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CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

4TH QUARTER 2023 TEACHER'S GUIDE



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cornerstone connections

Teacher's Guide

REAL. SOLID. STORIES.

4th Quarter 2023

Reality Bible

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welcome

Welcome to the experience of teaching from *Cornerstone Connections: Real. Solid. Stories.*

The following are provided for your assistance:

- A Word About What's Ahead . . . (Student Introduction) [p. 2]
- Why the Bible Story Approach? (Teacher Introduction) [p. 3]
- What Tools Are Provided for Teaching the Stories? [p. 4]
- Complete Scope and Sequence [p. 5]
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A WORD ABOUT WHAT'S AHEAD . . . (Student Introduction)

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 to 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 either to 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 also will 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 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’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 just 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 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. Get more info about it at: www.cornerstoneconnections.net.

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Teacher’s Guide

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4th Quarter 2023

Reality Bible

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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

students are also directed to work through one section of their lesson on their own each day by following the instructions in *Making It Real*. 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

2020

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

2021

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
13. John the Baptist

2nd Quarter

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

3rd Quarter

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

2022

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

2023

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

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

2023 scope & sequence

2nd Quarter

1. Life Is Hard . . . Work!
Scripture Story: Genesis 39–41.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 20.
2. Could You Do It?
Scripture Story: Genesis 41:54-56; 42–50.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 21.
3. I See, I Hear, I Know
Scripture Story: Exodus 1–4.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 22.
4. Apply the Blood!
Scripture Story: Exodus 5–11; 12:1-32.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 23 and 24.
5. Faith First?
Scripture Story: Exodus 12:34-51; 13–15.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 25.
6. Unhappy Campers
Scripture Story: Exodus 15:22-27; 16–18.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 26.
7. The Covenant of Love
Scripture Story: Exodus 19–24.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 27, 29, and 32.
8. God Thinks Twice
Scripture Story: Exodus 32–34.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 28.
9. Making Rooms for God
Scripture Story: Exodus 25–40; Leviticus 4; 16.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 30.
10. What About Me?
Scripture Story: Numbers 11; 12; Leviticus 10:1-11.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 33 and 31.
11. Get Over Yourself!
Scripture Story: Numbers 13; 14.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 34 and 36.
12. The “Wannabes”
Scripture Story: Numbers 16; 17.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 35.
13. Drama in the Desert
Scripture Story: Numbers 20; 21:1-9.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 37 and 38.

1st Quarter

1. The Way of Two Worlds
Scripture Story: Isaiah 14; Revelation 12; Genesis 1; 2.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 1 and 2.
2. Law Meets Love
Scripture Story: Genesis 3.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 3 and 4.
3. Out of Control
Scripture Story: Genesis 4:1-16.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 5.
4. A Very Long Walk With God
Scripture Story: Genesis 4:25–6:2.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 6.
5. Noah Way!
Scripture Story: Genesis 6; 7–9:17.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 7–9.
6. Reaching Toward Heaven
Scripture Story: Genesis 11:1-9.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 10.
7. Long, Strange Trip
Scripture Story: Genesis 12–15; 17:1-16; 18.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 11 and 12.
8. God Provides
Scripture Story: Genesis 21:1-5; 22:1-12.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 13.
9. No Laughing Matter
Scripture Story: Genesis 19:1-14.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 14.
10. Winsome . . . and Then Some
Scripture Story: Genesis 24.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 15.
11. Identity Theft
Scripture Story: Genesis 25:19-34; 27.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 16.
12. Struggle by a Stream
Scripture Story: Genesis 28–33.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 17 and 18.

