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CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

2ND QUARTER 2025

TEACHER'S GUIDE



Boundless Freedom

cornerstone connections

Teacher's Guide

REAL. SOLID. STORIES.

2nd Quarter 2025
Boundless Freedom

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welcome

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

The following are provided for your assistance:

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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 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’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). 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).

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 adaptation has been created just for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press® Publishing Association. Get more info about it at: www.cornerstoneconnections.net.

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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 *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 GCSabbathSchool 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

2025

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 Demoniac

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

2026

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

2027

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. The Fathers

2028

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. Future Glory

2025 scope & sequence

1st Quarter

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. The Living Message | Scripture Story: John 1:1-18.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 1. |
| 2. The Fathers God Chose for His Son | Scripture Story: 2 Samuel 7; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:21-36.
Commentary: <i>Patriarchs and Prophets</i> , chapter 70;
<i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 2. |
| 3. Countdown to the Savior | Scripture Story: Genesis 3:15, 16; Genesis 22:18; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6, 7; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:1, 18-23; Acts 2:29, 30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:18-21.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 2; 3. |
| 4. What You Seek Is What You Get | Scripture Story: Luke 2:21-39. |
| 5. Following Yonder Star | Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 4; 5.
Scripture Story: Matthew 2.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 6. |
| 6. Growing Up | Scripture Story: Luke 2:39-52.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 7-9. |
| 7. One of a Kind | Scripture Story: Matthew 3:1-17; Luke 1:5-23.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 10; 11. |
| 8. It Is Written | Scripture Story: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 12; 13. |
| 9. Come See | Scripture Story: John 1.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 14. |
| 10. Celebrating With Jesus | Scripture Story: John 2:1-11.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 15. |
| 11. Show Reverence in My House! | Scripture Story: John 2:12-22.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 16. |
| 12. Born Again | Scripture Story: John 3:1-17.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 17. |
| 13. It's Your Turn | Scripture Story: John 3:22-26.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 18. |

2nd Quarter

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Come and See! | Scripture Story: John 4:1-42.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 19. |
| 2. Seeing Is Believing? | Scripture Story: John 4:43-54.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 20. |
| 3. Do You Want to Get Well? | Scripture Story: John 5.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 21. |
| 4. Appearance Versus Reality | Scripture Story: Matthew 11:1-11; 14:1-11; Mark 6:17-28; Luke 7:19-28.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 22. |
| 5. A Tumultuous Homecoming | Scripture Story: Luke 4:16-30.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 23; 24. |
| 6. I Am a Follower | Scripture Story: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 25. |
| 7. Restored at Church | Scripture Story: Mark 1:21-28.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 26. |
| 8. Willing and Able | Scripture Story: Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-28.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 27. |
| 9. Not Love at First Sight | Scripture Story: Matthew 9:9-17; Mark 2:14-22; Luke 5:27-39.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 28. |
| 10. Front and Center | Scripture Story: Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 29. |
| 11. Jesus Calling | Scripture Story: Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-31; Matthew 5-7.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 30; 31. |
| 12. Faith-FULL Soldier | Scripture Story: Matthew 8:5-13; Matthew 12:22-28; Luke 7:1-17.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 32; 33. |
| 13. "Used-to-Bes" and "Has-Beens" | Scripture Story: Luke 8:26-39.
Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 34; 35. |

3rd Quarter

1. Woman With Issue of Blood and Jairus's Daughter	Scripture Story: Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 36.
2. The Seventy	Scripture Story: Matthew 10; Mark 6:7-11; Luke 9:1-6. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 37.
3. A Day in the Life of a Disciple	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: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 38-40.
4. Misunderstand the Messiah	Scripture Story: John 6:22-71; Matthew 15:1, 2; Mark 7:1-23. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 41; 42.
5. Syrophenician Woman	Scripture Story: Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 43.
6. Ministry of Jesus	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 9:28; Luke 9:37-45. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 44-47.
7. 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: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 49-52.
8. The Lawyer and the Rich Young Ruler	Scripture Story: Luke 9:51-56; 10:1-24; Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 19:16-22; Luke 18:18-23. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 53; 54; 57.
9. The Children	Scripture Story: Luke 17:20-22; Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 55; 56.
10. Lazarus, Mary, and Martha	Scripture Story: Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-44, 47-54. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 58; 59.
11. Zack	Scripture Story: Luke 19:1-10. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 61.
12. Mary	Scripture Story: Matthew 26:6-13; Luke 7:36-50; Mark 14:3-11; John 11:55-57; 12:1-11. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 62.
13. James and John	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: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 48; 60.

4th Quarter

1. Jesus and Jerusalem	Scripture Story: Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19; Mark 11:11-14, 20, 21; Matthew 21:17-19; Matthew 21:12-16, 23-46; Mark 11:15-19, 27-33; 12:1-12; Luke 19:45-48; 20:1-19. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 63-65.
2. Jesus Versus Pharisees	Scripture Story: Matthew 22:15-46; Mark 12:13-40; Luke 20:20-47; Matthew 23; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 20:45-47; 21:1-4. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 66; 67.
3. Jesus and the End of Time	Scripture Story: John 12:20-43; Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21:5-38. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 68; 69.
4. Jesus and Servanthood	Scripture Story: Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 22:7-18, 24; John 13:1-17. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 70; 71.
5. Jesus and the Last Supper	Scripture Story: Matthew 26:20-29; Mark 14:17-25; Luke 22:14-23; John 13:18-38; 14-17. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 72; 73.
6. Gethsemane	Scripture Story: Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-12. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 74.
7. Trial of Jesus	Scripture Story: Matthew 26:57-75; 27:1; Mark 14:53-72; 15:1; Luke 22:54-71; John 18:13-27; Matthew 27:2, 11-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-40; 19:1-16. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 75-77.
8. Calvary	Scripture Story: Matthew 27:31-53; Mark 15:20-38; Luke 23:26-46; John 19:16-30. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 78; 79.
9. Resurrection	Scripture Story: Matthew 28:2-4, 11-15. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 80; 81.
10. Mary M	Scripture Story: Matthew 28:1, 5-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 82.
11. Disciples on the Road to Emmaus	Scripture Story: Luke 24:13-33. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapter 83.
12. John and Peter by the Sea	Scripture Story: Luke 24:33-48; John 20:19-29; 21:1-22. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 84; 85.
13. Jesus' Ascension	Scripture Story: Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-12. Commentary: <i>The Desire of Ages</i> , chapters 86; 87.

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

2ND QUARTER 2025

April

5—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 make a difference?

12—Seeing Is Believing? [p. 17]

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.

19—Do You Want to Get Well? [p. 25]

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

26—Appearance Versus Reality [p. 33]

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

3—A Tumultuous Homecoming [p. 41]

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

10—I Am a Follower [p. 49]

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

17—Restored at Church [p. 57]

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.

24—Willing and Able [p. 65]

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?

31—Not Love at First Sight [p. 73]

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

June

7—Front and Center [p. 81]

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.

14—Jesus Calling [p. 89]

Our call to discipleship is always followed by a call to live in service to humanity. But how do we do that?

21—Faith-FULL Soldier [p. 97]

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

28—"Used-to-Bes" and "Has-Beens" [p. 105]

Even when the man's best and only response to Jesus was 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.

Boundless Freedom

SECOND QUARTER 2025



Teacher's Guide

