

- **Further Insight**—one or two quotes that will provide further insight into the central message of the lesson.
- **Connecting to life**—the guide to making the truths about God in this story your very own. Study the lesson on your own during the week in preparation for further discussion 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.

WHY THE BIBLE STORY APPROACH? (teacher introduction)

There is a tendency to neglect God’s Word because the Bible seems so old and the issues of life today don’t seem to automatically connect with the ancient, inspired text. But the Bible was never meant to be read. It was meant to be studied, reflected on, and integrated into life. It wasn’t written to be analyzed as much as it was to be obeyed. It takes effort. If you simply want a story to entertain you, then the Bible isn’t for you.

The Bible is not a novel that grips you, but if you get a firm hold on the message of the Bible with a teachable heart and an eye that seeks God, you will find something more than entertaining. You will discover a message just for you. “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13, NKJV). Jesus said, “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matthew 7:24, NKJV).

The Bible is the tool used by the promised Teacher—the Holy Spirit. We, the earthly teachers, will be effective as we first let the Spirit teach us. Each of these lessons is built around a specific Bible story. You will lead the students *Into the Story* and help them mine truth for their lives *Out of the Story*. The gems of truth are not already mined for you. You and your students will have an opportunity to dig for yourselves.

“In daily study the verse-by-verse method is often most helpful. Let the student take one verse, and concentrate the mind on ascertaining the thought that God has put into that verse for him, and then dwell upon the thought until it becomes his own. One passage thus studied until its significance is clear is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained” (*Education*, p. 189).

Welcome to *Cornerstone Connections*.

—The Editors

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what tools are provided for teaching the stories?

(Bolded text helps you review the suggested steps at a glance.)

❶ With each lesson in this *Teacher's Guide* you will find an *Explore* section with topics listed that relate to each week's story. We have provided a variety of resources for exploring the topic you choose—from discussion questions to illustrations, from reader's theater scripts to learning activities. **Use the resources at www.cornerstoneconnections.net to create a "program" that is relevant to your group.**

❷ **Begin the actual "lesson" time with the *What Do You Think?* activity (and the *Did You Know?* information)** in the student lesson. The activities are designed to get your students to think, respond, and share with one another. The rich discussion that can grow out of this exercise is a great entry point. The key question to ask at the end is "Why did you respond the way you did?"

❸ Your *Teacher's Guide* provides an illustration, along with a short "bridge" thought that will help you **lead your students into the Bible passage itself.**

❹ The heart of the lesson experience is to **read the Bible passage, *Into the Story***, together and to **discuss it** with the help of your *Out of the Story for Teachers* questions. Other passages to compare to this one for further study of the Word are sometimes provided as well.

❺ Then **share the information about context and background** that will make the story become more understandable for you and your students.

❻ You are provided with a short guide to help you **unpack the other sections of the student lesson with your class.** (Your stu-

dents are also directed to work through one section of their lesson on their own each day by following the instructions in *Connecting to Life*.) Encourage students to study the Bible lesson during the week in preparation for Sabbath School. On Sabbath you will review the lesson and will help them elaborate on it. This process will strengthen in students a sense of accountability and will facilitate a deeper spiritual understanding of the content under study in Sabbath School.

❼ Each week's *Teacher's Guide* includes a teaching tip in *Rabbi 101* that will be helpful for you to keep for future reference. You are also provided an activity and a summary that helps to **draw the lesson together and close.**

❽ In each lesson students are provided with a reference to the volume from the Conflict of the Ages Series, by Ellen White, that corresponds with the week's story. Students who follow the reading plan included in these Sabbath School Bible study guides will be able to read the entire series in four years. The audio and e-book versions of the Conflict of the Ages Series in Today's Language are now available online at www.cornerstoneconnections.net. The prayerful study of God's Word along with the reading of these books promise to help students grow in their relationship with God!

❾ Teachers, in your role as a discipler of youth, the GC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department wants to help you in every way possible to be equipped for this important work. You are encouraged to go to www.growingfruitfuldisciples.com. There you will find resources to help you be more intentional and fruitful in the discipling of your students.

scope & sequence

2015

1st Quarter

1. Adam and Eve
2. The Serpent
3. Cain and Abel
4. Seth and Enoch
5. Noah
6. Tower People
7. Abraham
8. Isaac
9. Lot
10. Rebekah
11. Jacob and Esau
12. Jacob
13. Israel

2nd Quarter

1. Joseph
2. The Brothers
3. Moses
4. Egyptians
5. Fleeing Slaves
6. Unhappy Campers
7. Chosen Nation
8. Aaron
9. The Tabernacle
10. Miriam and Zipporah
11. Twelve Spies
12. Korah
13. The Bronze Serpent

3rd Quarter

1. The Borders Revisited
2. Balaam
3. Questionable Neighbors
4. Law Review
5. Moses' Death
6. Crossing Jordan
7. Rahab
8. Blessings and Curses
9. Gibeonites
10. Canaan Divided
11. Last Words of Joshua
12. Annual Feasts
13. Early Judges

4th Quarter

1. Samson
2. Samuel
3. Eli
4. Philistines
5. First King
6. Saul's Death
7. Anointed
8. Fugitive
9. Lunatic
10. Crowned King
11. Incumbent
12. Sinner
13. Absalom

2016

1st Quarter

1. God's People
2. Solomon
3. Temple Builder
4. Proud Potentate
5. Repentant Author
6. Rehoboam
7. Jeroboam
8. Asa, Ahab, Jezebel
9. Elijah
10. Evangelist
11. Coward
12. The Sabbath
13. Jehoshaphat

2nd Quarter

1. Ahab
2. Elisha
3. Prophet
4. Naaman
5. Jonah
6. Hosea
7. Isaiah
8. Jehovah
9. Ahaz
10. Hezekiah
11. Assyria
12. Manasseh
13. Josiah

3rd Quarter

1. Jeremiah
2. Approaching Doom
3. Last King
4. Captives
5. Daniel
6. The Dream
7. Three Hebrews
8. Nebuchadnezzar
9. Belshazzar
10. Daniel
11. Daniel 7
12. Daniel 8, 9
13. Daniel 10-12

4th Quarter

1. Haggai/Zerubbabel
2. Zechariah
3. Temple Two
4. Esther
5. Queen
6. Ezra
7. Nehemiah
8. Builders
9. Plotters
10. Reformers
11. Jesus
12. Deliverer
13. The Sabbath
14. Future Glory

2017

1st Quarter

1. Jesus
2. It's Time
3. Mary
4. Simeon/Anna
5. The Wise Men
6. The Child Jesus
7. The Voice
8. Victory
9. Messiah Found
10. Marriage Feast
11. The Temple
12. Nicodemus

2nd Quarter

1. John the Baptist
2. Samaritan Woman
3. The Nobleman
4. The Lame Man
5. John the Baptist
6. The Anointed One
7. Peter
8. Capernaum
9. The Leper
10. Levi-Matthew
11. The Sabbath
12. The Disciples
13. The Centurion

3rd Quarter

1. The Demonic
2. Woman/Jairus
3. The Seventy
4. The Disciples
5. Misunderstandings
6. Broken Barriers
7. Jesus' Ministry
8. Who Is Jesus?
9. Lawyer/Ruler
10. The Children
11. Lazarus' Family
12. Zacchaeus
13. Mary
14. James and John

4th Quarter

1. The King Comes
2. The Pharisees
3. The End of Time
4. Servanthood
5. The Last Supper
6. Gethsemane
7. The Trial
8. Calvary
9. Resurrection
10. Mary Magdalene
11. The Emmaus Road
12. By the Sea
13. Jesus' Ascension

2018

1st Quarter

1. The Mission
2. The Holy Spirit
3. The Lame Man
4. Ananias/Sapphira
5. God's People
6. Stephen
7. Paul
8. Peter
9. Paul/Barnabas
10. Gentiles Included
11. Spreading Good News
12. The Thessalonians
13. The Ephesians

2nd Quarter

1. The Corinthians
2. Workers for Christ
3. Romans/Galatians
4. Last Journey
5. Adventures and Trials
6. Philemon
7. Colossians/Philippians
8. Final Arrest
9. Before Nero
10. John the Beloved
11. Patmos
12. The Revelation
13. Church Triumphant

3rd Quarter

1. First Believers
2. Seekers
3. Wycliffe
4. Luther
5. Zwingli
6. French Reformation
7. English Reformers
8. French Revolution
9. American Reformers
10. William Miller
11. Prophecy Fulfilled
12. The Sanctuary
13. God's Law

4th Quarter

1. Renewal
2. Investigative Judgment
3. Origin of Evil
4. Snares
5. Great Deception
6. The Papacy
7. Spiritual Challenge
8. The Bible
9. Last Chance
10. Time of Trouble
11. Deliverance
12. The End
13. The Beginning

