

God's Messenger Honor Program

Introduction: *This script requires the active involvement of Persons A, B, and C with at least two other supporting people. A woman will also be needed to read the Female Voices entries. The program is designed to be used with the accompanying "God's Messenger" PowerPoint. You will need to print out the four tests of a prophet and the picture, "Christ of the Revelation." You will also need a large family Bible, some telephone books or even two or more large books that weight about 18 ½ pounds (8 kilos) together. You will probably also want to have some bookmarks or small prizes to hand out during the program, and if possible, a fist-sized rock to use as a prop.*

Basic Program

Orientation

Objective: get Pathfinders seated and attentive, set a positive attitude towards the activity.

- *Activity booklet, clipboard, and pencil to be on the seats before the Pathfinders enter.*

- **Person A**

Hi everyone, and welcome to the "God's Messenger" Honor. Have you all got your Activity booklet and something to write with? In order to get your honor you must have your booklet filled in. We will be giving you all the answers, but we won't be repeating ourselves, so be careful to listen and fill in your booklet. Pencils ready ... let's go!

1. Who was Ellen G. White?—Early life

Objective: familiarize the Pathfinders with the important events of Ellen White's life. An interview style is used with props to help maintain attention. (Refer to Powerpoint Slide #2)

Person B

Everyone's life begins with a beginning or a birthday. When was Ellen White born?

Person C

Ellen and her twin sister, Elizabeth, were born to Robert and Eunice Harmon, November 26 in 1827, in the little town of Gorham, Maine. *(Refer to Powerpoint Slide #3)* There were eight children in the family. Their father, Robert Harmon, was a hat maker; before her marriage, their mother was a school teacher.

Person B

Of course Ellen wasn't born Ellen White. Her name was Ellen Gould Harmon until she married James White, but that was much later on. Was anyone here born in November? Any twins here? ***(You could give a bookmark or any small token to any Pathfinders with November birthdays or who are twins.)***

Life wasn't all fun and birthdays in Ellen's family. When she was only 9 years old something terrible happened to her. What exactly happened?

Person C

You must be talking about the accident. Well, after the family moved to Portland, Maine, an awful thing happened to Ellen. ***(Pick up stone prop.)*** One day the girls were on their way home when an older schoolmate threw a big rock that hit Ellen's nose. She was badly hurt. She was very sick for many days. Her dad was away at the time. When he came home Ellen's looks had changed so much that he didn't even know her.

Person B

That must have been terrible. None of us likes to be stared at. What did she do? How did she cope?

Person C

Ellen was heartbroken, but she learned that Jesus still loved her and would always love her no matter what she had been through. Ellen learned to love Jesus and long for heaven. She liked to tell her friends about Jesus and pray for them. At the age of 14 she was baptized. Are any of you baptized? That is the best choice you'll ever make.

Back to Ellen—she and her family heard William Miller preach and believed that Jesus was coming back soon. Millerites, as the followers of William Miller were called, came to believe that this would happen on October 22, 1844. Because of this her family members were dismissed from their Methodist Church. Ellen was serious about helping her friends prepare for Jesus' coming. She even knitted socks (at 25 cents a pair) to raise money to donate for pamphlets to be printed about Jesus' soon return that people could give away.

Person B

But Jesus didn't come in 1844. That must have been a big let-down for Ellen Harmon and every one of those Millerites. This came to be known as the "Great Disappointment."

Person C

They were heartbroken when Jesus didn't come. It was only a little while after the "Great Disappointment" that God gave Ellen her first vision. She was just 17 years old. This was the first of about 2,000 visions and prophetic dreams she would receive during her lifetime.

Person B

Wow, 2000! That's incredible! What was that first vision about?

Person C

It was about the journey of the Advent people to the New Jerusalem. Ellen felt that Jesus understood how sad they all were, that He still loved them, and that they would soon understand that He really is coming. He wanted her to tell others about the vision, but she didn't want to do that—she was afraid! She finally agreed to try to tell others about her visions.

