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CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

2ND QUARTER 2017



Boundless Freedom

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REAL. SOLID. STORIES.

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Boundless Freedom

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a word about what's ahead...

The goal of *Cornerstone Connections* is to lead you to the Bible to see the big story of God and people. This big story continues from the first generation in Eden to your generation today. It's about the lives of people as the God of the universe interacts with them.

If you are looking for a word from God that is **real**, *Cornerstone Connections* captures the message of Scripture and challenges you to make the connections to your real life.

God's Word is not only real; it is rock-**solid**. For the first generation to hear God's voice in the garden as well as the last group standing before Christ at the Second Coming, the Word of God has been and continues to be reliable.

The word from God comes to us in the **stories** of people who encountered Him and made a decision to either follow Him or walk away.

Real. Solid. Stories. You will find one in *Into the Story* in each lesson. *Out of the Story* will provide you with ways to search for truth you can apply to your life. In each lesson you will also find:

- **What Do You Think?**—a mental activity to get your mind and heart in gear for the story to follow. Every time you approach a Bible story, you are coming to it in the context of the story in which you live every day.
- **Did You Know?**—a brief statistic or definition that digs a little deeper into the story or simply provides some helpful facts to bring to the lesson.
- **Key Text**—a verse that points out a key concept from the story. It is also a great place to find verses that you can memorize and store away for later use.
- **Punch Lines**—a few other verses from Scripture that punctuate key concepts of the lesson. You may see connections between them and the Bible story as well as your own life.
- **Flashlight**—a brief snapshot of Ellen White's input on the story. These glimmers that shed light onto the biblical passage will also give you a glimpse of what awaits you in the suggested weekly reading from her inspired commentary on the stories—the Conflict of the Ages.*
- **Further Insight**—one or two quotes that will provide further insight into the central message of the lesson.
- **Making It Real**—the guide to making the truths about God in this story your very own. **Study the Bible lesson during the week in preparation for Sabbath School. On Sabbath you will have the opportunity to review, discuss, and elaborate on what you learned with other students in your Sabbath School class.** Each day of the week you will be directed to explore one of the sections of the lesson, to relate it to the story you live, and to make the message from God's Word apply to you personally.

Welcome to *Cornerstone Connections*.

—The Editors

PS: Don't forget to check out the reading plan.



*A special modern adaptation has been created just for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and the Pacific Press Publishing Association. To access this book in an e-format, go to www.cornerstoneconnections.net.

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

2ND QUARTER 2017

April

1—It's Your Turn [p. 5]

John the Baptist could have become jealous when his disciples began following Jesus. But he chose to take joy in Jesus' success. He realized his role was to prepare the way.

8—Come and See! [p. 9]

On the strength of one woman's witness, an entire village was convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. Can one person's story really do that?

15—Seeing is Believing! [p. 13]

A royal official believed Jesus' words that his son was healed—even before he returned to his son. A lesson in faith that can echo in our hearts still today.

22—Do You Want to Get Well? [p. 17]

Many people prefer bondage to redemption. Is it possible that the lame man by the Pool of Bethesda preferred it as well?

29—Appearance Versus Reality [p. 21]

John the Baptist had the incredible job of announcing that the kingdom of God was at hand. Unfortunately, he didn't live long enough to see its ultimate fulfillment.

May

6—A Tumultuous Homecoming [p. 25]

What began for Jesus as a speaking appointment in His childhood synagogue turns into a vicious attempt on His life.

13—I Am a Follower [p. 29]

Peter and the other fishermen left everything behind to follow Jesus. What does commitment to Jesus look like in the twenty-first century?

20—Restored at Church [p. 33]

The demon-possessed man had just enough spiritual power to come to Jesus. That was all he needed. That is all we need to come to Jesus.

27—Willing and Able [p. 37]

A dying leper dares to enter society because he hears that Jesus is coming, and has never turned anyone away. Would Jesus accept him, too?

June

3—Not Love at First Sight [p. 41]

Jesus would rather be in the midst of sinners than in a room filled with "just and noble" people. Actually, He sought them out.

10—Front and Center [p. 45]

Criticism didn't bother Jesus; He was used to it. But when the religious leaders missed the point about the Sabbath, offering His people an empty way of life, He couldn't let it go.

17—Jesus Calling [p. 49]

Our call to discipleship is always followed by a call to live in service to humanity. But what does that service look like?

24—Faith-FULL Soldier [p. 53]

A centurion, a servant, and a Savior. The family of God transcends all cultures and creeds.

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SECOND QUARTER 2017



Youth Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide

