



WORD UP! The *Bounty's* Bible

April 8, 2023

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Revelation 21:5 (NIV) • “He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

Exodus 19:3, 4 (NIV) • “Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, ‘This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: “You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.”’”

Numbers 7:89 (NIV) • “When Moses entered the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law. In this way the LORD spoke to him.”

Luke 1:1-4 (NIV) • “Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”

2 Peter 1:20, 21 (NIV) • “Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 (NIV) • “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Deuteronomy 13:1-4 (NIV) • “If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder spoken of takes place, and the prophet says, ‘Let us follow other gods’ (gods you have not known) ‘and let us worship them,’ you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.”

Deuteronomy 18:20 (NIV) • “But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”

Galatians 3:8, 9 (NIV) • “Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and

announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you.' So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith."

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) • "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Psalms 119:160 (NIV) • "All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal."

In Heavenly Places, p. 138 • "There is but little benefit derived from a hasty reading of the Scriptures. One may read the Bible through and yet fail to see its beauty or to comprehend its deep and hidden meaning. One passage studied until its significance is clear to the mind and its relation to the plan of salvation is evident, is of more value than the perusal of many chapters with no definite purpose in view and no positive instruction gained. Keep your Bible with you. As you have opportunity, read it; fix the texts in your memory. Even while you are walking the streets you may read a passage and meditate upon it, thus fixing it in mind."

Steps to Christ, pp. 90, 91 • "We cannot obtain wisdom without earnest attention and prayerful study. Some portions of Scripture are indeed too plain to be misunderstood, but there are others whose meaning does not lie on the surface to be seen at a glance. Scripture must be compared with scripture. There must be careful research and prayerful reflection. And such study will be richly repaid. As the miner discovers veins of precious metal concealed beneath the surface of the earth, so will he who perseveringly searches the Word of God as for hid treasure find truths of the greatest value, which are concealed from the view of the careless seeker. The words of inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as streams flowing from the fountain of life."

(See additional passages in student material.)

B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT "WORD UP!"

God's method of conversation is His Word. He has stated in His Word that it contains enough proof for people to believe in Him—without even seeing Him. But before people can believe in God and His Word, they must first decide if they believe that God inspired the Bible. Paul said it best, "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe" (1 Thessalonians 2:13, NIV).

In this lesson we will look at the dynamics of this conversation between God and us and the many ways we can respond to Him. In fact, the more we understand about the books of the Bible and the purpose of the different parts of Scripture, the more we can understand the whole message. Ultimately, the Bible is not a book for light reading. Unlike a novel that is read as a form of entertainment, the Bible is for insight and study. Several suggestions will be given for opportunities to keep in touch with God.

C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH "WORD UP!"

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Understand the purpose of the Bible.
2. Accept the necessity of Scripture to have a relationship with God.
3. Develop a plan to have a conversation with God through His Word.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) gauze, a drawing or photograph, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk (Activity B) small squares of paper and pens.

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons.

Applying • Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk.

2 BRIDGING

A. WHERE WE'VE BEEN BEFORE

Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at www.realtimefaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • This exercise will demonstrate how the various books in the Bible can communicate layers of information to us. You will need a volunteer willing to wrap gauze around their eyes. You will also need to write a message on the board or provide a picture for them to look at. The item you choose needs to have enough

detail so that something new will be revealed at each phase in the activity.

Get set • Make sure as you wrap the gauze that the volunteer's eyes are open (it works best if you wrap it lightly so as not to stick the gauze to their bare eyeballs). After the gauze is in place, reveal the message or picture that they will focus on.

Go • Appoint someone to write down the volunteer's descriptions. **Ask: What can you see? The student should be able to see only the gauze or a glimmer of light peeking through.** Unwrap one of the layers of gauze and **ask: What do you see now?** They may describe colors or basic features. Unwrap another layer and have them describe what they see. They should see more each time you remove a layer. Continue the process until you have unwrapped all of the layers, and they can see the item clearly.

Debriefing • **Ask: How is this like digging deeper and deeper for truth when studying the Bible?** (The more persistently we search for the treasures of God's Word, the more He will reveal to us.) **How is each book of the Bible adding to our understanding of God's heart?**

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • The object of this exercise is to simulate how difficult it is to communicate in just a few words everything that is important.

Get set • Give each student a two- by two-inch (five- by five-centimeter) piece of paper. Their objective is to write as much about themselves as they can without revealing their name.