Ellen wasn't very well. Sometimes she could hardly talk. But when she began to tell her visions, her voice always came back and was strong. For the rest of her life, Ellen was God's special Messenger to His people. ***(Person C starts leaving.)***

Person B

Wait a moment! I want to hear the romance part. Did Ellen Harmon ever have a boyfriend or fall in love? ***(Refer to Powerpoint slide #4. Click on play icon on slide for wedding music. Wedding music starts or someone hums wedding music.)***

2. Who was Ellen G. White?—Part 2

Objective: continue telling the story of Ellen White, this time in the form of a monologue and pictures.

Person A

(Begins speaking while coming forward; person C sits down and person B will assist with props.)

No, no! There was no wedding music. When Ellen married James White in 1846 there was no white wedding dress. In fact, she wasn't even married in a church. James White was a young former Millerite preacher. Believing that people needed to be told about Jesus, and because the newlyweds were so poor that they had to live for a while with Ellen's parents, they had no money to spend on a wedding for themselves.

Person B

(Refer to PowerPoint slide #5.)

Is this their wedding picture? Why are all the pictures in black and white?

Person A

No, this isn't a wedding picture, but it is one of the few pictures that we have of the young couple. Remember, photography was still a new invention; color photography had not been invented yet, and no one was taking selfies back then.

Soon after their marriage, James and Ellen White accepted the Bible truth of the seventh-day Sabbath after reading a pamphlet written by the retired sea captain, Joseph Bates ***(Refer to PowerPoint slide #6)***. The Whites were poor. Preachers in the Advent movement were not paid a salary, so James White divided his time between preaching and earning a living in the forest, on the railroad, or in the hayfield. In 1847 Henry was born to the Whites.

Eventually Ellen and James would have four boys. ***(Refer to PowerPoint slide #7)***. Henry died of pneumonia when he was 16 years old. ***(Refer to PowerPoint slide #8)***. Edson grew up and began missionary work in the southern United States with a boat, ***(Refer to PowerPoint slide #9)***, called the "Morning Star". ***(Refer to PowerPoint slide #10)***. William, or Willie, grew up to become a pastor, administrator, and Ellen White's assistant. ***(Refer to PowerPoint slide #11)*** John Herbert died when he was just a few weeks old. Henry, on his deathbed, asked that he not be buried in Topsham, Maine, where he and his family then were. He wanted to be taken back to Battle Creek and buried there, so that in the resurrection his little brother wouldn't come up alone.

In her first years of marriage Ellen White wrote and traveled widely to visit Advent believers. In 1855 the Whites moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, where church members built a little printing house. Later a big hospital ***(Refer to PowerPoint slide #12)*** called a Sanitarium would be built in Battle Creek, as well as a school that grew into a college.

The work grew quickly, and the scattered groups of Adventists realized that they needed to organize so that together they could work better to tell others about God's truths. Now let's see if we have any Adventist history geniuses here. Does anyone know what happened in May of 1863? **(You could give a bookmark or any small token to the first Pathfinder with the correct answer.)** In May of 1863 the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially organized. The church's name had already been chosen in 1860, and several local conferences had been organized.

James White worked very hard helping the Seventh-day Adventist work grow. He was very busy helping to get books printed, including those written by Ellen White. James and Ellen White also traveled and preached a lot. James White also helped raise money to enlarge the Battle Creek Sanitarium. **(Refer to PowerPoint slide #13).** He raised the money for the big church in Battle Creek that was called the Dime Tabernacle. It was named the Dime Tabernacle because everyone was asked to donate a dime a month for a year towards building it. In 1881 James White died at the age of 60 **(Refer to PowerPoint slide #14).**

Person C

After James died, Willie White helped his mother with her printing and traveling work. In 1885 Ellen White was asked to go as a missionary to help the church's work in Europe **(Refer to PowerPoint slide #15).** For two years she lived in Basel, Switzerland. Here we have a photograph of the Basel Publishing house. **(Refer to PowerPoint slide #16).** She made trips to England, Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. Back again in the United States, she made her home at Healdsburg, California. There she finished the 1888 edition of *The Great Controversy* and wrote *Patriarchs and Prophets*. In 1891 Ellen White was asked to go as a missionary to help in Australia **(Refer to PowerPoint slide #17).** There she helped to start Avondale College. **(Refer to PowerPoint slide #18).** She lived near the school in a house she named "Sunnyside" **(Refer to PowerPoint slide #19).** One day in 1900 Ellen White surprised her family and the people who worked with her by telling them that God had instructed her to leave Australia and return to America.

