EDUCATING ON EDUCATION

The late 1800s and early 1900s were critical times in the development of the identity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ellen White began to emphasize the topic of righteousness by faith, especially in the book, *Desire of Ages*. Parallel to this critical period in Adventist theology was also the development of an Adventist philosophy of education. The first collection of Ellen White’s articles on Christian education was published in 1886, entitled “Selections From the Testimonies Concerning the Subject of Education.” That work was expanded in the 1890s. Her classic work on the topic, *Education*, came out in 1903, while *Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students* was issued in 1913. A collection of seventy-four Ellen White articles on education, arranged chronologically from 1872 to 1915, is reprinted in *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, published in 1923.

What does all of this mean? For us as Seventh-day Adventists, education is as much a part of our identity as our theology. Education is as important to Adventist theology as redemption, because “in the highest sense the work of education and the work of redemption are one, for in education, as in redemption, ‘other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ’ ” (*Education*, 30).

This week, the emphasis of our study will be on the unique elements of Adventist theology and philosophy of education by looking at a passage in Scripture that deals with calling and is specifically important to the Seventh-day Adventist Church itself.
Write out Revelation 14:6–12 from the translation of your choice. You may also re-write the passage in your own words, outline, or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

**Draw Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Revelation 14:6–12. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Why is the Adventist philosophy and theology of education so unique?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/edu06-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

In what ways are education and redemption linked?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/edu06-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Ecclesiastes 12:1–14
Genesis 7:1–24
Daniel 1:3–20

What other verses/promises come to mind in connecting education and redemption?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 14:6–12.
Where do you see Jesus in Revelation 14:6–12?

How are science and religion still pitted against each other today?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/edu06-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what personal applications are you convicted about education?

How does the Adventist philosophy of education change your perspective on church, school, and work?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/edu06-7
inQuire

Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

Explain briefly the Adventist philosophy of education.

How do today’s secular educational institutions reflect this philosophy?

How do today’s Adventist educational institutions reflect this philosophy?

How is real, true education so different from the education of today?

What areas of your life have you been inspired to be more “educated” in?

What does the Adventist philosophy of education contribute to world issues?

Does Adventism stress its distinctives too much? Why or why not?

How can Adventism’s contribution to education shine as much as its theology and its health message?

How are you and how are you not an educated Adventist?

Adventist Education