COMPANION A / AFTER STUDY 5



The reunion begins a question about how we love now.

THE FAMILY WE BRING HOME

When the narrator finds his family, what does that hope ask of our homes today?

WATCH / NOTICE / ASK

A question inside the story



Movie-production concept; final still and exact edit may differ.

The narrator searches the redeemed for his family. He embraces a brother whose conversion he did not live to see, then recognizes parents, siblings, spouses, and children. The scene moves between reunion and the pain of absence. Begin with what it reveals about his longing; do not use it to announce the destiny of anyone in the group.

NOTICE Name the different relationships in the reunion. How does the larger family of the redeemed welcome those who have no spouse or children?

ASK Does resurrection hope make our present responsibilities smaller, or more precious? Read Jesus on both marriage now and life after resurrection.

FOLLOW THE TEXT The film introduces family longing. Genesis 2, Matthew 19, Ephesians 5, and Matthew 22 establish the teaching; the film does not supply a new marriage ordinance.

READ / OBSERVE / CONNECT

Open the Bible together

GENESIS 1:26-28; 2:18-25

Read creation before the Fall. Both man and woman bear God’s image. Marriage involves companionship, leaving, cleaving, and a one-flesh union. What is given by God before human legal systems? What responsibilities follow from equal human dignity? Describe a covenant rather than merely a ceremony. The passage grounds the Adventist understanding of marriage as a lifelong union of one man and one woman.

MATTHEW 19:3-9; EPHESIANS 5:21-33

Jesus answers a divorce question by returning to creation. Paul calls husbands to the costly, nourishing love of Christ and situates household counsel within life shaped by the Spirit. Identify commands that confront selfish power. Neither marital commitment nor a passage about submission authorizes cruelty, sexual coercion, or control. How does the cross change the meaning of leadership and responsibility?

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9; EPHESIANS 6:1-4

Teaching faith belongs within ordinary life: conversation, routines, example, and patient instruction. Paul tells children to honor parents and tells fathers not to provoke their children. Parents are stewards of persons who belong to God. What would a child learn about Jesus from the emotional atmosphere of a home, not only from its spoken rules?

READ / OBSERVE / CONNECT

Understand the teaching

A COVENANT SHAPED BY CHRIST

Adventists affirm marriage as a lifelong, faithful union between a man and a woman, entered by Christians who share faith in Christ. Love, respect, fidelity, and mutual responsibility express that commitment. Read 1 Corinthians 7:12-16 before assuming a person already married to an unbeliever must leave. Choosing a future spouse and honoring an existing marriage require distinct pastoral applications.

FAMILIES NEED DISCIPLESHIP

Homes help people grow through worship, service, truthful speech, forgiveness, and care. Malachi 4:5-6 connects God’s renewing work with the turning of hearts across generations. This does not guarantee a child’s conversion or remove individual freedom. A parent can faithfully witness without controlling an adult child’s decisions. The narrator’s surprise invites prayerful hope rather than a formula for saving relatives.

THE CHURCH IS ALSO A FAMILY

Read Mark 3:31-35 and 1 Corinthians 7:7-8. Singleness does not make a believer incomplete or spiritually second class. Widowed, divorced, childless, and unmarried people belong fully in Christ’s body. The reunion’s larger family points toward a congregation where meals, friendship, practical help, and meaningful service include people across household types.

PHOTOTHEOLOGY / CHRIST AT THE CENTER

See the connected picture

EDEN: A GIFT BEFORE SIN

Genesis 2:18-25 locates companionship and marriage within God’s good creation. The Fall distorts relationships through blame and domination in Genesis 3; it does not make domination the ideal to imitate.

THE CROSS: LOVE THAT GIVES ITSELF

Ephesians 5:25-32 directly connects marriage with Christ and His church. The husband’s model is the Savior who gives Himself, nourishes, and cherishes. The comparison calls for holiness and sacrificial care, not a spouse’s claim to be another person’s savior.

THE REUNION: HOPE WITH A HORIZON

The film’s reunion awakens hope, while Matthew 22:23-33 corrects the assumption that earthly marriage arrangements simply continue unchanged after resurrection. We trust God’s restored life without inventing details Jesus did not disclose.

FOLLOW THE PASSAGES

One Savior. A lived response.

1

CREATED FOR COVENANT

Genesis 2 / Receive people as God’s image-bearers, not possessions.

2

REDEEMED FOR LOVE

Ephesians 5 / Christ supplies the pattern for faithful, self-giving care.

3

GATHERED AS GOD’S FAMILY

Mark 3; Revelation 7 / Build belonging now while hoping in resurrection.

TRACE AND TEST

Use solid lines for direct biblical statements and supported canonical connections. Use a dotted line for a film illustration or personal application. Explain how each step directs attention to Christ.

APOLOGETICS / LISTEN AND EXAMINE

Questions worth asking

DOES THE REUNION MEAN WE REMAIN MARRIED IN HEAVEN?

Jesus says people in the resurrection do not marry or enter marriage (Matthew 22:30). Being like angels in that respect does not mean becoming angels or losing identity. The film portrays recognition and belonging; it cannot overturn Jesus' teaching. Eternal joy is secure in God even where its exact form exceeds our present categories.

