PATHFINDER DAY
General Conference Youth Ministries Department
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017
Pathfinders in my opinion is the most successful discipleship initiative we have in the Seventh-day Adventist Church! I cringe to think where we would be in regard to youth ministry without it! In fact, it has been so influential that many Adventist employees were Pathfinders at one time in their lives! Where else can a young person experience Christ-centered fun in the outdoors and ongoing encouragement in regard to spiritual and pragmatic growth.

Pathfinders is also a safe place in an unsafe world for young people to interact with other young people, tempered by the wisdom and maturity of godly youth leaders. I got some of the best advice of my life from a Pathfinder leader when I was 16. She said, “Gary stop being a trouble maker, your influence with the other kids is making it difficult for us. Why not use your influence to build up the club and lead your friend’s closer to Jesus?”

I never forgot that advice (especially because it came from someone who had shown me time and time again that she loved and respected me), and although it has been many years I am still trying to follow her council and lead young people to Jesus! I still have to work on the not being a trouble maker part though. So Pathfinders was very influential in my life and I wish the experience for all our Adventist youth.

Gary Blanchard
GC Youth Director
In this year, 2017, we remember an outstanding event that changed the way religion had to be lived. 500 years ago Martin Luther, a German monk and Professor of Theology at the University of Wittenberg, sparked the Reformation in 1517 by posting, at least according to tradition, his 95 theses on the door of the Church in Wittenberg, Germany. These 95 theses were a list of statements that expressed his concerns about certain Church practices (in a special way the sale of indulgences), but what concerned Luther the most was the Church doctrine. This reaction was called “The Protestant Reformation”, notice that the word Protestant contains the word protest and that reformation contains the word reform—this was an effort to protest some practices of the Catholic Church and to reform the Church.

Faith Alone and Scripture Alone

Martin Luther experienced a spiritual crisis. As much as he tried to be “good” he realized that no matter how hard he tried… he wasn’t able. Luther found a way out of this problem when he read again Romans 1:17: “The just shall live by faith”. Luther understood this to mean that those who’ll go to heaven (the just) will get there by faith alone—not by doing good works. In other words, God’s grace is something freely given to human beings, not something we can earn. Luther turned to the Bible as the only reliable source of instruction (as opposed to the teachings of the Church). It was his intense study of the Bible in its original Hebrew and Greek that converted Luther from a scholastic to an evangelical theologian.

The invention of the printing press in the middle of the 15th century (by Gutenberg in Mainz, Germany) together with the translation of the Bible into common languages of French, Italian, German, English, etc., meant that it was possible for those who could read to learn directly from the Bible without having to rely on a priest or other church officials. And here we have two big changes in the religious life of every believer. The Grace of God is freely given to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ. Everybody has access to know Jesus by reading and studying the Bible, it is not enough with what you can hear every week from the pulpit, you should go to the Bible to have an encounter with Jesus every day.

Faith Alone... what a great discovery!!! May this be a reality in your life, to be faithful to Jesus on this special day, and on every day of your life.

Your friend in Jesus,

Jonatan Tejel
GC Associate Youth Director
Pathfinder Youth Director

Activity to be done ahead of time:

What you will need: colored paper, cut into small strips inserted into each bulletin.

1. Duct tape and scissors
2. Depending on the size of your church, make two or more large size crosses and cover them with duct-tape, with the glue side facing out.
3. Invite everyone to take out the strip of paper and write an act of kindness they’ve seen, done, or received on it. (You can tell everyone to do this at the very beginning of the service.)
4. At an agreed-on time (maybe during the offering time) have a Pathfinder walk around with the cross and have people stick their acts of kindness strips of paper on it.
5. Take the crosses to the front of the church and place them in a prominent place.
6. Leave it there for a few weeks to remind everyone about how easy it is to be kind.
7. Explain that each Pathfinder is called to be a servant of God and a friend to man. And one way to do this is through these acts of kindness.

Stand Out and Speak Up!

