

real.solid.stories

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

1ST QUARTER 2022



Going the Distance

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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.
- **Connecting to Life**—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 your teacher and 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 apply to you personally.

Welcome to *Cornerstone Connections*.

—General Conference Sabbath School Department

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.

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1ST QUARTER 2022

January

1—Last Words and Witnesses [p. 5]

The last words a person speaks are usually of utmost importance—especially if they *know* they're the last words they will speak. Christ's last words were no different.

8—The Promised Gift [p. 9]

The Holy Spirit is one of the greatest gifts that God offers us. But do we see Him as a gift worth receiving?

15—Reflecting Jesus [p. 13]

It was evident when talking with Peter and John that they had spent time with Jesus. Can people say that about us?

22—Truth and You [p. 17]

God calls us to radical authenticity and uncompromising character. Unfortunately, Ananias and Sapphira didn't heed the call.

29—Power. Perseverance. Purpose. [p. 21]

Whether as a religious leader or a teenager, we are empowered by God not only to overcome tribulation but also to develop our giftedness to be used for His glory.

February

5—The First Christian Martyr [p. 25]

Stephen was brought to court on trumped-up charges, permitted a brief defense, and then executed. Serving God exacted a price then—and it does now.

12—Go the Distance [p. 29]

Saul's work of destruction was so thorough that Jesus had to arrest him, change his name, and set him on a different road—a road with a purpose.

19—Evidence of Conversion [p. 33]

As demonstrated in Peter's life, Jesus isn't looking for perfect people to follow Him. He's looking for real people who can be changed by His love.

26—The Epicenter for Missions [p. 37]

Antioch was the crossroads of the Roman Empire from which God launched His people full throttle into missionary work. But it doesn't stop there.

March

5—Us and Them [p. 41]

Tensions arose between the Gentile and Jewish believers. But through sharing stories of how God was working among them, they rekindled the heart of their mission to the world.

12—Faith Works [p. 45]

Merely believing in the "right" things isn't enough in this world. We must be firmly grounded in God's Word in order to make right choices.

19—Hope Against Hope [p. 49]

When we have heard the good news repeatedly, the effect seems to wear off. But where would we be without hope?

26—The Inspiring Minority [p. 53]

Paul made some enemies by his preaching—he cut into the sale of idols. But God never said that standing for the right would make us popular.