

Discipleship through Adventist Education



Adventist
Education

South Pacific



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OUR MISSION

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH:

- Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations: **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to **observe** all things whatsoever I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)

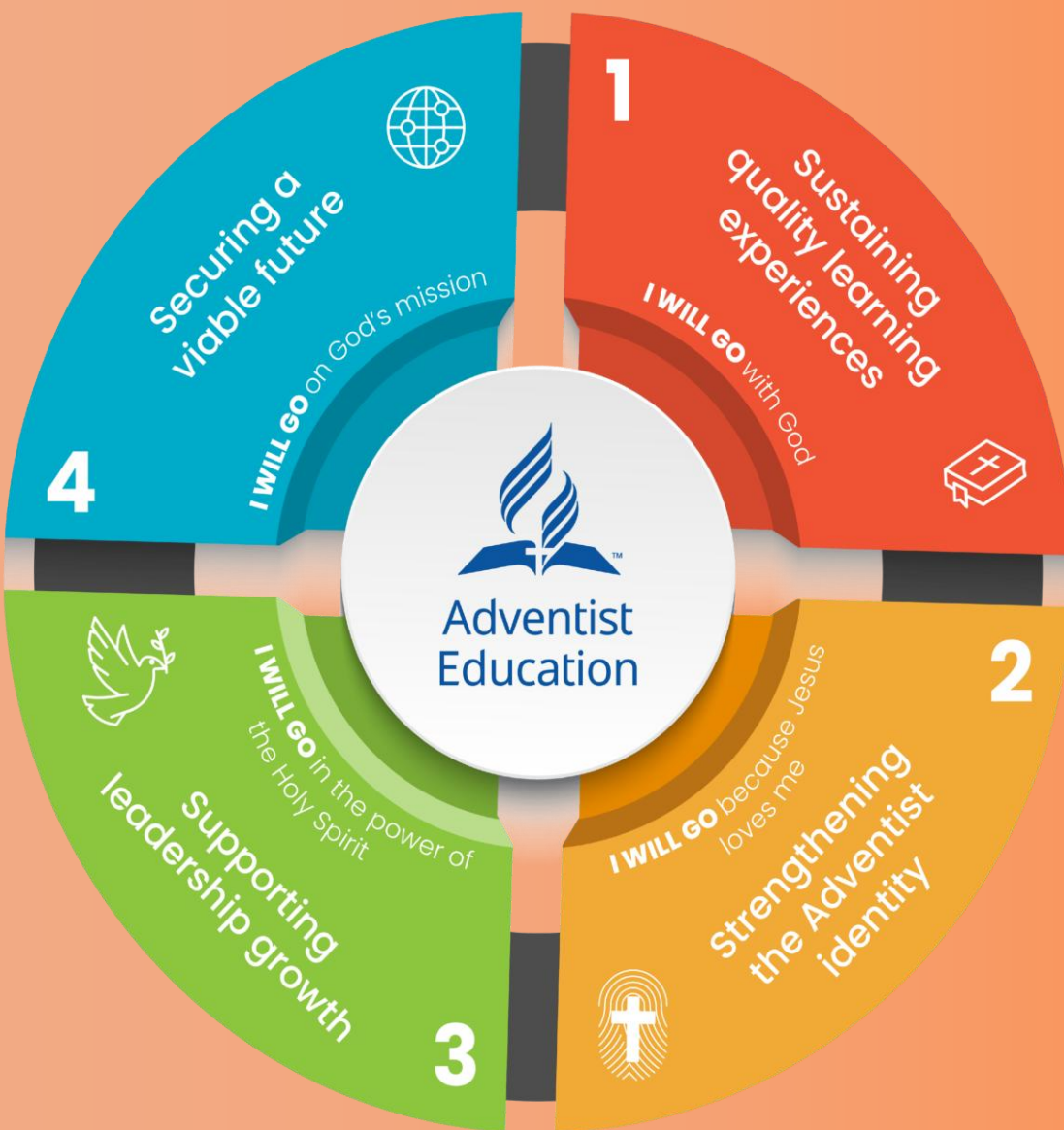
ADVENTIST EDUCATION:

- To promote Adventist Christian education as a means of preparing individuals for useful service in this life and eternal life in God's kingdom.

