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CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

1ST QUARTER 2019



Before and After

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REAL. SOLID. STORIES.

1st Quarter 2019
Before and After

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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, but 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 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 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 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. Get more info about it at www.cornerstoneconnections.net.

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January

5—The Way of Two Worlds [p. 5]

Both Creation and the fall of Lucifer begin the story of God's uncompromising plan to be in relationship with humanity.

12—Law Meets Love [p. 9]

Adam and Eve break trust with their Creator and open the door of death and destruction that would ultimately cost Him His life.

19—Out of Control [p. 13]

The story of Cain and Abel provides the first recorded contrast between those who trust and obey, and those who rationalize and choose their own way.

26—A Very Long Walk With God [p. 17]

Enoch lives the story of how much God wants to be in relationship with us, and how a life of trusting togetherness will restore us to permanent companionship with Him.

February

2—Noah Way! [p. 21]

Noah walks with God in a story very parallel with ours today. He lives a life of faithful diligence in preparing for the storm ahead.

9—Reaching Toward Heaven [p. 25]

The futility of trying to find a way to save ourselves is exemplified in the story of the Tower of Babel. Only a life of trusting obedience brings ultimate and lasting safety.

16—Long, Strange Trip [p. 29]

Abraham's name is a synonym for, and his life an example of, the kind of faith that God looks for in His friends.

23—God Provides [p. 33]

The story of the miraculous birth of Isaac is the story of how God keeps His promises even when the most enlightened human reasoning pronounces the situation hopeless and impossible.

March

2—No Laughing Matter [p. 37]

By choosing a life close to the evils of his age rather than one as far away as possible, Lot laid the groundwork for the destruction of his family.

9—Winsome . . . and Then Some [p. 41]

The story of God, the matchmaker, provides encouragement in this age of shaky relationships. Rebekah also portrays the virtue of going the second mile in service to others.

16—Identity Theft [p. 45]

Through the story of Jacob and Esau we can explore themes of identity, delayed gratification, and integrity—all very relevant themes for coping with life today.

23—Struggle by a Stream [p. 49]

The life of Jacob points out the unconditional acceptance of God. Persevering through his problems, Jacob was able to experience joy as he entrusted the broken pieces of his life to God.

30—Family Fiascoes [p. 53]

The effects of sin as well as the evidence of God's healing grace are vividly portrayed in the story of Jacob and his family. Through it we are called to trust God with all our family challenges.

Before and After

FIRST QUARTER 2019



Youth Sabbath School
Bible Study Guide



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