



"FACING OPPOSITIONS"

SUGGESTED HYMNS
FOR SABBATH SCHOOL

LESSON 4: OCTOBER 19-25, 2019

"But the eye of their God was upon the elders of the Jews, so that they could not make them cease till a report could go to Darius. Then a written answer was returned concerning this matter." (Ezra 5:5, NKJV)

H Y M N S F O R W O R S H I P . O R G

RECURRING THEMES IN THIS WEEK'S LESSON

A. God always looks for people of faith who trust Him in spite of complicated circumstances so He can intervene in their favor and do His work.

- "The Christian always has a strong helper in the Lord. The way of the Lord's helping we may not know; but this we do know: He will never fail those who put their trust in Him. Could Christians realize how many times the Lord has ordered their way, that the purposes of the enemy concerning them might not be accomplished, they would not stumble along complainingly. Their faith would be stayed on God, and no trial would have power to move them. They would acknowledge Him as their wisdom and efficiency, and He would bring to pass that which He desires to work out through them." PK 576.1

B. When we encounter opposition to the name of God, to our beliefs, or to what God calls us to do, we should remember that "God will fight for us"

- Opposition can get in the way of doing what we believe God calls us to do, and as a result we question and doubt God's guidance. But just because something is difficult does not mean that God did not call us to do it. God is in His work, and no man can prevent its ultimate success.
- "God's people are neither to fear nor to despise their enemies. Putting their trust in God, they are to go steadily forward, doing His work with unselfishness and committing to His providence the cause for which they stand." PK 645.1

HYMN LIST

THEME: Trusting in God inspite of complicated circumstances

- O for a faith SDAH 533
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-533-o-faith/>
- Day by day SDAH 532
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-532-day-day/>
- If You But Trust in God to Guide You SDAH 510
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-510-trust-god-guide/>
- Tis so sweet to trust SDAH 524
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-524-tis-sweet-trust-jesus/>
- All the way SDAH 516
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-516-way/>

THEME: God will fight our battles for us

- A mighty fortress SDAH 506
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-506-mighty-fortress/>
- Stand like the brave SDAH 610
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-610-stand-like-brave/>
- Christian, seek not repose SDAH 603
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-603-christian-seek-not-repose/>
- My soul, be on thy guard SDAH 605
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-605-soul-thy-guard/>
- Soldiers of Christ arise SDAH 616
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-616-soldiers-christ-arise/>
- Lead on o King eternal SDAH 619
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-619-lead-o-king-eternal/>

THEME: Nehemiah's faith is an example we should emulate (see page 2)

- O Jesus I Have Promised SDAH 331
<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-331-o-jesus-promised/>

continued on next page



RECURRING THEMES IN THIS WEEK'S LESSON

C. Nehemiah considered the work for God as "great" and more important.

- "In Nehemiah's firm devotion to the work of God, and his equally firm reliance on God, lay the reason of the failure of his enemies to draw him into their power. The soul that is indolent falls an easy prey to temptation; but in the life that has a noble aim, an absorbing purpose, evil finds little foothold. The faith of him who is constantly advancing does not weaken; for above, beneath, beyond, he recognizes Infinite Love, working out all things to accomplish His good purpose. God's true servants work with a determination that will not fail because the throne of grace is their constant dependence."

OTHER HYMNS

These hymns may also be sung. Although the context does not fully match, the general theme of this week's lesson is still present.

Trusting in God

- Tis So Sweet SDAH 524
- All the Way SDAH 516

Christian Warfare

- Christian, seek not repose SDAH 603
- My soul, be on thy guard SDAH 605
- Soldiers of Christ arise SDAH 616
- Lead on o King eternal SDAH 619

PDF of the sheet music and piano accompaniments for all the hymns in the SDA Hymnal (1985) are available at <https://hymnsforworship.org/sda-hymnal/sda-hymnal-index/>

HYMN NOTES

O FOR A FAITH, SDAH 533

<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-533-o-faith/>

NORTHFIELD C.M.