3rd Quarter

- 1. The Trust Test**
Scripture Story: Deuteronomy 2; 3:1-11.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 39.
- 2. Greed: The Bottomless Pit**
Scripture Story: Numbers 22–24.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 40.
- 3. Roads to the Soul**
Scripture Story: Numbers 25.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 41.
- 4. Law and Love Revisited**
Scripture Story: Deuteronomy 4–6; 28.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 42.
- 5. Last Longing Look**
Scripture Story: Deuteronomy 31–34.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 43.
- 6. Promises Don't Die**
Scripture Story: Joshua 1–5:12.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 44.
- 7. Behind the Walls**
Scripture Story: Joshua 5:13-15; 6; 7.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 45.
- 8. First Things First**
Scripture Story: Joshua 8.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 46.
- 9. Oops!**
Scripture Story: Joshua 9; 10.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 47.
- 10. Real Estate Section**
Scripture Story: Joshua 10:40-43; 11; 14–22.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 48.
- 11. Line in the Sand**
Scripture Story: Joshua 23; 24.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 49.
- 12. Famines and Feasts**
Scripture Story: Leviticus 23.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 50–52.
- 13. Knowing God's Will**
Scripture Story: Judges 6–8; 10.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 53.

4th Quarter

- 1. Consequences**
Scripture Story: Judges 13–16.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 54.
- 2. Prayer Power**
Scripture Story: 1 Samuel 1; 2:1-11.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 55 and 58.
- 3. Eli's Bad, Bad Boys**
Scripture Story: 1 Samuel 2:12-36.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 56.
- 4. Turn It Around**
Scripture Story: 1 Samuel 3–7.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 57.
- 5. Trading Leaders**
Scripture Story: 1 Samuel 8–14.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 59 and 60.
- 6. So Long, Saul**
Scripture Story: 1 Samuel 15; 28; 31.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 61, 66, and 67.
- 7. Giant Faith**
Scripture Story: 1 Samuel 16; 17.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 62 and 63.
- 8. Running**
Scripture Story: 1 Samuel 18–27.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapters 64 and 65.
- 9. A Sad End**
Scripture Story: 1 Samuel 29; 30; 2 Samuel 1.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 68.
- 10. When Will I Be King?**
Scripture Story: 2 Samuel 2–5:5.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 69.
- 11. The Golden Age of Israel**
Scripture Story: 2 Samuel 5:6-25; 6; 7; 9; 10.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 70.
- 12. The Fall and Rise of David**
Scripture Story: 2 Samuel 11; 12.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chapter 71.
- 13. The Fathers God Chose for His Son**
Scripture Story: 2 Samuel 7; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:21-38.
Commentary: *Patriarchs and Prophets* (or *Beginning of the End*), chapter 70; *The Desire of Ages* (or *Humble Hero*), chapters 1–4.

2023 scope & sequence

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

4TH QUARTER 2023

October

7—Consequences [p. 11]

Many young people struggle with depression, anxiety, and fear. Suicide is more common now than ever before. Samson's life offers an opportunity to explore this topic with care and humility.

14—Prayer Power [p. 19]

Hannah is faithful to fulfill the vow she makes to God in anguish.

21—Eli's Bad, Bad Boys [p. 27]

Poor parenting ends in national trouble and family tragedy.

28—Turn It Around [p. 35]

The story of the ark shows God as holy, just, yet full of mercy.

November

4—Trading Leaders [p. 43]

God gives Israel the king they beg for, against His better judgment.

11—So Long, Saul [p. 51]

Outer appearances can't be trusted; unchecked power almost always corrupts.

18—Giant Faith [p. 59]

Reckless and childlike trust in God turns human reality upside down.

25—Running [p. 67]

Saul is out to destroy the very person who wins his battles for him.

December

2—A Sad End [p. 75]

David's victory celebration is stopped by word of Saul's final defeat.

9—When Will I Be King? [p. 83]

David hangs on to God, even though his path is long and difficult.

16—The Golden Age of Israel [p. 91]

After the long struggle to the throne, David finally unites Israel in prosperity.

23—The Fall and Rise of David [p. 99]

Even after years of complete trust in God, David succumbs to self-sufficiency.

30—The Fathers God Chose for His Son [p. 107]

Usually when the Christmas story is shared, Jesus' genealogy is completely ignored. However, the details of Jesus' background are critical to understanding the full story of His life.

Reality Bible

FOURTH QUARTER 2023



CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

Youth Sabbath School
Teacher's Guide



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