FAITH & SPIRITUALITY

• “A Christianity that is genuinely transformative, not necessarily new, creative, or innovative.”

• “Expand the opportunity for college students to learn more about the Bible. I just want to learn more about my faith through the Bible.”

• “We need reformation and unification of the people, to bring about an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.”

• “I would like to see more of an emphasis on the simplicity and practicality of the Bible and how to share this with others.”

LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

• Convenient sample.

• Young adult age range is too broad to determine the specific age related level of engagement, and their lived experience.

• 49 respondents of this sample have disengaged from Sabbath School.

• Youth and Youth Adults on college campus does not provide a true picture of what Sabbath School engagement is like at local churches level.

• 42% of respondents were from Michigan Conference; 36%-Other, 8%-Lake Region Conference.

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SABBATH SCHOOL MATTERS

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YOUNG ADULT EXPERIENCE ON SABBATH SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT
Sabbath School has been an established program for spiritual growth, faith development and relationship building for congrannt of the Adventist Church. North American Division report that young adult have disengaged from Sabbath School, and youth and young adult engagement in Sabbath School have declined.

Concerns among young adults question whether Sabbath School is another redundant activity that youth and young people either engage with.

Faith and spirituality are important features of young adulthood, yet the decline in youth and young adult engagement Sabbath School North American Division.

A recent survey was conducted on the campus of Andrews University obtained insight from youth and young adults about their Sabbath School experience.

The results highlighted factors that challenge their personal and spiritual growth in the SDA Church, which sometimes conflict with their personal values, stage of faith development, and the relevance of Sabbath School in the lives of young adults.

**SAMPLE:** 224 respondents completed the online survey, of which 93% were young adults aged 18-35 years, and 7% were youth.

**PURPOSE**

To understanding youth and young adult experiences of Sabbath School, and to determine the strength and limitations of this program as it pertains to youth and young adult engagement in planned programs.

**YOUNG ADULT EXPERIENCE**

**WEAKNESSES OF SABBATH SCHOOL**

- 23% did not attend in the last 6 months.
- 55% of respondents stated that they do not attend Sabbath School because they are too tired.
- 35% state that Sabbath morning’s no longer work for them.
- 37% reported a lack of stimulation.

**STRENGTHS OF SABBATH SCHOOL**

- 73% attended Sabbath School in the last 6 months.
- 43% attended each week; 18% attending twice a month; 11% once a per month.
- 31% say that Sabbath School addresses their need for prayer.
- 51% have a quarterly.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SABBATH SCHOOL**

- Conduct an in-depth study of Young Adult engagement in Sabbath School across the North American Division.
- Determine the true relevancy of current Sabbath School Model and resources for young and emerging adults.
- Create a Young Adult Sabbath School resource, specifically tailored for those aged 25 and over.

**ALTERNATIVE SABBATH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

**RATIONALE**

**STRENGTHS OF SABBATH SCHOOL**

- Shorter lesson, with more time for bonding and relationship building
- Small group discussions and prayer times are extremely powerful
- More realistic, practical approached to life
- Find ways to accept that people are people as they are