Back in the United States, Ellen White settled near the town of St. Helena in California. She named her home “Elmshaven” (**Note: pronounce it “Elms Haven”**) (**Refer to PowerPoint slide #20**). She encouraged the General Conference and the local conferences to reorganize so that they could do better work for God. She also wanted Adventists not to huddle all together at Battle Creek but to move to different places so that they could witness for God. She encouraged the Review and Herald Publishing Association as well as the General Conference offices to move to Washington, D.C., on the East Coast. In 1909, at the age of 81, Ellen White attended her last General Conference session.

At the conference she spoke a number of times in a clear, firm voice. At the close of her last presentation to the delegates from around the world, she held out a Bible in her aged hands and said: (**Female Voice: refer to PowerPoint slide #20**)
“Brethren and sisters, I commend to you this book!”

Realizing that she may not have much longer to live, Ellen White returned to Elmshaven where she worked hard on finishing several important books. On February 13, 1915, as she was entering her study at Elmshaven, she tripped and fell, breaking her hip. She couldn’t walk anymore and gradually grew weaker. During the last months of her life her words to friends and relatives were cheerful. She knew that she had faithfully done her best to be God’s messenger. Her last words were, (**Female Voice: refer to PowerPoint slide #22**)

“I know in whom I have believed.”

Ellen White died on July 16, 1915, at the age of 87. She was buried in Battle Creek, Michigan, with other members of her family.

Note: At this point you could review the answers for the section “Who was Ellen G. White?” in the Activity booklet.

3. Tests of a Prophet (Refer to Powerpoint slide #23).

Objective: help Pathfinders understand that our confidence in Ellen White's prophetic role is based not on miraculous manifestations but on the biblical tests.

Note: You may print out Powerpoint slide #24-28, to use in this section for volunteers to hold up at the appropriate times.

Person B

So now you know something about Ellen White. But why do we say that she was a prophet? What would you say if I told you that I was a prophet? Would you believe me? How would you know? (**Take some answers; if anyone says, "Test with the Bible," then reward with a token.**)

First of all, a prophet will have prophetic dreams or visions. Then to know whether or not someone is a true prophet we must apply the tests. We can find all of the tests of a true prophet in the Bible. I need four volunteers. (**Select four volunteers and give each of them one of the four printed-out tests of a prophet, and have them hold the test up when it is mentioned.**)

Test 1: Isaiah 8:20—Agree with the Bible. (Refer to Powerpoint slide #24).

We test the prophets by comparing what they say with what the Bible says. A true prophet will never contradict the Bible.

Test 2: Matthew 7:15-20—Bear good Fruit. (Refer to Powerpoint slide #25).

This test takes time, as fruit doesn't ripen overnight. By seeing the prophet's character and watching what results come from the messages, we can see if the person is drawing others to God's ways or leading them in a wrong direction.

Test 3: Jeremiah 28:9—Fulfilled Predictions. *(Refer to Powerpoint slide #26).*

This is a more difficult test because some prophecies are always fulfilled and other prophecies may not appear to be fulfilled. In general terms, all predictions of a true prophet should happen as predicted. But, according to Jeremiah 18:7-10, there are certain predictions which depend on how people respond to God's messages. If the people change their attitude and behavior, the prediction may not happen. Remember the people of Nineveh that God didn't destroy because they repented.

