

Seventh-day Adventist FUN-da-MENTALS 11

GROWING WITH JESUS

IT'S OVER BEFORE IT STARTS

When Jesus died on the cross, He stopped the power of evil and death. Whoever believes in Jesus will have a very happy eternal life.

LOVING AND FIGHTING

Jesus won the war against the devil and his evil angels. But they are still around in this world. "Our fight is not against human beings. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. It is against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly world" (Ephesians 6:12, NlrV).



No worries, though. You have battles with sin, but "let the Lord make you strong. Depend on his mighty power" (Ephesians 5:10, NlrV). "The one who is in you [God's Spirit] is greater than the one who is in the world [the devil]" (1 John 4:4)

HOW JESUS LOVES

Jesus loves with the Golden Rule. He loves us the way He would like to be loved, by being unselfish and not setting conditions. He just loves!



"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid

down his life for us" (1 John 3:16).

So here are the commands God gave us:

- "To believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us" (1 John 3:23).
- "Always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else" (1 Thessalonians 5:15, NlrV).
- Everybody is different. Everybody is the same. "Put up with everyone" (1 Thessalonians 5:14, NlrV).

YOU GOTTA TALK

You grow in Jesus by talking to Him. "Never stop praying" (1 Thessalonians 5:17, NlrV).

And your friends, neighbors, and people you meet want to hear about Jesus. Talk to them when the Spirit moves you. He'll give you words to say. Don't worry about it.

DO I HAVE TO BE A BABY AGAIN?

Jesus said, "No one can see God's kingdom without being born again" (John 3:3, NlrV). Say what?

Remember the day you were born? Me neither. But we don't want to go through that again.

We believe and accept that Jesus died on the cross for people, and then we are free of sin. Our old selfish self died off, and we have been born again! Simple.

"Because of what the Son [Jesus] has done, we have been set free. Because of him, all of our sins have been forgiven" (Colossians 1:14, NlrV).



WORSHIP GOD

We worship God for many reasons. The big one: He is our loving, eternal God! There is no one else like Him.

Church is the best place for worshipping God. The apostle Paul said, "When you come together, every one of you brings something. You bring a hymn or a teaching or a word from God. . . . All of those things must be done to make the church strong" (1 Corinthians 14:26).

Worshipping God helps us love Him more. It keeps us looking at Him instead of all the distractions around us.



WHAT GROWS IS WHAT GOES

We learn God's ways from His guidebook, the Bible. "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18, NlrV).

Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the Lord.

He doesn't follow the advice of evil people.

He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do.

He doesn't join those who make fun of the Lord and his law.

Instead, he takes delight in the law of the Lord.

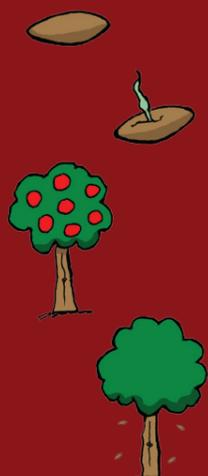
He thinks about his law day and night (Psalm 1:1, 2, NlrV).

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?



YOU MAKE FRUITS

- First you are like a seed. Jesus makes you come alive as a new, fresh, clean person.
- With His life and the Holy Spirit in your body and mind, you start to grow.
- Pretty soon, you do and think good things, which are like fruit on a tree. Sweet stuff!
- Your goodness plants more seeds. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22, 23, NlrV).



HERE'S HOPING

The best result of growing up with Jesus is that you always have hope. Your life is NEVER hopeless.

"God has saved us from deadly dangers. And he will continue to do it. We have put our hope in him" (2 Corinthians 1:10, NlrV).

Grow in Jesus, and never give up!



BONUS

God's angels are close by and watching over you! You can always say, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid. You are with me" (Psalm 23:4).