Go • Ask the students to describe themselves, not what they look like, but what they are like, their character. They should be as detailed as possible without writing their name on the paper. After they are finished, mix up the pieces of paper, read them out loud, and see if the class can identify the person.

Debriefing • Ask: Was what you wrote enough to be able to identify who you were? Was it enough to really know you well? How different would it be if the people in the room didn't know you at all? If no one in the room knew you, would they believe what you wrote? How would they know it was true?

Say: The Bible is a revelation of God's character. **Ask:** If people don't know God, how can they find Him by reading the Bible?

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

The Duke of Wellington was the great commander at the Battle of Waterloo. This battle was the strategic blow that ended Napoleon's era of war. Much has been written about the battle. One such story is about how the message of victory was communicated. When Wellington sent word to England about the victorious battle, it went through a chain of message stations that were established to communicate by code back and forth with England. In the process of going from station to station, the potential for miscommunication existed. The intended message to be sent to England was "Wellington defeated Napoleon at Waterloo." Unfortunately, a fog set in and interrupted the full message. People received only the part of the message that said, "Wellington defeated—." The message was a great disappointment, and the impact of not having all the words misrepresented what actually happened. Later, after the fog cleared, the full message came through, and the recipients went from despair to rejoicing.

Debriefing • Ask: What message do you think people get when they hear only small sections of the Bible? Think of the variety of messages and things that are said, from God's wrath with Israel to feeding the 5,000. Have you ever just opened the Bible and started reading—just closed your eyes and pointed? What if that was your only method of learning what God was saying to you?

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14, NIV). At the outset of announcing that God's kingdom was on the way, the Message came in person. Before, knowledge about God came through prophets, clouds, fire, and words written in stone. According to **Hebrews 1:1, 2**, His methods change as needed. However, the message is not shrouded in mystery—God wants His people to come to know Him. The prophets reminded those who were forgetful about the kingdom of God, but all too often there were other things that simply got in the way. Just watch the story of God unfold in Scripture, and you can't get away from the fact that He is constantly wooing people back to Him.

Those who hold citizenship in God's kingdom of grace do so because God revealed it to them. Some think that the search for God is a mysterious process of discovering hidden truths. God is not hiding, nor does He make His will for our lives hard to find. The Bible contains enough information about God and His character so that we can form a relationship with Him and surrender our lives to Him. God longs to reveal His love to us.

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath's section of the lesson.

Say: Much like the story of the Bible that belonged to the members of the *Bounty*, the message is before us. Maybe it sits on a shelf just out of reach or maybe it sits by your bed but you never touch it.

Ask: As you read this story, did your view of the power of God's Word change? What made the difference in this story? Why do you think the islanders believed? Why do you think their lifestyle completely changed?

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

Describe the following situation:

A young pastor tells of his flight being canceled. He was trying to get a message through to his wife, to tell her not to make the one-hour journey to the airport. However, her cell phone wasn't on, and no one was answering at home. Finally, he called a friend of his who lived on the edge of town. He asked the friend to watch for her, flag her down, and give her the message. Unfortunately, she drove by him and waved, not recognizing that he had a message for her. The pastor could have given a message to the information booth at the airport, but his wife always picked him up just outside the baggage claim. It was very frustrating for him to have an important message that he could not give to its intended recipient, no matter how hard he tried.

Ask: Have you ever had an important message that you could not get through? Do you think the angels ever get frustrated watching us race around completely missing the messages around us?

Say: From sticky notes to e-mail, we communicate messages in a variety of ways. Usually, the way we communicate depends on the message.

Ask: What is the best way to communicate the following messages?

"Your doctor's appointment is at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday."

"Your engine needs oil!"

"Don't forget to feed the cat."

"I love you, and I want you to be my wife."

"I have a flat tire, and I need some help."

"There's a casserole in the refrigerator."

"Susie called and wants to borrow your red shoes."

"You have cancer."

Share the following ideas in your own words:

The Bible has many different types of messages. There are historical books. There are poetry and songs from David's journal. There are biographical sketches that depict how people lived in relation to God (Esther, Job, and Daniel). There are sermons that people preached. Prayers that people prayed. Problems for which people found solutions. There are prophecies that expose the realities of human pride. There are heroes and villains. There are letters to churches that are supposed to help them grow. There is a book of bumper sticker statements that stick to your mind in a way that only wisdom can. No wonder studying the Bible seems so difficult to manage. Where do you begin? What questions do you ask? How much should you read? What do you do if you don't understand what you read?