Pathfinder: Welcome everyone to Pathfinder Sabbath! If you are interested in being a Pathfinder or volunteering to serve in Pathfinder ministry please be sure to speak with our director in the church foyer after the service today. Let’s bow our heads for prayer.

Sermon

On January 15, 2009, US Airways Flight 1549 took off from LaGuardia Airport in New York City. Suddenly after just a few minutes in flight the plane ran into a flock of Canadian Geese some of which weighed 10 lbs. Many of them were consumed into the plane’s engine and to the horror of passengers and pilots both engines were destroyed. If it were not for the quick thinking and expertise of Captain Sully, Flight 1549, and her passengers would have met a tragic fate. But Captain Sully was called “for such a time as this.” In what is known today as the “Miracle on the Hudson,” He amazingly landed the plane safely on the river and all lives on board were saved.

I tell you this story because this world is like Flight 1549. It is heading for destruction! Notice what The Bible says in 2 Peter 3:10, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will pass away with a great noise, and the elements
will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

But God is calling a generation of young people for “such a time as this.” Pathfinders who will STAND OUT and SPEAK UP like queen Esther so others might be saved. Everyone should pay special attention to these challenging words spoken from Mordecai to Esther. “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” Esther 4:14.

STAND OUT!
When we think of queen Esther we often think of a beautiful woman and she was, in fact, might have been the most beautiful woman in the entire Bible since none are described quite like her (see Esther 2:7), but she was much more than a pretty face. Esther was a woman with a character that shines brilliantly for God! This becomes particularly clear when you compare her to her husband king Xerxes. He was proud, she was humble, he was cruel, she was kind, he was selfish, she was selfless, he was a drunk, she was sober, he was perverted, she was pure, he was cowardly she was courageous!

In fact, did you know that Esther was a lot like Jesus? She was sober, he was perverted, she was pure, he was cowardly she was courageous! The Apostle Paul put it like this “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15). Speaking up and using words is absolutely essential! Necessary” probably never read the book of Esther. Thousands, if not millions would have perished. But thankfully Esther did courageously speak up for her people. 

So, my fellow Pathfinders, please remember the good news… we do not have to stand out in our own strength. Ephesians 2:10 says we are “God’s workmanship.” Interesting the Greek word for “workmanship” is the word for poem! In other words, God gives our lives rhythm, rhyme and meaning. It’s God that empowers us to live holy lives for Him even in an un holy world.

SPEAK UP!
God has not only called Pathfinders to STAND OUT but to SPEAK UP as well. Just imagine if Esther had chosen to stand out but not speak up for her people. Thousands, if not millions would have perished. Whoever said, “preach the gospel, use words if necessary” probably never read the book of Esther. Speaking up and using words is absolutely essential! The Apostle Paul put it like this “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15).

But thankfully Esther did courageously speak up for her people! You can read about it in Esther chapter 7. As Seventh-day Adventists God has given us an incredible responsibility to share the “everlasting gospel” of The Three Angels Message with the world (Revelation 14:6). We cannot let anything else distract us from this most important mission and message! Ellen White put it like this “In a special sense Seventh-day Adventists have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers. To them has been entrusted the last warning for a perishing world. On them is shining wonderful light from the Word of God. They have been given a work of most solemn import—the proclamation of the first, second and third angels message. There is no other work of so great importance. They are to allow nothing else to absorb their attention” (Testimonies for the Church vol. 9. P. 19).

So, what is the everlasting Gospel that we are to take to the world? Martin Luther the great protestant reformer discovered the answer in Romans 1:16-17. Here we find one of the best definitions for the gospel in all of scripture! “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

So, the gospel is the good news that God saves everyone who believes in Jesus and He does this by giving them His righteousness! This is wonderful news since we as Seventh-day Adventists believe that Jesus is coming soon and now is the time to be ready. Let me illustrate for you how the gospel makes you ready. (Hold up your Bible and tell the congregation that this Bible represents Jesus. Then hold up a pen and tell them that it represents sinfulness humanity. Now place the pen inside the Bible and say now watch how the Gospel works when we trust in Jesus. Then slowly close the Bible over the pen and ask them what they see now? They will say “ONLY JESUS.”)