MISSION OF THE SDA CHURCH

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MISSION OF ADVENTIST EDUCATION



SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION

92,000+

Learners in K-12, post-secondary and tertiary

4,500+

Teaching and school-based support staff

800+

Principals and education leadership staff

450+

Schools and institutions

SCHOOLS BY LEVEL OF SCHOOLING

350+

Early Childhood and primary

90+

Secondary and high schools

10+

Worker training and tertiary

SCHOOLS BY GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

70+ AUC

20+ NZPUC

170+ PNGUM

180+ TPUM



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18% of Australian teens are "spiritual but not religious," while 15% are indifferent.

51% of teens claimed to be Christian, yet only 8% display the beliefs and habits of a committed Christian.

46% of Christian teens never read the Bible.

58% of Christian teens believe they don't have a responsibility to share their faith.

60% of teenagers struggle with depression and 35% say they have suicidal thoughts.

Prayer engagement

is more frequent than worship attendance.

Youngest generation

is affiliated with Christianity and religion less than previous generations.

18-39 years old individuals attend weekly church services less than individuals 40+.

Younger individuals

are less engaged in daily prayer.

Talking to God

in prayer is a top priority for Christian youth.

Teens worldwide spend an average of around 7.5 hours online daily.

65% of teens say social media improves their life satisfaction.

Depression rates for heavy internet users (10+ hours daily) are 20% higher than light internet users (<4 hours daily).

Suicidal thoughts are 28% higher for heavy internet users than for light internet users.

22% of the population in Solomon Islands uses the Internet (lowest) and 94% in Palau (highest).

9 in 10 teens worldwide used the internet to research topics of interest, watch videos, chat with friends and listen to music.

8 in 10 teens worldwide played games online with others.

3 billion gamers are estimated across the world.

Approximately 93% of those aged 5–14 years play video games in *New Zealand*.

87% reported playing video games in New Zealand to improve their mental health.







REVERENCE SANCTUARY



PARABLE OF THE SOWER



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1

- Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20

2

- A farmer goes out to scatter seeds.

3

- Some land on a hard path, where birds quickly eat them.

4

- Some land on rocky ground with little dirt, so even though they sprout fast, they wither under the hot sun because they have no roots.

5

- Some fall among thorns and weeds that choke the young plants before they can grow strong.

6

- But some seed lands on good soil—where it grows, thrives, and produces a harvest far greater than what was planted.





BACKGROUND & SETTING



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The parable follows a heated confrontation where religious leaders accused Jesus of working with Satan (Matthew 12, Mark 3).

Jesus told this story while seated in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, addressing a massive crowd on the shore. The audience consisted of farmers, fishermen etc.

First-century Galilean farming involved sowing seed on terraced limestone hillsides.

A typical field contained hard, packed footpaths, thin topsoil over bedrock, thorn-infested patches, and small areas of good, deep soil.

Sowers typically scattered seeds by hand, allowing it to land in varied areas, including paths and rocky margins.



1. HARD & DRY

- The hard and dry heart is the scariest of all. Mark 4:15 says, “These are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.”
- This heart is scariest because it is adamantly closed to Jesus. It's *uninterested* in hearing him and therefore *unable* to hear him.

2. SHALLOW & ROCKY

- “These are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away” (Mark 4:16-17).
- The heart associated with this soil doesn't stick with him because it simply isn't open enough.

3. CROWDED & ANXIOUS

- “Others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful” (Mark 4:18-19).
- The crowded and anxious heart has too many things at the same level of importance.
- The heart of anxiety worries about things out of its control because it's let many things control it.

4. SOFT & OPEN

- Lastly, there is the good soil. This is the heart of Jesus' disciples.
- This heart *wants* Jesus.
- The Scripture says, “But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold” (Mark 4:20).



DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH ADVENTIST EDUCATION

Jesus wanted His followers to understand that the condition of your heart determines whether you will live out His teachings and bear fruit for God's kingdom.