2017 scope & sequence

1st Quarter

1. The Living Message
Scripture Story: John 1:1-18.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 1.
2. The Fathers God Chose for His Son
Scripture Story: 2 Samuel 7; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:21-36
Commentary: Patriarchs and Prophets, chapter 70; *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 2.
3. Countdown to the Savior
Scripture Story: Isaiah 9:6, 7; Genesis 3:15, 16; Micah 5:2; Genesis 22:18; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:1, 18-23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:18-21; Matthew 2:18-23; Acts 2:29, 30
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 2, 3.
Scripture Story: Luke 2:21-39.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 4, 5.
Scripture Story: Matthew 2.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 6.
Scripture Story: Luke 2:39-52.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 7, 8, 9.
Scripture Story: Matthew 3:1-17; Luke 1:5-23.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 10, 11.
Scripture Story: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 12, 13.
Scripture Story: John 1.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 14.
Scripture Story: John 2:1-11.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 15.
Scripture Story: John 2:12-22.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 16.
Scripture Story: John 3:1-17.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 17.
4. What You Seek Is What You Get
5. Following Yonder Star
6. Growing Up
7. One of a Kind
8. It Is Written
9. Come See
10. Celebrating With Jesus
11. Show Reverence in My House!
12. Born Again

2nd Quarter

1. It's Your Turn
Scripture Story: John 3:22-26.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 18.
2. Come and See!
Scripture Story: John 4:1-42.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 19.
3. Seeing Is Believing?
Scripture Story: John 4:43-54.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 20.
Scripture Story: John 5.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 21.
4. Do You Want to Get Well?
Scripture Story: Matthew 11:1-11; 14:1-11; Mark 6:17-28; Luke 7:19-28.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 22.
5. Appearance Versus Reality
Scripture Story: Luke 4:16-30.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 23, 24.
6. A Tumultuous Homecoming
Scripture Story: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 25.
7. I'm a Follower
Scripture Story: Mark 1:21-28.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 26.
8. Restored at Church
Scripture Story: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-28.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 27.
9. Willing and Able
Scripture Story: Matthew 9:9-17; Mark 2:14-22; Luke 5:27-39.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 28.
10. Not Love at First Sight
Scripture Story: Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 29.
11. Front and Center
Scripture Story: Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; Matthew 5-7.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 30, 31.
12. Jesus Calling
Scripture Story: Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-17.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 32, 33.
13. Faith-FULL Soldier

3rd Quarter

- 1. “Used-to-Be’s” and “Has-Beens”**
Scripture Story: Luke 8:22-29.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 34, 35.
- 2. Always There**
Scripture Story: Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 36.
- 3. Can I Get a Witness?**
Scripture Story: Matthew 10; Mark 6:7-11; Luke 9:1-6.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 37.
- 4. Days of Discipleship**
Scripture Story: Matthew 14:1, 2, 12, 13; Mark 6:30-32; Luke 9:7-10; Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13; Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:1-21.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 38, 39, 40.
- 5. Misunderstood**
Scripture Story: John 6:22-71; Matthew 15:1, 2; Mark 7:1-23.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 41, 42.
- 6. Savior to the Gentiles**
Scripture Story: Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 43.
- 7. Moving Mountains**
Scripture Story: Matthew 15:29-39; 16:1-12; Mark 7:31-37; Matthew 16:13-28; Mark 8:27-38; Luke 9:18-27; Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36; Matthew 17:9-21; Mark 9:9-28; Luke 9:37-45.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 44, 45, 46, 47.
- 8. Who Is Jesus?**
Scripture Story: John 7:1-15, 37-39; John 7:16-36, 40-53; 8:1-11; John 8:12-59; 9; John 10:1-30.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 49, 50, 51, 52.
- 9. Two Seekers**
Scripture Story: Luke 9:51-56; 10:1-24; Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 19:16-22; Luke 18:18-23.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 53, 54, 57.
- 10. Trust Like a Child**
Scripture Story: Luke 17:20-22; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 55, 56.
- 11. Wake Up!**
Scripture Story: Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-44, 47-54.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 58, 59.
- 12. Jesus and Me**
Scripture Story: Luke 19:1-10.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 61.
- 13. The Alabaster Jar**
Scripture Story: Matthew 26:6-13; Luke 7:36-50; Mark 14:3-11; John 11:55-57; 12:1-11.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 62.
- 14. You First**
Scripture Story: Matthew 17:22-27; 18:1-20; Mark 9:30-50; Luke 9:46-48; Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:32-45; Luke 18:31-34.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 48, 60.