RECOMMENDED TUNE: MANOAH (SDAH 315)

If using the hymn tune Manoah, certain adjustments to the lyrics must be made, such as removing the reiterations at the end of the hymn. See example below (letters in grey can be removed without changing the context of the hymn). For a full edited version of this hymn, see appendix.

*O for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by many a foe;
That will not tremble on the brink of poverty,
Of poverty or woe; of poverty or woe.*

DAY BY DAY, SDAH 532

<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-532-day-day/>

BLOTT EN DAG 10.9.10.9.D.

History behind this hymn: Written in 1865 by Lina Sandell several years after she had witnessed the tragic drowning death of her father. The hymn's Swedish name is "Blott en Dag," its first three words in Swedish. The words mean "just one day" or "just another day." This hymn is a fitting assurance and encouragement to the Israelites' (and many times, ours as well) wavering trust in God while building the walls of Jerusalem.

IF YOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE, SDAH 510

<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-510-trust-god-guide/>

WER NUR DEN LIEBET GOTT 9.8.9.8.8.8.

A haunting and somber hymn written in G minor. With lyrics and tune written by the same person, George Neumark, penned this hymn as a result of getting robbed, not being able to find work, and life generally not going according to plan. Neumark titled it as a "hymn of consolation," that in God's own time God will sustain and keep each person according to the text, Cast your burden on the Lord, who will sustain you" (Psalm 55:23; 1 Peter 3: 8-15).

HYMNS NOTES

A MIGHTY FORTRESS, SDAH 506

<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-506-mighty-fortress/>

EIN' FESTE BURG 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7.

In this hymn, Martin Luther proclaims his confidence in God and rallies all Christians to war against evil. Basing his words on Psalm 46, he victoriously states "We will not fear, for God has willed His truth to triumph through us." Just as it was a hymn that encouraged every Reformer during his time, and even today, it could have very well been the song of Nehemiah and the Israelites as they were building the walls of Jerusalem.

Just as the Israelites were strengthening their nation by repairing the physical fortress of Jerusalem, we as spiritual Israelites can confidently proclaim that "Amighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing!"

STAND LIKE THE BRAVE, SDAH 610

<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-610-stand-like-brave/>

11.11.11.11.Ref.

In this week's lesson, we were also given a glimpse of Nehemiah's strategy so that the work continues. As recorded in Scriptures, Nehemiah had half of his servants doing the work, while the other half held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. And those who were directly by the wall, would work with one hand, and with the other hand held a weapon. And that every one had a sword girded on their sides. (Nehemiah 4:16-18).

The writer of this hymn, Fanny Crosby, challenges us to do the same. If it is God's work, we have every confidence to keep going!

O JESUS I HAVE PROMISED, SDAH 331

<https://hymnsforworship.org/sdah-331-o-jesus-promised/>

ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.

Another concept this week's lesson alluded to was Nehemiah's unwavering resolution to build for God, inspite of his influential position in the kingdom. He could have asked someone else to do it for him, but being a "hands-on man" that he was, he went to Jerusalem himself to oversee the work, and to encourage his fellow men. What an example of someone who is faithful in carrying out God's will, no matter the cost.

As we renew our dedication to God's work this week, may we all, in the spirit of Nehemiah's ardor for God, say,

*O Jesus, I have promised, to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide.*

APPENDIX

O FOR A FAITH

(edited)

1

O, for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by many a foe,
That will not tremble on the brink
of poverty or woe;

2

That will not murmur or complain
Beneath the chastening rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain,
can lean upon its God.

3

A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without;
That when in danger knows no fear,
in darkness feels no doubt.

4

That bears unmoved the world's dread frown,
Nor heeds its scornful smile;
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown,
nor its soft arts beguile.

5

Lord, give me such a faith as this,
And then, whate'er may come
I'll taste, e'en here the hallowed bliss,
Of an eternal home.