WHAT IF MY FAMILY HAS ALREADY BROKEN?

The creation ideal tells us what love is for; it does not authorize contempt toward people living with loss or complicated histories. Jesus addresses sexual unfaithfulness in Matthew 19; Paul addresses abandonment and peace in 1 Corinthians 7. Work through a particular situation with a qualified pastor. This group should neither grant blanket permissions nor pronounce a stranger's guilt.

MUST A PERSON STAY IN DANGER TO HONOR MARRIAGE?

No. Violence and coercion violate Christlike love. Seek safety and appropriate professional, pastoral, and civil help. Forgiveness does not require immediate access, secrecy, or untested trust. Questions about separation, reconciliation, and remarriage need careful attention to the actual facts; a small-group worksheet cannot settle every case.

KEEP THE STRONG QUESTIONS VISIBLE

Go deeper without shortcuts

IS THE BIBLICAL IDEAL AN EXCUSE TO HUMILIATE PEOPLE?

No. Teach the Adventist conviction plainly while treating every participant as a person of equal worth. Do not require disclosure of sexual history, orientation, marital conflict, or family trauma. Christ's call to discipleship joins truth with patient love. The purpose is to invite a life surrendered to Him, not to make an outsider feel that humiliation is the price of belonging.

CAN I GUARANTEE THAT MY CHILDREN WILL BE IN THE REUNION?

No parent can choose faith for another person. Proverbs 22:6 belongs to wisdom teaching, not a mechanism that abolishes freedom. Pray, model repentance, repair what you can, and leave ultimate judgment with God. The narrator's unexpected reunion discourages final pronouncements about people whose whole story we do not know.

WHY SHARE FAITH IF IT CAUSES ARGUMENTS AT HOME?

Read 1 Peter 3:1-2, 15-16. Patient conduct and a gentle explanation can witness without repeated pressure. Ask permission for a conversation, listen to objections, and honor practical responsibilities. A loving household is not one in which questions are forbidden. Your first next step may be an apology or an act of faithful care.

DISCIPLESHIP / TRY THE TEACHING

Practice before you leave

A SIMPLE FAMILY WORSHIP

Design ten minutes around Luke 15: read a short section, ask what it shows about the Father, let each person ask one honest question, and pray briefly. For a home with children, adapt to their ages. A person living alone can invite a trusted friend or join a church household for occasional worship.

REPAIR WITHOUT CONTROLLING

Write a private sentence beginning, I have hurt you by.... Follow with a concrete change that is yours to make. Avoid an apology that demands forgiveness or a religious response in return. Ask whether the situation is safe for direct contact; in an unsafe relationship, plan with appropriate support instead.

RETURN TO THE MOVIE

Imagine meeting the narrator just before his family reunion. What biblical hope could you share without promising a particular person will be there? Then name one relationship you can honor this week. Draw a circle around Christ, not around a perfect family photograph, as the center of your picture.

VISUAL STUDY / YOUR TURN

Build a three-frame discovery

Create a three-panel storyboard: Eden’s companionship, Christ’s self-giving love, and the redeemed family. Write a Bible reference under each panel. Add one present action: a shared meal, an apology, patient listening, or practical support. Explain which panel is direct biblical teaching and which uses the movie to picture hope.

READ THE TEXT

Passage / observation

CONNECT TO CHRIST

Passage / observation

LIVE THE RESPONSE

Passage / observation

BACK TO THE NARRATOR

When the narrator finds his family, what does that hope ask of our homes today?

Explain your answer using Scripture. Add one question you still need to investigate.

REFLECT / PRAY / CHOOSE

Let the truth shape your life

RETURN TO CHRIST

Read the main passages again. What do they show about God’s character, Christ’s work, and your next faithful response? Pray honestly about one conviction and one question. Understanding can grow through further study and life in a local congregation.

What would it mean to place my relationships under the care and instruction of Jesus this week?

MY NEXT STEP

( ) I understand. ( ) I need further study.
( ) I would like a voluntary conversation with an Adventist pastor.
( ) I will try one specific action this week.

Return to main Study 6 to continue the movie’s order.

LEADER COMPANION / READ BEFORE GROUP

Guide the next conversation

PLAN FOR TWO MEETINGS

Meeting 1: scene and observations 10 minutes; Bible and doctrinal investigation 30; Christ-centered connections 15; questions and prayer 15. Meeting 2: map and strongest objections 25; cases and visual activity 20; a practical response and voluntary next step 20. Let questions determine the pace. The goal is informed faith and a lived response, not a completed schedule.

CARE FOR THIS CONVERSATION

Read the reunion at 8:17-11:27 before discussion. Offer a private or hypothetical response option. Include single and bereaved people from the beginning. Never ask participants to name relatives they fear are lost. Teach the Adventist marriage conviction alongside safety, dignity, patient discipleship, and pastoral care.

SOURCES AND CONTINUING STUDY

Story: Heaven’s Diary, 8:17-11:27. Read this companion after main Study 5. Scripture is the doctrinal foundation. Official Adventist belief 23 is the alignment reference. Ministry apologetics starting point: marriage / mar-1. The explanations and activities are new editorial adaptations, not quotations attributed to Ivor Myers.

Source notes and official belief: open the companion source page online.