CORNERSTONECONNECTIONS
JULY182026

Scripture Story: Psalm 119:105; Matthew 10:17-22.
Commentary: *The Great Controversy* (or *Love Under Fire*), chapters 5, 6.

light of the world

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keytext

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

(Psalm 119:105, NIV)

flashlight

"The character of Wycliffe is a testimony to the educating, transforming power of the Holy Scriptures. It was the Bible that made him what he was. The effort to grasp the great truths of revelation imparts freshness and vigor to all the faculties. It expands the mind, sharpens the perceptions, and ripens the judgment. The study of the Bible will ennoble every thought, feeling, and aspiration as no other study can. It gives stability of purpose, patience, courage, and fortitude; it refines the character and sanctifies the soul" (*The Great Controversy,* p. 94).

what do you think?

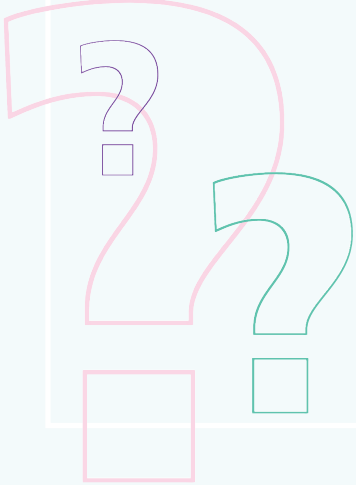
Choose a wall in the room. The far right-hand side of the wall represents the answer "One hundred percent absolutely YES!" The far left side of the wall represents the answer "One hundred percent absolutely, unequivocally NO!" Respond to the following statements by standing somewhere along the continuum of the wall to reflect your answer.

When people read the Bible, they should—

- believe and follow what it says.
- believe and follow what their pastor tells them it means.
- study carefully and then obey the teachings that are clear.
- look for principles rather than rules.

did you know?

The Bible's uniqueness does not come from its unparalleled political, cultural, and social influence, but from its source and its subject matter. It is God's revelation of the unique God-man: the Son of God, Jesus Christ—the Savior of the world" (*Seventh-day Adventists Believe,* p. 11).



INTO THE STORY

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."

"Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

"Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."

(Psalm 119:105; Matthew 10:17-22, NIV)

OUT OF THE STORY

Read Psalm 119:105 and then compare it with the following verses:

- Proverbs 30:5
- Luke 11:28
- 2 Timothy 3:15, 16
- Hebrews 4:12

What is the one major theme that emerges from the five texts?

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What do these verses have to say to you personally?

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How might you benefit by increasing the time you spend reading your Bible?

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Read the entire chapter of Matthew 10. Reflect on the following questions: How does the context of the story of Jesus sending out the 12 disciples illuminate verses 17-22?

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Is this passage more relevant, less relevant, or equally relevant for followers of Jesus today? Explain.

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How do the inevitable trials that Jesus warned us about impact a person's faith?

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punch lines

"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" **(Joshua 1:8, 9, NIV).**

"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" **(Ephesians 6:13-18, NIV).**

"Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it" **(Luke 11:28, NIV).**

further insight

"The maxim that the precepts of Scripture, conveyed through the understanding, are to rule the conscience; in other words, that God speaking in the Bible, and not the church speaking through the priesthood, is the one infallible guide."

—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy,* p. 102

connectingtolife

Sabbath

Read Romans 10:17.

Review your ideas about the Bible in the *What Do You Think?* section. Expand the activity by using the same wall as a continuum to share your opinion on the following statements:

- Every word in the Bible is inspired.
- The Bible contains a lot of good, practical advice such as the golden rule.
- The Bible is more about rules than relationships.

Sunday

Use the video and/or camera feature of your cell phone to capture stories of church members that illustrate the Bible verses for this lesson. Use the following questions in your interview and then share these stories (along with pictures and/or videos) with the rest of your Sabbath School class.

- **Psalm 119:105**
  - In what ways has the Bible been a light to your pathway in life?
  - What is your favorite verse in the Bible and why?
  - Other than "light," what metaphors would you use to describe the Bible?
- **Matthew 10:17-22**
  - Have you ever been persecuted for your faith? If so, what happened?
  - Have you ever felt "the Spirit of your Father speaking through you" (Matthew 10:20)? What happened?
  - What has God taught you through the adversities and trials of life?

Monday

Read Psalm 119:105.

Review the *Key Text* and then consider this commentary on the passage from the *Life Application Study Bible:*

"To walk safely in the woods at night we need a light so we don't trip over tree roots or fall into holes. In this life, we walk through a dark forest of evil. But the Bible can be our light to show us the way ahead so we won't stumble as we walk. It reveals the entangling roots of false values and philosophies. Study the Bible so you will be able to see your way clear enough to stay on the right path."[2]

Tuesday

Read 1 John 2:5.

Compare and contrast Ellen White's statement in the *Flashlight* section with this quotation:

"In the Bible are found the only safe principles of action. It is a transcript of the will of God, an expression of divine wisdom. It opens to man's understanding the great problems of life, and to all who heed its precepts it will prove an unerring guide, keeping them from wasting their lives in misdirected effort" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 506).

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Wednesday

Read the *Punch Lines*. Compile the commands included in the verses by writing the top 10 commandments found in Joshua 1:8, 9; Luke 11:28; and Ephesians 6:13-18.

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2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Thursday

Read 1 Timothy 4:12.

After reading chapters 5 and 6 of *The Great Controversy,* reflect on the main characters of the chapters. Ask yourself:

- What do I most admire about John Wycliffe? Why?
- What do I most admire about John Huss? Why?
- What do I most admire about Jerome? Why?
- What lessons do these three great Reformers have to teach me? (Remember, you have Notes pages in the back of your study guide to write longer answers.)

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Friday

Read 1 Peter 2:21.

Reflect on the closing thoughts of chapter 6 in *The Great Controversy:*

"Steadfast to the gospel, the Bohemians waited through the night of their persecution, in the darkest hour still turning their eyes toward the horizon like men who watch for the morning. 'Their lot was cast in evil days, but . . . they remembered the words first uttered by Huss, and repeated by Jerome, that a century must revolve before the day should break. These were to the Taborites [Hussites] what the words of Joseph were to the tribes in the house of bondage: "I die, and God will surely visit you, and bring you out" ' " (Ellen White, *The Great Controversy,* p. 119).

Pray over this question: "God, when I face trials and persecution, how can I have the resolve of a martyr?"

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[1] Brian Lowery, managing editor, PreachingToday.com; source: The Barna Update, "Americans Identify What They Consider 'Holy' Books," July 7, 2008.

[2] *Life Application Study Bible* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 1999), p. 1041.

this week's reading*

The Great Controversy (or *Love Under Fire),* chapters 5, 6.

**Love Under Fire* is a special adaptation of *The Great Controversy*, created for you by the Ellen G. White Estate and Pacific Press. Get more information about it at http://www.cornerstoneconnections.net/article/191/about-us/conflict-of-the-ages-companion-books#.URlhF1rBO9s. By following the weekly reading plan, you will read at least one book of the Conflict of the Ages Series each year.