HEALING BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

GRADE LEVEL: 9, 10

OBJECTIVE: Relationships can sometimes hurt, but God promises to be with us and help us through them. Someday, when Jesus comes again, there will be no more broken relationships.

In This Lesson Plan:

- Adventist Pioneer Story: “A Comforting Message”
  - Thought Questions
  - Journal Entry
  - Worksheet: “Message of Hope”

- Additional Assignments and Projects
- Ellen G. White Quotes

THOUGHT QUESTIONS:
(after reading the story)
Suggested ways of incorporating thought questions in the classroom:

A) Have a large class discussion.

B) Divide students into groups and have them discuss the questions among themselves.

C) Assign one or more questions and have students answer in paragraph form.

1. Imagine what it must have been like knowing his daughter was dying. What thoughts do you think were running through Elder Andrews’s head as he sat beside the hospital bed?

2. Death is one way relationships are broken. What other ways are relationships broken here on Earth?

3. Have you ever had to say goodbye to someone you loved? How did it feel?

4. What was the comforting message sent by Ellen White?

ADVENTIST PIONEER STORY

“A Comforting Message”

Mary Andrews was not well. Little by little she was losing strength. No longer could she work for long hours in the publishing house. She developed a persistent cough and found breathing difficult.

They were living in Europe at the time. Mary and her family had moved there from the United States in 1874. In fact her father, J. N. Andrews, was the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s first official overseas missionary. Concerned about his daughter, Elder Andrews took her to a local doctor. He pronounced the dread word, consumption, or tuberculosis, as it is generally called today. John asked whether there was hope for her recovery. The doctor shook his head; there was no sure cure.

In September, Elder Andrews received an invitation to attend upcoming General Conference session in Battle Creek, Michigan. He decided to go and take Mary to the Battle Creek Sanitarium. Surely his good friend Dr. J. H. Kellogg would find some way to save a life so valuable to the work of God.
What hope does it provide for us today?

**JOURNAL ENTRY:**

Have students spend 10-15 minutes writing their thoughts on the topic. This can be done at the beginning of the lesson to generate discussion material or it can be done later on to help students recap what they’ve been learning in class. Here are some suggested journal entry topics.

1. I'm so glad I have a good relationship with . . .
2. I lost someone close to me when . . .
3. Relationships: good and bad
4. A perfect relationship

**WORKSHEET:**

*“Message of Hope”*

**Directions:** *Desire of Ages*, page 669, by Ellen White has a message of hope for us when we are hurt or dealing with tough or broken relationships. To read the message, skip all the letters J and Z as well as all the numbers. Write the quote in the lines provided below.

**Answer:** "At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer.” — *The Desire of Ages*, p. 669.

There was so much work to be done before Elder Andrews could leave that he feared he might be late for the conference. By working night and day he managed to get everything done. Then he and Mary boarded the ship for America.

The General Conference session opened on October 4. Elder Andrews arrived in Battle Creek the same day. In the afternoon he spoke to the assembled delegates and the Battle Creek church members. As he pointed out various countries in Europe that now had Sabbathkeepers, the people were thrilled. They marveled that he and his fellow workers had accomplished so much in just four years.

Elder Andrews lost no time in taking Mary to the Sanitarium, where Dr. Kellogg gave her a careful examination. The doctor was shocked to see how far the disease had progressed. Kindly and sadly he told John that, from a human standpoint, there was no hope for her recovery. She could not live for more than a month or two.

From that day on, the devoted father scarcely left Mary’s bedside. Day and night he watched over her, doing for her everything that might make her comfortable. Dr. Kellogg warned Elder Andrews of the danger he was running that he might contract the disease himself. Nothing could persuade the father to leave the bedside of his loving, gifted daughter.

On the night of November 27, Mary Andrews died at the age of 17. She was buried next to her mother and siblings in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester, New York. Elder Andrews found the loss simply overwhelming. He was prostrated with grief.

A few days after the funeral Elder Andrews received a comforting message from Ellen G. White:

“In my last vision, I saw you. Your head was inclined toward the earth, and you were following in tears your beloved Mary to her last dwelling place in this world. Then I saw the Lord look upon you full of love and compassion. I saw the coming of Him who is to give life to our mortal bodies, and your wife and children came forth from their graves clad in immortal splendor.”

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS
AND PROJECTS:

1. REMEMBERING OTHERS: Do you know someone who has lost a loved one? Or do you know a mother who is now home alone after all her children have moved away? Come up with a plan to send a little basket of good cheer. Have students include notes of comfort and encouragement, baked goods, flowers, candles, etc., and if possible, go as a class to deliver the special package.

2. SIMILES AND METAPHORS: Have students come up with similes and metaphors describing what it will be like to have perfect relationships in heaven. Encourage their creativity. Write the similes and metaphors on the board.

ELLEN G. WHITE QUOTES

• “When our hopes of life seem to be slipping away, Jesus is ready to put His everlasting arms beneath us, and to draw us to His heart, and to comfort, encourage, and bless us.” The Signs of the Times, March 17, 1890.

• “At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer.” The Desire of Ages, p. 669.

• “Heaven is waiting and yearning for the return of the prodigals who have wandered far from the fold. Many of those who have strayed away may be brought back by the loving service of God’s children.” In Heavenly Places, p. 10.
“The power of a mother’s prayers cannot be too highly estimated. She who kneels beside her son and daughter through the…perils of youth will never know till the judgment the influence of her prayers upon the life of her children.”  *Signs of the Times*, March 16, 1891.

“In the soon coming of the morn of the resurrection you will meet your loved ones who have so recently fallen in death. The broken links of the family chains will then be reunited, and together you will meet Him whom you all love and adore—Jesus, the center and foundation of all your hopes, the author and finisher of your faith.”  *Manuscript Releases*, vol. 15, p. 265.