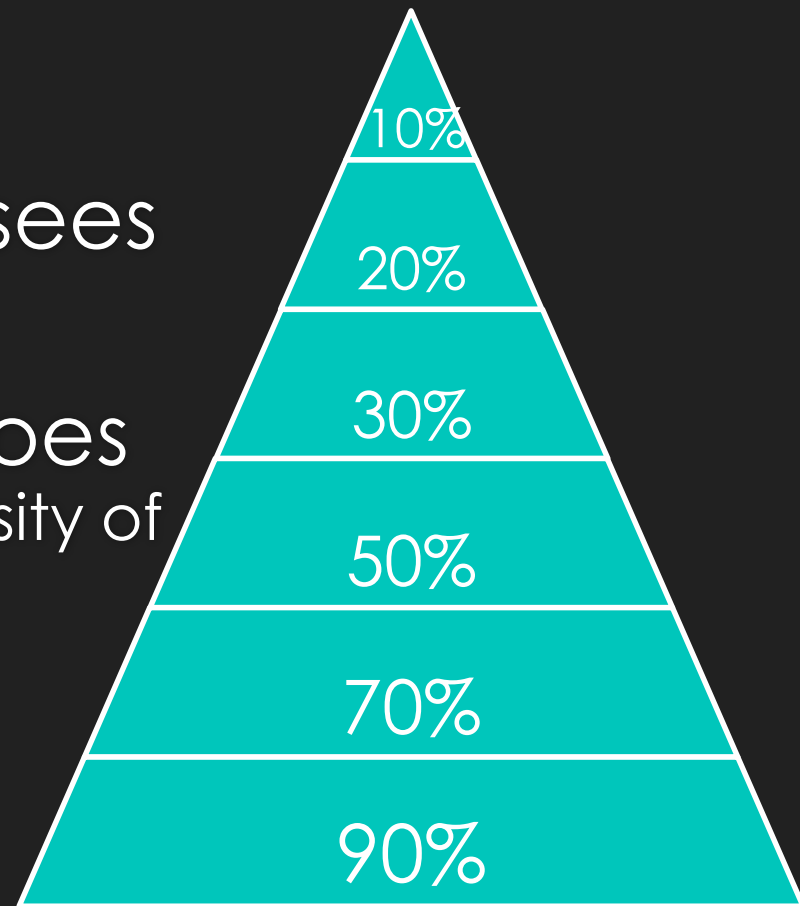
30% of what he sees

50% of what he hears & sees

70% of what he says

90% of what he says & does

Based on research by the University of
Texas



**BUT CONVERSATION
SEEMS SIMPLICITIC?**

SIMPLICITY!

"Your success is in your simplicity. As soon as you depart from this, and fashion your testimony to meet the minds of any, your power is gone. Almost everything in this age is glossed and unreal."

