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CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

3RD QUARTER 2021



The Jesus Walk

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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.

—The Editors

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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July

3 — Always There [p. 5]

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.

10 — Can I Get a Witness? [p. 9]

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.

17 — Days of Discipleship [p. 13]

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!

24 — Misunderstood [p. 17]

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?

31 — Savior to the Gentiles [p. 21]

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

August

7 — Moving Mountains [p. 25]

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.

14 — Who Is Jesus? [p. 29]

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?

21 — Two Seekers [p. 33]

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!

28 — Trust Like a Child [p. 37]

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 these young disciples.

September

4 — Wake Up! [p. 41]

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?

11 — Jesus and Me [p. 45]

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.

18 — The Alabaster Jar [p. 49]

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.

25 — You First [p. 53]

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