This is the good news that people need to hear! When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, He covers us in His righteousness. Now instead of asking yourself “How does God see me,” you should be asking instead “How does God see Jesus” since you are now covered by Christ and His righteousness!

It’s interesting that in the Old Testament when a sinner brought a sacrifice to the priest, the priest would not investigate the sinner but would investigate the lamb to see if it was truly spotless and whole. This is why Seventh-day Adventists are not afraid of the judgement which began in 1844! We are putting all our trust in the Lamb…Jesus…who has covered us with his righteousness!

One day a young Pathfinder boy was walking home from school when a man pulled up beside him in his car. The man explained that he had just moved to the area but could not find his house. He asked if the boy knew where Douglass Street was. The boy apologized and said, “I am sorry sir I don’t know where that street is.” The man asked, “Well do you know where the police station is so I can get directions there?” The boy sheepishly replied, “Sorry I don’t know where that is either.” “What about a local gas station surely you know where that is” that man asked, “No, Sorry sir” replied the lad “I don’t know where that is either.” In frustration, the man said, “You don’t know much do you Kid?” The young man smiled and said, “Maybe not, but at least I know where home is!”

You may not know a lot of things but if you know what the gospel is, you will have incredible confidence knowing your home is secure in heaven!

Seventh-day Adventists are not better than other Christians but we have been given a greater responsibility. Yes, God has called us to STAND OUT and SPEAK UP in these last days. Why not talk with your pastors, youth leader, Pathfinder director, Sabbath School teacher or parents about how you too can be used by God for “such a time as this.”

[Have a slight pause here, and then introduce the Global Youth Day video and remind the Pathfinders that they can stand up and speak out for Jesus through acts of kindness on GYD.]

[Just before our closing song, say:] Global Youth Day is the 3rd Sabbath in March each year. Next year it will be on March 17th. The idea is to go out in the community and do acts of kindness for others. If you had already done the activity on page 1, this is the time to bring attention to it. Let’s watch this Global Youth and Young Adult day promo that reminds us that we were called “for such a time as this” to STAND OUT and SPEAK UP for Jesus!

Written by Pastor Gary Blanchard
The Pathfinder Club is extremely important to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Especially today more than ever before because many millennials are leaving the Church.

Studies prove that evangelism is most effective amongst kids. According to a Barna group study, 43 percent of Americans accept Jesus Christ as their Savior by the age of 13. 64 percent or two out of three born-again Christians made the commitment to Christ by age 18.

The Pathfinder Club is a department of the Seventh-day Adventist church that attends to the cultural, social, religious, health and educational needs of children and teens between the ages of 10 to 15-years-old. In many cases, teens continue to participate in Pathfinders until the age of 18.

Barna research states five primary reasons millennials stay connected to their local Church. They are the following:

5 Reasons Millennials Stay Connected to the Church:
1. Make room for meaningful relationships.
2. Teach cultural discernment.
3. Make reverse mentoring a priority.
4. Embrace the potency of vocational discipleship.
5. Facilitate connection with Jesus.

The Pathfinder Club helps youth leaders to help their young people find their identity in Christ. It creates sustainable, consistent, and meaningful activities for young people, not in the streets, or in gangs, but in the church. To find out how you can organize a Pathfinder Club at youth church visit: http://gcyouthministries.org/ Ministries/Pathfinders.

Sources:
https://www.nae.net/when-americans-become-christians/
https://www.barna.com/research/evangelism-is-most-effective-among-kids
https://www.barna.com/research/5-reasons-millennials-stay-connected-to-church

I am a pastors kid. I grew up in a home where studying the Bible was a common thing to do. Every Friday (when my father was at home and not traveling) we met in our home round table to study together... it was intense and special... I learned how to discover the beautiful messages you can find in the Bible.