This is the real cost of discipleship: making the daily choice to nourish your heart, clear away distractions, and let God's Word shape your life.

- **How can we prepare the good soil in Adventist schools and institutions?**



RESEARCH FINDINGS ON SCHOOL STUDENTS



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1 Digital Age: Increased access to different worldviews on social media is shaping teen views, with rising content creation regarding faith on platforms like TikTok.

2 Culture: In many areas, the secular culture reduces the likelihood of teens engaging with organised religion.

3 Spiritual Engagement: High and steady spiritual engagement predicts higher satisfaction with life and better emotional management.





HOW TO PREPARE THE GOOD SOIL IN ADVENTIST SCHOOLS?



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GROUP ACTIVITY

In groups of 4-5 identify some ways you are currently practicing, or you think will work in preparing the good soil in the parable of the sower in Adventist schools and institutions.





PREPARING THE GOOD SOIL IN SDA SCHOOLS

1 Special Character:

- Demonstrate strong special character, week of prayers, Bible teaching, Integration of Faith and Learning (IFL), staff and student worships/devotionals.

2 Curriculum

- **Integration:** Embed biblical narratives and principles into subject teaching, transforming content to reflect a Christian worldview.

3 Technology & Digital

- **Integration:** Use virtual reality to explore Bible stories. Utilize online forums for nurturing faith communities and integrating spiritual discussions in digital learning platforms.

4 Service-Learning:

- Shift from traditional education to mission-focused learning, including community service projects that demonstrate practical Christian living.

5 Modeling and Mentorship:

- Teachers model Adventist lifestyles and values, fostering an atmosphere where students develop a personal love for Christ rather than just academic knowledge.

6 Contextualized Pedagogy:

- Begin lesson planning by seeking divine guidance, integrating, and encouraging students to connect academic material with their personal faith journeys.





PREPARING THE GOOD SOIL IN SDA SCHOOLS

7 Training Teachers/Staff:

- Provide ongoing professional development to train teachers on how to merge faith with academic content, especially for new teachers and faculty.

8 Administrative Commitment:

- Support IFL by allocating resources and time for staff to discuss, plan, and create faith-based materials.

9 Comprehensive Assessment:

- Move beyond content changes to include assessment practices, school policies, and relationships as part of a holistic approach to education.

10 Critical Thinking & Ethics:

- Encourage students to evaluate modern challenges—such as artificial intelligence—through the lens of Adventist values like integrity, truthfulness, and stewardship.

11 Wellness and Balance:

- Incorporate Adventist health principles into the curriculum to promote physical and spiritual wellness amid high-pressure academic environments.

12 Adventist Accreditation:

- Strengthen the Adventist identity with rigorous Adventist accreditation such as strong Quality Adventist Schools frameworks.



REFLECTIONS

← Which type of soil you will boldly prepare in Adventist schools and institutions?

~ What is hindering you from preparing the good soil and make disciples in Adventist schools and institutions?

∞ How can you prepare a good soil for 21st century learners in Adventist schools and institutions?



WHAT IS THE OUTCOME?



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**MISSION
FOCUSED**
families, homes,
schools and
churches.

Mission, goals and
objectives of of
Adventist schools
and institutions
are **REALISED**.

Our schools and
institutions,
families, our
homes, our lives,
everything are
BLESSED.

Good soil in
schools and
institutions will
yield in returns
of **THIRTY, SIXTY,
OR A
HUNDREDFOLD!**





INVITATION TO COMMITMENT



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To prepare good soil in Adventist schools and institutions in SPD.

To make disciples who are capable of making disciples and bearing fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold”

The future of the SDA church—and even our Adventist schools and institutions

- depend on believers being good soil, ready to receive and multiply God’s goodness
- depend on effective discipleships.

To develop disciples who are faithful, intentional, and responsive to the world’s needs, yet firmly grounded in the Bible.





FINALLY...

**“Those who are wise shall shine Like
the brightness of the firmament, And
those who turn many to righteousness
Like the stars forever and ever.”
(Daniel 12:3)**



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