

The church is a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship. We are continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus, the Son of God.

We are called to serve and witness in our local churches and to the communities we live in. When we do this we are sharing Christ's love and the good news of salvation.

Every church member is called to minister and be servants of God sharing in and supporting the activities of the church. God promises to supply resources such as scripture, spiritual power and gifts from the Holy Spirit. A Teen Assistant has an opportunity to grow God's church by supporting and loving teenagers

Tools for Ministry

"Cornerstone Connections" is a Bible Study guide suitable for teenagers between 15-18 years of age.

"Real Time Faith" Bible Study guides appeal to Earliteens aged between 13-15 years of age

Insight magazine is an ingredient in the Cornerstone system. One of the weekly issues each month is devoted to the lesson materials for the coming month. These are the "learner materials" for the teens to use. *Insight* is the denomination's journal for teenagers. Another issue each month is designated the Insight-Out edition, a missionary magazine for teenagers. Special monthly subscriptions can be sent to teens who do not attend church or those who have dropped out of church.

Junior-Teen Plus is a quarterly "program helps" resource for these age groups.

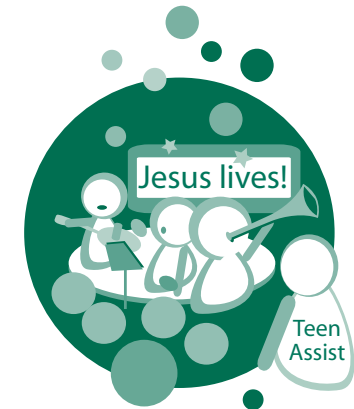
These magazines can be ordered through an Adventist Book Centre.

Building relationships

Extend informal invitations to "visit our house Friday night to sit by the fire and sing" or for a pizza on Saturday night.

Find opportunities to chat with teens about events in their lives and their interests.

For resources and information on training, log into the members site at sspm.adventistconnect.org or contact your local conference personal ministries director.



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Teen Sabbath School Assistant

Have you been asked to serve your local church as a Teen Sabbath School Assistant? Or perhaps you are new to church life and wonder what a Teen Assistant is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand the role and how it fits into church life.

sspm.adventistconnect.org

The Role of the Teen Sabbath School Assistant

A Teen Sabbath School Assistant has an important role in serving young people who are making decisions for life and for eternity. One study indicated that most people make their decisions about religion and which church to join during their teen years.

The teen assistant can be helpful with:

- teaching the Bible lesson (Preparing lessons thoroughly is advantageous as teens are interested in issues such as sexuality, occupations, the meaning of life, death and dying, ethics etc.)
- organising program features
- taking charge of the music and involve teens in providing an atmosphere of worship
- providing moral support
- assisting or coordinating a special activity or excursion
- invitations to guest speakers from the adult membership or broader community
- researching resources on the internet or DVD for viewing
- role plays that utilise teen participation
- creating a panel discussion or a learning game or simulation
- developing relationships with teens and building trust so they can discuss problems or ask questions. (Listening skills are important.)

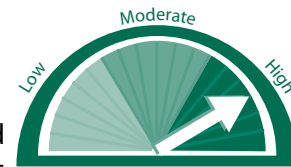
- building community through friendship and support
- managing difficult behaviour that can be direct, rebellious and intimidating
- being reliable and regular with attendance
- a team spirit that promotes a positive focus and shows enthusiasm

Responsible to Teen Sabbath School Director. The Teen Sabbath School Director appoints his or her assistants

Term of Office At least one year to allow relationships to be built and nurtured. Involvement over a number of years can make a significant impact.

Time Commitment

- The time required for teen ministry is high. You will need to be present most Sabbaths and allow time for preparation.
- Be willing to be available to the teens on regular informal occasions and when special needs arise. Your work as an assistant may involve time on a weekday.



Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in different ways. The following gifts are valuable when considering the choice of members for the role of Teen Sabbath School Assistant.

- **Exhortation:** The special ability to encourage and comfort others. It involves helping and healing, particularly for those who are bereaved, lonely or discouraged.
- **Hospitality:** is the ability to provide a genuine, safe and comfortable place to be. A teen assistant needs to exude hospitality wherever he or she goes, causing teens to feel glad and valued.
- **Teaching:** Is the capacity to communicate the love of Jesus in a practical, meaningful way. To facilitate a climate where real learning can occur, where no question is forbidden and all questions deserve answers.

The role of an assistant or helper is an excellent way to test your abilities and at the same time provide an opportunity to explore your Spiritual gifts.

The importance of teen ministry cannot be over-emphasized. Assistants have the task of loving and caring for a group of people who can be difficult to understand. Young people aged 13 to 15 are dealing with tremendous change in their bodies, emotions, behaviour, attitudes and beliefs.