On those days, my father was the one digging deep in the Bible and he was walking me through the process... Bible Study today is not only my fathers passion... it is mine too.

I’m a pastor now, and thanks to my fathers’ influence I retain the love of getting my Bible, reading the texts and “meditate on it day and night” (Psalm 1:2). Let me share with you some tips that will help you to deepen your Bible study. Remember that this list of tips is not complete, we can make it bigger, but at least it is a start.

1. Begin always with honest prayer.
   a. Psalm 119:18
   b. John 16:13-15
2. Have a notebook (you can use a tablet or computer too) to take notes of what you read.
3. Don’t rush it. It is not a 100 meters race but a marathon. Read slowly through one chapter, or perhaps two or three chapters, or perhaps just one paragraph at a time. After reading, ask yourself what does this passage mean. Then reread it. I can tell you that when God shows you something new, something that you did not find before, the satisfaction will be undescribable.
   a. Joshua 1:8
   b. Hebrews 4:12
   c. Job 23:12
4. Choose a good Bible and try to go to the original as much as possible. There are many websites and applications that you can use to find the meaning of a word in the original. KJV and NKJV are good translations of the Bible you can use.
5. Put the text in the context. It’s important to study Bible passages and stories within their context. Taking verses out of context leads to all kinds of error and misunderstanding.
6. Team Up With a Friend. It’s amazing how different things stand out to different people even when they read the same passage. Find a friend to study the Bible with, and share with one another what you’ve learned and how it’s shaping your view and love for God.
You may be wondering, “Why do they give us the numbers?” The work of God and what He accomplishes through the body of Christ is not quantifiable. Our aim is not to have the biggest number of members or the largest population of churches.

However, we want to make sure that you don’t end up on the other side of the spectrum, feeling alone and doubting whether your hard work in the Pathfinder Club really matters.

Here you can see that every single Pathfinder Club is a vital part of the overall ministry in the whole world! Whether your Club has 10 kids or 100, we remember each of you every day and pray for all of you on a consistent basis.

Now you know about your counterparts from all the different parts of the globe. We hope this data encourages you and makes you excited about the bigger picture. God is using Adventist youth in a mighty way and the values of the Pathfinder Club make a very big impact wherever they go. People from other religions and those who don’t know God see the involvement of our youth and youth leaders. It makes them curious about our faith and contributes to the growth of God’s heavenly kingdom.
PATHFINDER DAY Service
CHURCH SERVICE option 1
1. Prelude
2. Ministers enter
3. Silent prayer
4. Doxology
5. Invocation
6. Presentation of Colors
7. Pathfinders march in and take places Pledge and Law
8. Post flags
9. Honor Guard returns to seats
10. Congregation and Pathfinders seated
11. Scripture reading: 1Timothy 4:12
12. Hymn No. 529, “Under His Wings”
13. Congregational prayer
14. Offering
15. Special music
16. Pathfinder report--Pathfinder club director
17. Sermon by pastor, child preacher, or guest
18. Hymn No. 508, “Anywhere With Jesus”
19. Benediction
20. Postlude
21. Congregation stands
22. Adult Sabbath School can also be directed by Pathfinders.

PATHFINDER DAY Service
CHURCH SERVICE option 2
1. Prelude
2. Personal ministries time Pathfinder missionary experiences
3. Processional Ministers, Directors, Pathfinders
4. Introit: (platform group kneeling) Choir
5. Doxology
6. Invocation Pathfinder
7. Post Colors Color Guard
8. Welcome: Pastor
9. Scripture Reading: 1Timothy 4:12
10. Hymn No. 529, “Under His Wings”
11. Prayer: Two Pathfinders
12. Pathfinder Song: Pathfinders
13. Pathfinder Happenings: Teen Pathfinder
14. Pledge and Law: Pathfinder choir
15. Song of Instrumental Selection Pathfinders
16. Pathfinder Objectives: Club Director
17. Offering
18. Sermon: pastor, child preacher, or guest
19. Hymn No. 508, “Anywhere With Jesus”
20. Benediction
21. Recessional
22. Ministers and directors
23. Color guard
24. Staff
25. Pathfinder units and counselors
26. Congregation