The Angel – Life Sketches pg. 202

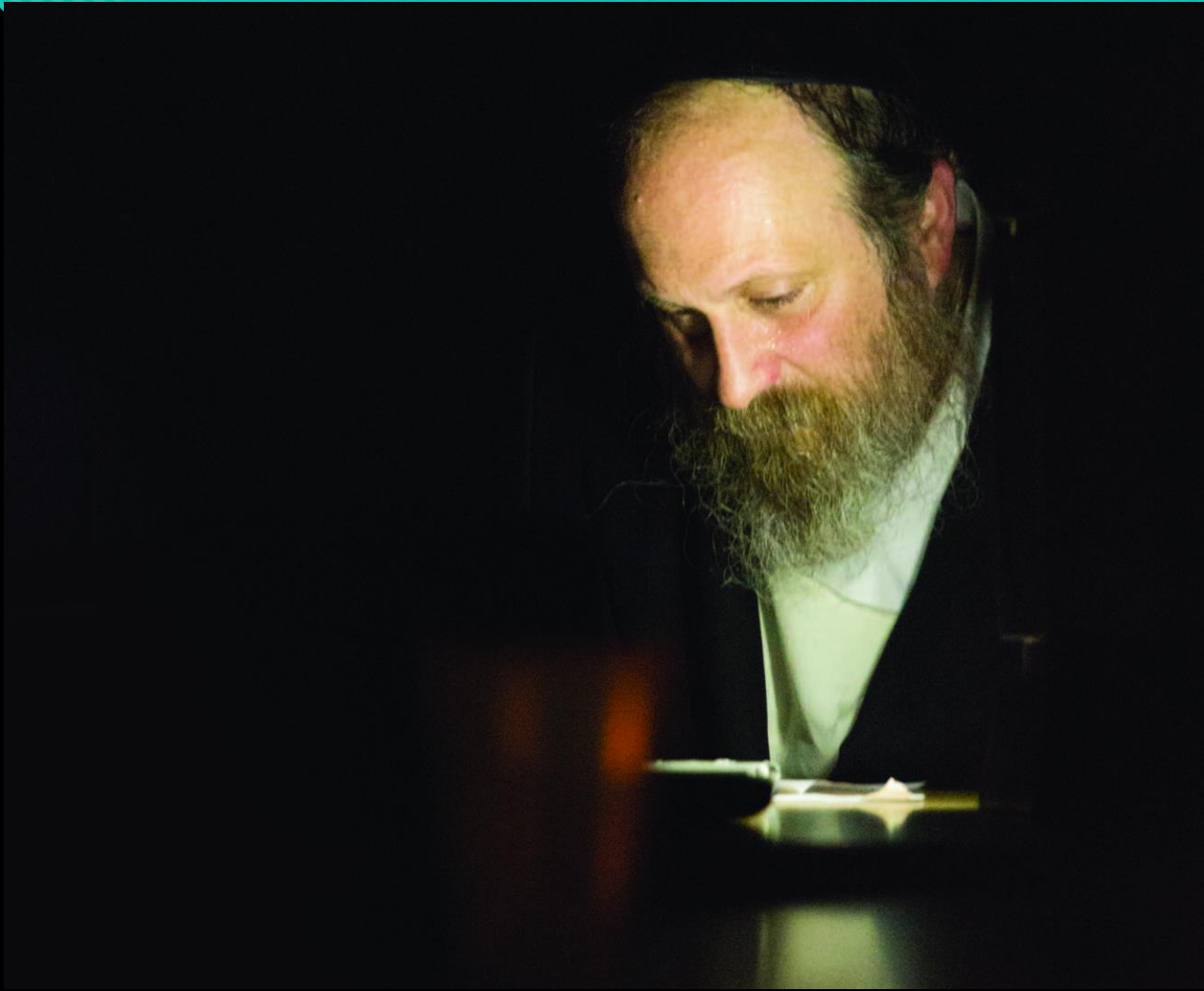
APPLE REALIZES THE POWER OF EASE AND SIMPLICITY...



**LIFE IS COMPLEX, BUT
SABBATH'S AREN'T
SUPPOSED TO BE...**

**So how do we make Sabbath
School easier and more
broadly accessible?**

THE RABBI'S OF JESUS TIME USED QUESTIONS!



HOW DID JESUS ENGAGE HIS AUDIENCES – WAS HE MORE OF A TEACHER OR A PREACHER?



HOW DID JESUS TEACH? AND WHAT DOES IT SOUND LIKE??

- Elder White: "I have heard you say, Mother, that we should have more teaching and less preaching; less preaching and more teaching. Speaking of the matter of getting the people together and having Bible readings." {VSS 234.1}
- Ellen White: "That was the way in Christ's day. He would speak to the people, and they would call out a question as to what that meant. He was a teacher of the people." {VSS 234.2}

HOW DID JESUS TEACH? AND WHAT DOES IT SOUND LIKE??

- Elder White: "Then at one time I remember very distinctly about your saying that, `as we approach nearer the end I have seen our camp meetings with less preaching and more Bible study; little groups all over the ground with their Bibles in their hands, and different ones leading out in a free, conversational study of the Scriptures." {VSS 235.1}

What do these attributes together sound like?

- A group of people.
- One person facilitating in front.
- On Biblical subjects.
- With freedom to ask questions.

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SABBATH SCHOOL!

JESUS WAS THE GREATEST TEACHER EVER!



MORE TEACHING!!

- “There should be less preaching, and more teaching. There are those who want more definite light than they receive from hearing the sermons. Some need a longer time than do others to understand the points presented. If the truth presented could be made a little plainer, they would see it and take hold of it, and it would be like a nail fastened in a sure place.” {GW 407.3}

THOSE WHO DIDN'T ENGAGE DIDN'T EXPERIENCE GROWTH!

- LUKE 14:3 And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?
- 14:4 And they held their peace. And he took [him], and healed him, and let him go;
- 14:5 And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?
- 14:6 And they could not answer him again to these things.

WHICH HUMAN BIBLE CHARACTER SAW THE “MOST” OF GOD’S PHYSICAL BEING?

(Now the man Moses [was] very meek, above all the men which [were] upon the face of the earth.)

Exodus 12:3

**MOSES WAS IN AWE
AND HAD CURIOSITY
ABOUT GOD!**



Christopher Bergland

The Athlete's Way

The Power of Awe: A Sense of Wonder Promotes Loving-Kindness

Being in awe of something greater than oneself promotes prosocial behavior.

 Like 289

Posted May 20, 2015

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This post is in response to **Peak Experiences, Disillusionment, and the Joy of Simplicity** by Christopher Bergland



**WONDER HELPS
PROMOTE LOVE!**

OUR WEEK TOGETHER:

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QUESTIONS?