5 APPLYING

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Have students choose a parable, one of the Psalms, or a story from the life of Christ.

In groups of two or three, have students read the story and answer the following questions that you have written on the white/chalkboard where all can see.

- >> Why do you think this story/chapter/passage is mentioned in the Bible?
- >> What are some of the key words or phrases in this passage?
- >> What problems or issues does it expose?
- >> What does it tell you about the character of God?
- >> Who are the key characters in the story?
- >> Is there an example to follow?
- >> Is there a behavior to avoid?
- >> Is there an attitude to change or adopt?
- >> Is there someone to praise God for?
- >> What do you think God is trying to say to you in this passage?

Debriefing • Ask: While these are only a few questions, did having them help you dig deeper into the text or story? What insights did you gain? What questions were most helpful?

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Share an “aha” moment in studying the Bible in which you discovered something that you had never heard or seen before. What was your response and how did that discovery impact your understanding of how God guides in Scripture?
2. Share a book of the Bible or a section of the Bible that you might have avoided because of certain challenges that were in the text. How does the difficulty of Bible study affect our willingness to study?
3. Agree or disagree: The Bible isn’t meant to be read; it is meant to be studied. Why?
4. Agree or disagree: Some parts of the Bible are more theoretical, and some are more practical. Explain.
5. Who do you know that has a deep love for Scripture? Ask them about how they approach the Bible and what is helpful for them.
6. What do you think you need to pray more for: wisdom to understand what God is trying to say to you, or courage to act on what He might be asking you to do?

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

John made it clear that there were many stories and events that happened that didn’t make it into his Gospel. There just wouldn’t have been enough room to write it all down. So he wrote the things that were necessary for others to believe in Christ and come to the place where they would have life in Him. It’s possible that there are thousands of other stories about the children of Israel that might be interesting, but the Bible is really a collection of writings that communicate what God is like and how He wants to relate to us. As people navigate through the Scriptures and study diligently to find wisdom and discover God’s will, they find hope and the treasures of truth are open to their understanding. See **Romans 15:4**.



STUDENT LESSON

WORD UP!

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April 8, 2023

Sabbath FOR STUDY

» **Memory Text:** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16, 17, NKJV).

» **Our Beliefs, no. 1, The Holy Scriptures:** “The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God, given by divine inspiration. . . . In this Word, God has committed to humanity the knowledge necessary for salvation.”

» Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 18-21

THE *BOUNTY'S* BIBLE

In 1787, on a ship called the *Bounty*, William Bligh made a voyage to the South Pacific on a mission to collect breadfruit trees. Of course, a crew of men willingly signed on for the journey when they heard it was a trip to such a beautiful place. Bligh made his friend Fletcher Christian his second in command. The men loved Tahiti so much that they didn't want to leave. When ordered to do so, several men attempted to run and hide, but were caught and severely punished. The drama of wrenching these men from their trop-

ical paradise soured the atmosphere on the *Bounty* to the point of rebellion. In 1789 Captain Bligh's own friend Fletcher Christian instigated a mutiny that would be written about and portrayed in movies for years to come. In the middle of the ocean Bligh and those who remained faithful to him were abandoned on a lifeboat to make their own way to land.

With the captain gone it would seem that the crew would be happy. However, those left on the *Bounty* continued to fight about what to do and where to go. Fletcher Christian returned to Tahiti and kidnapped some women and slaves before the group made their way to Pitcairn Island. The group began to quarrel. They quickly learned to distill alcohol. Crimes became common, and by 1808 all the men except John Adams were dead, either from disease or murder. Adams was the only man left on the deserted island with a group of women and children.

What does this story have to do with the Bible? Adams found a Bible that had been left on the *Bounty*. He pored through the passages of Scripture, and as he studied, God's Word penetrated deep into his heart. He began to share the good news of Scripture with those in his little community. They learned of God's love for them through this neglected Book that had simply taken up space on the ship. Twenty years later, when another ship happened upon Pitcairn

Island, the crew found a happy, wholesome Christian community with no sign of the evil qualities that had brought the people to the island in the first place. Today that Bible sits on display on Pitcairn Island as a testimony of the power of God's message to people.

Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read Romans 15:4.
- » How often do you study the Bible to see what God's message has to say to you?
 - ☐ every day ☐ once a week ☐ once a month
 - ☐ 3-4 times a year ☐ almost never

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

- » Read Psalm 119:105; John 17:17; Hebrews 4:12.
- » God has not left us without guidance to help us navigate this life. He wants us to be with Him in heaven, and the Bible is our map. The Bible, God's love letter to us, tells us who God is and how to have a relationship with Him. It tells us how to avoid a life of sin and how we can live full and satisfying lives in Him.