Test 4: 1 John 4:1-3 —Jesus is the Center. *(Refer to Powerpoint slide #27).*

A true prophet believes and teaches that Jesus is fully God and also completely human and that He came and lived and died for us. True prophets love Jesus and make uplifting Jesus the most important part of their lives and work.

Good job, volunteers! Let's repeat all of the tests of a prophet together ***(Read each test again in unison).***

From the earliest days of the Advent movement, millions of people have studied the life and messages of Ellen G. White and checked these with the Bible tests to see if she was a true prophet. The result: Ellen White passes the tests for a prophet with *(Refer to Powerpoint slide #23) an—A+!* ***(Person C to thank the volunteers and take their signs before they sit down.)***

Note: At this point you could review the answers for the section "Tests of a Prophet" in the Activity booklet.

4. What is inspiration? *(Refer to Powerpoint slide #29).*

Objective: help Pathfinders understand the difference between Verbal and Thought inspiration. Two activities in this section illustrate the differences.

Note: You will need to first print out Powerpoint slide #30, *Christ of the Revelation*. Wait to display when indicated.

Person A

Everyone hold up your pencils. O.K., now find the place in your Activity booklet marked “dictation.” I want you to write the following numbers: 2, 6, 4, 7, 43. Do you all have that? Do you understand why you wrote it? No, you just wrote.

Let’s try another activity! I want every other person to stand up and face the back of the room. All the people who are sitting, close your eyes. The standing people, please look at the picture being held up (***Person B holds up the printed picture of Christ of the Revelation for 10 seconds***), but don’t say anything.

(Person B takes down the picture.) All right, all the standing people may sit and the rest may open your eyes. Now I want those who saw the picture to describe it quickly to your neighbor. (***Give 2 or 3 minutes for the descriptions.***)

All right everyone, this is the picture that half of you saw (*Refer to Powerpoint slide #30*).

Did those who saw it do a good job at describing it to the rest of you? Was it difficult? (***Give a minute for feedback responses.***)

So what do writing down numbers and talking about pictures have to do with prophets or with Ellen White?

Seventh-day Adventists do not believe that God dictates the exact words to the prophet. (*Refer to Powerpoint slide #31*). We would call that Verbal inspiration. And it is a bit like the numbers that you were told to write down, and you just did it because that is what I said. Instead of such a dictation, we believe that the Holy Spirit inspires the prophet, often through a vision or dream.

(Refer to Powerpoint slide #32). We call this Thought Inspiration. The prophet then uses his or her own words to tell others God's messages, something like what many of you did when you described the picture that you had seen.

Of course the prophet is also dependent on the Holy Spirit as he or she writes. But a prophet uses his or her everyday language, which he or she may even try to improve through study, reading, and travel. So sometimes a prophet may misspell something or make a mistake in grammar, and it needs to be corrected. Ellen White never claimed to be perfect, but she always tried to be like Jesus, and she faithfully gave God's messages. Because this was sometimes very difficult, God helped her to be brave and to find ways to tell others truly, accurately, and faithfully.

Note: At this point you could review the answers for the section "What is inspiration?" in the Activity booklet.

5. Relationship between Ellen G. White and the Bible *(Refer to Powerpoint slide #33).*

Objective: in the following section we want to help Pathfinders understand the relationship of Ellen White's writings to the Bible. We make use of the large family Bible or heavy book prop to illustrate this relationship.

Person C

In the vault at the White Estate in the General Conference is a special Bible **(Refer to PowerPoint slide #)**. It is the Harmon family Bible. I need the strongest boy/girl here to come up and help me **(Have volunteer come up)**. At her parents' home, early in 1845 young Ellen, who was only 17 at the time, held the large Bible while in vision in her left hand with her arm outstretched parallel to the floor for about thirty minutes. The Harmon family Bible weighs 18 ½ pounds (8 kg). Here we have something that is about the same weight.

(Person C picks up the big family Bible or books weighing about 18 ½ pounds [8 kg] and asks the volunteer to hold his or her arm out. Person C then places it in the volunteer's hand. Time the volunteer and see how long he/she can hold the Bible on an outstretched arm. Thank the volunteer and give him/her a token. The volunteer can then be seated.)