4th Quarter

- 1. Keeping It Real**
Scripture Story: Matthew 21:1-19, 23-46; Mark 11:1-21, 27-33; 12:1-12; Luke 19:29-48; 20:1-19; John 12:12-19.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 63, 64, 65.
- 2. What Belongs to God**
Scripture Story: Matthew 22:15-46; 23; Mark 12:13-44; Luke 20:20-47; 21:1-4.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 66, 67.
- 3. Preparing for Tomorrow Today**
Scripture Story: John 12:20-43; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21:5-38.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 68, 69.
- 4. May I Help You?**
Scripture Story: Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 22:7-18, 24; John 13:1-17.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 70, 71.
- 5. My Way Versus God’s Way**
Scripture Story: Matthew 26:20-29; Mark 14:17-25; Luke 22:14-23; John 13:18-38; 14-17.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 72, 73.
- 6. The Choice**
Scripture Story: Mark 14:32-50
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 74.
- 7. Trials by Fire**
Scripture Story: Luke 23:1-25
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 75, 76, 77.
- 8. Christwise**
Scripture Story: Matthew 27:31-53; Mark 15:20-38; Luke 23:26-46; John 19:16-30.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 78, 79.
- 9. Resurrection Power**
Scripture Story: Matthew 28:2-4, 11-15.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 80, 81.
- 10. First Witness**
Scripture Story: John 20:1-18.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 82.
- 11. Journeying With Jesus**
Scripture Story: Luke 24:13-33.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 83.
- 12. Making Things Right**
Scripture Story: Luke 24:33-48; John 20:19-29; 21:1-22.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 84, 85.
- 13. Calling Earthshakers**
Scripture Story: Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12.
Commentary: *The Desire of Ages*, chapters 86, 87.

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

3RD QUARTER 2017

July

1—“Used-to-Be’s” and “Has-Beens” [p. 11]

Even when the man’s best and only response to Jesus spewed hate and hopelessness, Jesus could see the tiny part of his heart that demons did not occupy. And He set him free! He can do the same for us.

8—Always There [p. 19]

Personal tragedy is no respecter of persons. Whether you are a woman with health issues or a revered religious leader with a dying daughter, God can give comfort and healing—if we are willing to go to Him.

15—Can I Get a Witness? [p. 27]

The thought of witnessing to our faith in God can often make us feel anxious and intimidated: *What do I say?* However, our witness can be merely one story away.

22—Days of Discipleship [p. 35]

Are you feeling physically weary and spiritually empty? As we follow Jesus’ example of rest, we have the prescription for living stress-free in a stressed-out world!

29—Misunderstood [p. 43]

Jesus’ followers didn’t always understand what He was trying to teach them. When we try to understand Jesus through the prism of selfish drives and ambitions, we can misunderstand Him, too. How can we accept Jesus for who He really is?

August

5—Savior to the Gentiles [p. 51]

Is it possible for someone who doesn’t believe in God to have faith? The Phoenician woman is a perfect example of faith against all odds.

12—Moving Mountains [p. 59]

In spite of having face-to-face time with Jesus, the disciples still struggled with faith. But when they caught a glimpse of Jesus, the craziness of their lives became calm, and they were able to accomplish what seemed impossible.

19—Who Is Jesus? [p. 67]

Jesus was popular and well-liked by ordinary people. But He wasn’t the Messiah the religious leaders were expecting. What kind of Savior do we expect? Who do we say that He is?

26—Two Seekers [p. 75]

A seeker of eternal life leaves Jesus’ presence sad because he discovers that what he loves most is not what he is seeking. But our story doesn’t have to end that way!

September

2—Trust Like A Child [p. 83]

When parents brought their children to Jesus for a prayer of blessing, His disciples tried to turn them away. But Jesus loved hanging out with children. Actually, He wants us all to learn lessons about faith from them.

9—Wake Up! [p. 91]

As Jesus was standing at the graveside of His friend Lazarus, Scripture tells us that He wept. Why? Was He sad? Did He miss His friend? Or was it more than that?

16—Jesus and Me [p. 99]

Zacchaeus climbed a tree in order to see Jesus. But it takes more than merely *seeing* Jesus to be transformed. It was by *being* in Jesus’ presence that Zacchaeus was changed.

23—The Alabaster Jar [p. 107]

For Simon, having Mary pour perfume on Jesus’ feet was scandalous. For those of us who, like Mary, feel the need for forgiveness, it represents an act of lavish love and grace.

30—You First [p. 115]

In the great controversy between right and wrong, humility is locked up in a desperate battle against selfish ambition and pride. Does humility have a chance?