

# SABBATH FLOW

A Weekly Guide to Worship, Discipleship, and Witness

*Based on the sermon "Christ in a World at War" preached on March 21, 2026 at Auburn SDA Church. For the week covering March 22-28. Sermon and Sabbath Flow prepared by Pastor Mel Baga, D.Min.*

## GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, in a world full of noise, fear, and conflict, quiet our hearts. Open Your Word to us, renew our minds by Your Spirit. Keep us truthful, tender, courageous, and faithful in a world at war. Amen.

**Open:** In a time of conflict, fear, and outrage, what do you think it would mean to respond not merely with instinct, but with the mind of Christ?

**Read:** Read 1 Corinthians 2:14–16 aloud slowly, with special attention to verse 16: "But we have the mind of Christ." Then also read Matthew 5:43–48; John 18:33–37; Ephesians 2:13–18; and Revelation 13:11–17. As you listen, what word, phrase, or image stands out to you—and why might it be for you today?

**Discuss:** Pick as many as time allows.

1. In 1 Corinthians 2:14–16, what is the difference between the "natural person" and the person shaped by the Spirit?

2. Why is it important to begin a Christian response to war with Jesus rather than with headlines, tribes, fear, or national instinct?

3. In Matthew 5:43–48, Jesus commands love for enemies. What does that command challenge most deeply in us?

4. In John 18:33–37, Jesus speaks of a kingdom "not from this world." How does that shape the church's posture toward power, violence, and truth?

5. Ephesians 2:13–18 says Christ "is our peace" and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility. How does that affect the way Christians speak about enemies, nations, and human dignity?

**6.** Revelation 13:11 describes a power that looks lamblike but speaks like a dragon. Why is that image so important for thinking about political and religious power?

**7.** Where do you feel the greatest tension right now: enemy-love, protection of the innocent, truth-telling, resisting dehumanization, or speaking prophetically to power?

**Reflect:** Paul says, “We have the mind of Christ.” That does not mean we know everything. It means we do not have to think the way the world thinks. In a world full of fear, anger, revenge, and propaganda, the church is called to see through the Spirit and respond in the way of

Jesus. The mind of Christ does not make us blind to evil. It helps us be truthful without hatred, brave without cruelty, wise without cynicism, and hopeful without pretending. We are not trying to solve everything at once. We are simply listening for the Spirit’s next faithful step as people who belong to the Lamb.

**Pray:** Lord Jesus, form Your mind in us. Keep us from being disciplined by fear, outrage, or idolatry. Make us people of truth, peace, courage, and mercy. Teach us to love our enemies, protect the vulnerable, and speak truth to power under Your lordship. Amen.

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### MONDAY

#### THE DIVINE CONTEXT

*“We have the mind of Christ.”*

**Reflect:** The Divine Context is you with God. Before the church can respond faithfully to a world at war, it must first be re-centered in Christ. Paul says, “We have the mind of Christ.” That means our first work is not reaction but communion. Not panic, but

presence. Not outrage, but surrender. Today, let Jesus shape the way you think, see, and feel. The mind of Christ is formed in nearness to Him.

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 2:14–16. Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. Sit especially with verse 16. What might it mean for you today to have the mind of Christ?

**Pray:** “Father, quiet my mind and shape it by the mind of Christ today. Amen.”

## **TUESDAY**

### **THE TRANSPARENT CONTEXT**

*“Love your enemies.”*

**Reflect:** The mind of Christ does not grow well in secrecy, pride, or self-protection. It deepens as we become honest before God and with safe people. Jesus’ command to love enemies shows how quickly fear, resentment, and contempt can grow in us. Today is an invitation to bring those reactions into the light. Transparency is not exposure for its own sake. It is honest openness before God that makes room for healing.

**Read:** Matthew 5:43–48. Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. Ask: where do I feel resistance to the way of Jesus right now?

**Pray:** “Jesus, make me honest enough to be healed and humble enough to be changed. Amen.”

## **WEDNESDAY**

### **THE PERSONAL CONTEXT**

*“My kingdom is not from this world.”*

**Reflect:** The Personal Context is the circle where love is lived

out over time. In John 18, Jesus stands before power without giving up truth, without reflecting fear, and without becoming harsh in spirit. That is the kind of presence Christ wants to form in us at home, at the table, and in the close relationships that shape our lives. The kingdom of Jesus does not work through domination, but through truth, love, and steady faithfulness. The people closest to us are often the first place where the mind of Christ is seen—or tested.

**Read:** John 18:33–37. Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. What does Christlike truthfulness look like in one close relationship right now?

**Pray:** “Lord Jesus, let Your kingdom shape the way I live and love in my closest relationships. Amen.”

## **THURSDAY**

### **THE SOCIAL CONTEXT**

*“He is our peace... and has broken down the dividing wall.”*

**Reflect:** The Social Context is where community turns outward together. Ephesians 2 reminds us that Christ does not just give peace; He is our

peace. He breaks down hostility and creates a new humanity. In a world that divides people into camps and enemies, the church is called to be a different kind of community. We do not deny evil or excuse injustice, but neither do we give in to dehumanization. Today, ask how your life with others can reflect Christ's peace.

**Read:** Ephesians 2:13–18. Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. Where do you see walls of hostility that Christ may be calling you and others to address together?

**Pray:** “Christ our peace, break down hostility in us and through us. Amen.”

## **FRIDAY**

### **THE PUBLIC CONTEXT**

*“It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.”*

**Reflect:** The Public Context is where faith engages the wider world. Revelation 13 warns that power can appear gentle and even righteous while still speaking like a dragon. As Adventist Christians, this gives us a solemn public calling. We are not called to idolize nations, flatter rulers, or

confuse patriotism with prophecy. We are called to speak truth to power, to defend conscience, and to warn against coercion and idolatry. The mind of Christ is not politically naïve. It is spiritually discerning.

**Read:** Revelation 13:11–17. Notice a word, phrase, or feeling that rises to the surface. Ask: where do I need greater discernment about power, image, coercion, and truth?

**Pray:** “Holy Spirit, give me courage to speak truth without hatred and to resist every form of idolatry. Amen.” ♦