Obviously a 5'2" (157 cm) girl who weighed only 80 or 90 lbs. (36 or 40 kg) could not have done this except while in vision and being strengthened supernaturally. Ellen White sometimes held up Bibles, quoted Bible verses, and spoke of the importance of the Bible while in vision. I think that God wanted us to know how important the Bible is. Ellen White's writings were not given to replace the Bible. She showed that her writings were, as she said (***Refer to PowerPoint slide #34***), a "lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light." Her writings have been given to lift up and honor the Bible.

Note: At this point you could review the answers for the section "Ellen White and the Bible" in the Activity booklet.

6. Dreams, Visions and Books

Objective: provide the Pathfinders with a brief introduction to the main themes of Ellen White's writings and highlight some important books. By alternating speakers we want to keep this section interesting.

Person B

In December of 1844, God gave young Ellen the first of about 2,000 visions and prophetic dreams. Ellen White did a lot of writing. After she published her first book in 1851, she went on to write many articles, books, and little pamphlets. Because all 2,000 visions and dreams would take far too long to tell you about, here are just a few of the visions and books that Ellen White wrote:

Person A

First, of course, there is the war story. In 1858 Ellen White was shown the war between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels throughout history. Two days later Satan tried to kill her to stop her from telling others what she had seen. God protected her, and she wrote out what God had shown her.

She went on writing about this great war throughout her life. You can read about it in the books *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Desire of Ages*, *The Acts of the Apostles*, and *The Great Controversy*, or if you want it in easier-to-read English, the books are called: (Refer to Powerpoint slide #35) *Beginning of the End*, (Refer to Powerpoint slide #36) *Royalty and Ruin*, (Refer to Powerpoint slide #37) *Humble Hero*, (Refer to Powerpoint slide #38) *Unlikely Leaders*, (Refer to Powerpoint slide #39) and *Love under Fire*. You can buy these books at your local Adventist Book Center. Your Activity booklet will also tell you where you can go to find these books for free online or as an App.

Person C

Please don't forget the very important health vision. In 1863 the Seventh-day Adventist Church was officially organized. Health care at that time was not very healthful! Doctors would prescribe cigars to clean up the lungs. People didn't bathe very often. They might go weeks or even months without taking a bath. They also didn't know about a healthful diet and used lots of fat in their food. There were some strange ideas about air, too. People believed that night air was poisonous, and they tried to close everything up tight at night to keep the night air out.

In the same year that the church was organized, Ellen White was given a vision that showed how we could be healthier by not using drugs, alcohol, tobacco, tea, coffee, or meat. She was also shown that it was important to have fresh air, eat a healthful diet, use water, have lots of exercise, sunshine, and self-control, enough rest, and trust in God.

Person B

In 1875 Ellen White was given an important vision, showing her that the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work was to broaden and develop not only in the United States but overseas as well. Among other things, she was shown printing presses operating in other lands and a well-organized work developing in far-away countries that Seventh-day Adventist had not yet thought of entering. Many years later, in 1891, she visited a printing press in Melbourne, Australia. She recognized the room and the people there, because she had seen them in her vision of 1875.

Person A

Mrs. White found time to write thousands of pages of counsel and also articles for the *Review, Signs, and Youth Instructor*. In 1898, while living in her Sunnyside home (**Refer to PowerPoint slide #40**) in Australia, Ellen White finished writing the book *The Desire of Ages* about the life of Jesus.

Person C

On returning to the United States in 1900, Ellen White settled in her Elmshaven home (**Refer to PowerPoint slide #41**) in California. Here she spent the remaining 15 years of her life in book preparation, writing, and encouraging others to remain true to God.

Note: At this point you could review the answers for the section "Dreams, Visions, and Books" in the Activity booklet.

7. Why do we need Ellen G. White's Writings?

Objective: we want the Pathfinders to be encouraged to try reading Ellen White for themselves.

