

Early Leaders of the Adventist Church

Ellen and James White

Ellen and James White were instrumental in forming the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They realized from their study of Scripture that Jesus devoted a great deal of His time on Earth to healing the sick and helping those in need. In fact, He seemingly sought out people experiencing hardships, offering them a new and better life. The members of the young church wanted to pattern a first-class institution after these principles—caring for the whole person: mind, body, and spirit. In 1866, the first Adventist health care facility, named the Western Health Reform Institute, opened in Battle Creek, Michigan.



1 OBJECTIVE

Share the story of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and what motivated the movement of health and wholeness. Team members will reflect on how each of us continue this legacy in our own way today.

2 VIDEO



Ellen and James White
2:17 minutes
youtu.be/k8bjVZqo-tU

3 DISCUSSION

- Consider the difficulties that the early health care leaders faced. In what ways are they similar to challenges we experience today?
- As a group, discuss why you choose to serve others through health care.

4 PRAYER

Thank You for leading our pioneers in the past to give us purpose in the present. We ask You to reach down and fill us with a love that only You can provide. Bless those we serve, providing courage and hope where needed.

In Your name, Amen

DID YOU KNOW?

- The *Smithsonian* magazine named Ellen White among the 100 Most Significant Americans of All Time in acknowledgment of her influence on religion. She is considered the most published female writer in history, writing more than 5,000 articles and 40 books on health, relationships, and faith in God. These publications have been translated into more than 80 languages.
- In the late 1800s, few understood the health impact of poor sanitation. Each day on the streets of New York, horses deposited 2.5 million pounds of manure and 60,000 gallons of urine. This uncollected waste polluted the water. Industrial pollution and lack of underground sewers made living in large cities a health hazard. Early Adventist health-advocate Ellen White preached of these dangers—urging people to move out of cities.
- James White was also a writer and editor, preacher, and intense searcher of the Bible. He established and became editor of the first church publication, which is still being published today under the name *Adventist Review*. He also served as president of the newly formed General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