PATHFINDER DAY Service
CHURCH SERVICE option 3
1. Prelude
2. Ministers and platform personnel enter
3. Doxology and Invocation
   (Pathfinders march in led by the national and Pathfinder flags. Color guards post themselves on floor in front of pulpit. All stand when flags enter and remain standing until flags are posted on the platform.)
5. Pathfinder Song Pathfinders
6. Pledge Led by a Pathfinder
7. Law Led by a Pathfinder
8. Posting of Flags
10. Prayer: Pathfinder
11. Welcome and Director’s Report Pathfinder Club director reports on year’s activities, goals for new year and presents any recognition and awards.
12. Special music Pathfinders
13. “Why I Am a Pathfinder” Pathfinder
14. “How did it all begin?” Director and some Pathfinders
15. Offering: Teen Pathfinder - (Pathfinders)
16. Special music: Pathfinder or Group of Pathfinders
17. Sermonette: Director, guest, child preacher
20. Postlude
21. Introduction
22. Sabbath School
23. Break
24. Assemble for Processional Entrance
25. Processional Entrance
26. Pathfinder Song
27. Pledge, Law
28. Welcome & Introductions
29. Song Service
30. Prayer
31. Offering
32. Special Item (it can be music)
33. Scripture Reading
34. Sermon
35. Special Item (it can be music)
36. Closing Song
37. Closing Prayer & Announcements
38. LUNCH
39. Assemble for Street Procession
40. Street Procession
41. Concert
42. Baptisms
43. Closing Ceremony
44. Small and impactant Devotional
45. Closing Prayer
46. Farewell
NEW PATHFINDER CURRICULUM IS COMING

We have revised and improved the Pathfinder Curriculum in all 6 classes to make it more educational and to help the Pathfinders to have a balanced growth and also to have a better critical thinking. The improvement made changes in every section of each Pathfinder class (grade) and will be available to use mid 2018. The spiritual part of the curriculum has been extensively revised and two new honor collections have been added. This is the first one: Bible Discovery collection, and these are the patches.

BIBLE DISCOVERY COLLECTION

CLASS FRIEND
Bible Discovery I
Genesis-Ruth
Patriarchs & Prophets
Pentateuch-Pre Monarchy

CLASS COMPANION
Bible Discovery II
Gospels
Desire of Ages

CLASS EXPLORER
Bible Discovery III
OT-Prophets & Kings
Prophets and Kings

CLASS RANGER
Bible Discovery IV
Acts-Jude
Acts of the Apostles
Apostolic Church

CLASS VOYAGER
Bible Discovery V
Job-Songs of Solomon
Prophets and Kings
Wisdom Literature

CLASS GUIDE
Bible Discovery VI
Daniel-Revelation
Great Controversy/Last portion of Acts of the Apostles
Last Events Prophecy
WE WANT THE PATHFINDERS TO HAVE JESUS AT THE CENTER OF THEIR LIVES

Jesus is the center of the universe (Colossians 1:16). Jesus is the center of history, the coming of Jesus as a baby divides history in two, more than that, the Bible says very clearly that Jesus will return again, and when this will happen, all wrong will be wiped away (Revelation 21:4). Jesus is the center of the Bible, (Luke 24:27). And for us as Pathfinders, Jesus should be the center of our lives. That’s why we have also included in the new curriculum a collection of honors to help the Pathfinders to know better Jesus Christ.

JESUS COLLECTION

CLASS FRIEND
His Life

CLASS COMPANION
My Savior

CLASS EXPLORER
His Miracles

CLASS RANGER
Method of Mission

CLASS VOYAGER
His Teachings

CLASS GUIDE
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