Person B

So now you have some idea of the books Ellen White wrote and the themes that she wrote about. But I wonder ... why should I take the time to read Ellen White's books? Have any of you ever read a whole book by Ellen White? ***(If someone is willing, bring him or her up for a short interview.)*** Which book did you read? Why? What would you tell your fellow Pathfinders about why they should read Ellen White's books? ***(Give a token as a thank you to the volunteer. If you find no volunteer, then take some answers as to why we should read her and give some tokens for good answers.)***

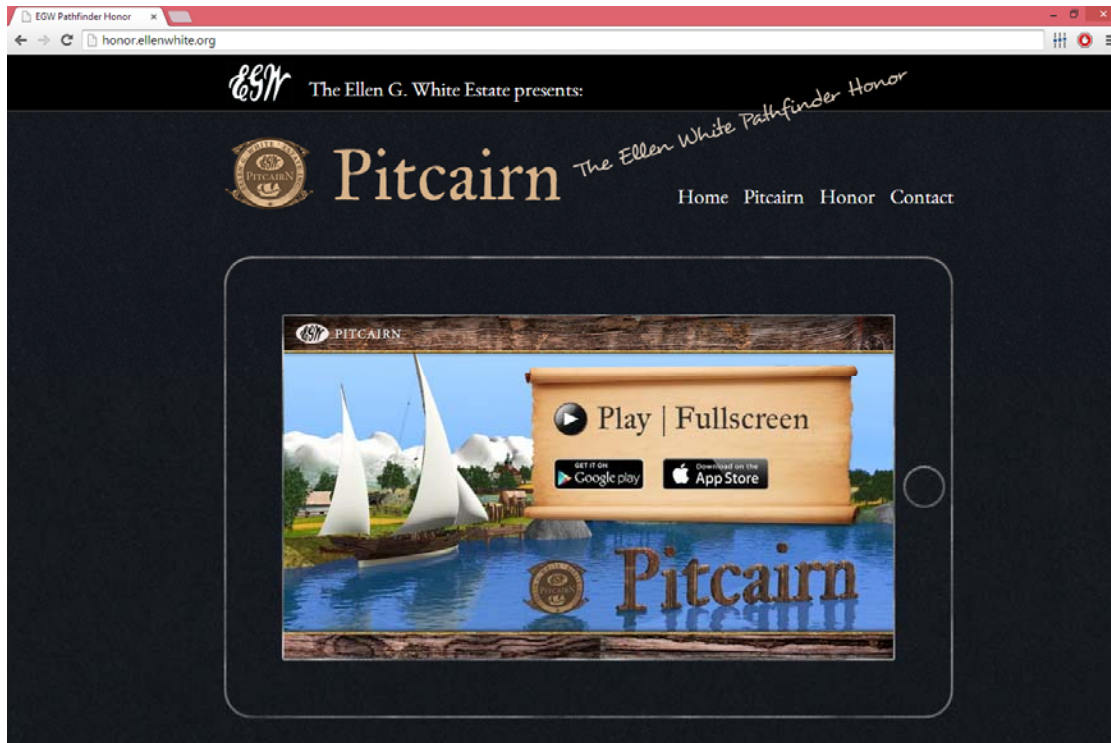
Here are some more good reasons for reading Ellen White. Reading her books will ***(Refer to PowerPoint #42, click to reveal each bullet point as mentioned):***

- Make Bible reading more fun
- Help you make sense of what's really going on in the world
- Get you excited about the Second Coming
- Give advice for relationships
- Provide principles for having a better life
- Show you what things are worth being involved with

Person A

You have been a great group. ***(Refer to PowerPoint slide #43)*** If you have all the answers filled in you will be able to get your "God's Messenger" Honor.

Remember you can also go on-line and play the Pitcairn Game by going to the site on the back page of your Activity booklet: <http://honor.ellenwhite.org>. ***(Refer to PowerPoint slide #44)***



Let's have a closing prayer together.

(Person A prays.)