- » How is the Bible helping you get to know God?

- » How is the Bible helping you get to know yourself better?

- » Fill in the missing words from the word bank below.

all	assured	childhood
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correction	doctrine	equipped
inspiration	instruction	known
reproof	righteousness	salvation
complete	continue	faith
Holy	learned	profitable
Scriptures	wise	

"But you must _____ in the things which you have _____ and been _____ of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from _____ you have _____ the _____, which are able to make you _____ for _____ through _____ which is in Christ Jesus. _____ Scripture is given by _____ of God, and is _____ for _____, for _____, for _____ in _____, that the man of God may be _____, thoroughly _____ for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:14-18, NKJV).

Tuesday REFLECTING

- » Read Luke 6:48, 49.
- » "Nearly nine out of 10 churched teenagers said their church experience exposed them to Bible stories (95 percent), taught them about the lives of great people in the Bible (92 percent), and gave them fun experiences related to religion (89 percent). But only half (53 percent) said their church experience helped them understand the Bible well enough to help them make decisions based on biblical principles."—From "Real Religion," *Christian Parenting Today* (Winter 2003).
- » What do you think the problem is? Why does it seem so hard to live out the truths in God's Word and put them into practice? Perhaps we forget why Jesus has given us the Bible—that the messages are there to help us. The Bible was meant to be a foundation for us to build our lives on. To illustrate this point, Jesus told the parable of the man who built his house on a rock. He said, "He is like a man building a house, who dug

deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock" (Luke 6:48). Of course, the opposite is true of the person who hears God's Word but doesn't put it into practice—"But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great" (Luke 6:49, NKJV).

- » How can we integrate the messages of Scripture into our daily lives? Have you discovered God's voice through His Word? You may know which day is the Sabbath but haven't truly found Sabbath rest. You might know what happens when a person dies, according to Scripture, but have you ever had shared the words of Scripture with someone who was grieving the loss of a loved one?
- » It may be that the missing link in our communication with God is learning how to allow and apply His Word in shaping the way we live each moment.
- » "Every revelation of God to the soul increases the capacity to know and to love" (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 20).

Wednesday

BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Match the verse to the correct reference. All verses are taken from the New King James Version.

2 Peter 1:20, 21 Romans 15:4
 John 20:30, 31 Hebrews 1:1, 2
 Psalm 102:18 Proverbs 30:5, 6

"... that a people yet to be created may praise ..."	
"... spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets ..."	

"... holy men of God spoke as they were moved ..."	
"... He is a shield to those who put ..."	
"... written for our learning ..."	
"... written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ ..."	

Thursday

CONNECTING

- » Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
- » Review the memory text.
- » Justine received weekly letters from her grandmother who lived across the country. There were coupons, newspaper clippings, interesting happenings and comments about the weather in each letter. While at summer camp she received a typical letter from Grandma. Someone in her cabin noticed the letter and asked about it. Her response was short and glib. "My grandma is always sending me this stuff. Every week I get a letter from her with all this stuff in it. I never know what to do with it." The fellow camper said, "Well, it's obvious that she loves you very much." Those words struck Justine in a powerful way. She had never thought about why her grandma would write so often. With new understanding she began to look forward to her grandmother's letters and read each one with joy and happiness.
- » Maybe the reason God has spoken through the Bible needs to sink into your heart today. If you would be reminded of God's message through His Word, how would it change the way you read it? Understanding the purpose of Scripture can provide the right attitude in which to read and study it. It's a letter from Someone who dearly loves you. The stories and lessons in the Bible will help our faith to grow. God longs for us to give Him our hearts so He can transform us and make us ready to live eternally with Him. How im-

portant is the Bible to you?

- » “The more we know of God, the higher will be our ideal of character and the more earnest our longing to reflect His likeness” (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 19).

Friday **APPLYING**

- » Read Romans 10:17.
- » There are two basic questions to ask your-

self as you study the Bible. Take time to listen to God as you read His Word this week and think about these two questions as a framework for your study. Journal your thoughts about what God is trying to say to you, and plan a course of action for how you might apply that to your life this week.

- » What is God saying to me in this passage?
- » How am I going to apply what I learned from this Bible passage?

