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CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS (ISSN 0742-8685), Vol. 40, No. 1, First Quarter 2009. Published quarterly and copyrighted by the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists®, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, U.S.A. Published for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® by the Review and Herald® Publishing Association.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS*, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. United States: single copy, US\$12.39; one year, US\$33.04. Canada and foreign: single copy, US\$12.39; one year, US\$40.04. Prices subject to change without notice.

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cornerstone connections

REAL. SOLID. STORIES.

1st Quarter 2009

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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.*
- **Other Eyes**—a couple of quotes from various contemporary or historic sources that may open up a slightly different perspective on the central message of the lesson.
- **Making It Real**—the guide to making the truths about God in this story your very own. Begin here if you are studying this lesson on your own prior to, or after, studying it in a 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.

CORNERSTONE CONNECTIONS

1ST QUARTER 2009

January

3—The Living Message [p. 5]

God has revealed Himself to His people through prophets, the Temple system, and through the written Word. But only Jesus can capture what God is really like.

10—Countdown to the Savior [p. 9]

Although the Jews desired the Messiah's coming, they misunderstood His mission and purpose. Thus, they missed Him—just like we can.

17—Servant of the Lord [p. 13]

An angel presents Mary with the shocking news that she will bear the Son of God. God can do great things for and through us, too, but He requires our obedience.

24—What You Seek Is What You Get [p. 17]

It has been said that a person finds what they're looking for. Simeon and Anna looked with anticipation for the coming of the Messiah. They were not disappointed.

31—Following Yonder Star [p. 21]

When the Magi went in search of the Messiah whom they had been studying about, God's natural Global Positioning System placed them exactly where they needed to be.

February

7—Growing Up [p. 25]

Jesus faced many of the challenges and trials of youth that you face today, but He remained sinless. How did He do it? Can you imagine Jesus as someone whom you might want to know and hang out with?

14—One of a Kind [p. 29]

Just as God created John the Baptist for a holy purpose, He created each of us for a holy purpose. Standing for God will cost us much, as it did John. Is it worth it?

21—Hard Target [p. 33]

After Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, He met each of Satan's temptations with a clear "It is written." God's Word holds the same power for us as we meet our day-to-day temptations and struggles.

28—Come See [p. 37]

The dramatic incident of Philip introducing Nathanael to Jesus captures the coordination between the human and the divine as Christ makes disciples for His kingdom.

March

7—Partying With Jesus [p. 41]

Jesus worked His first miracle at a wedding feast in Cana, turning the water into wine and blessing the joyful celebration with His power. Jesus' power continues today to transform ordinary things into extraordinary!

14—Get Out of My House! [p. 45]

Instead of having reverence for the house of the Lord, the money changers were using the Temple for their own gain, turning it into a place of greed and materialism.

21—A Slow Burn [p. 49]

Often people feel as if they're not converted because they haven't had a "Damascus Road" experience. But the story of Nicodemus reminds us that conversion can be a lifelong journey.

28—It's Your Turn [p. 53]

John the Baptist could have become jealous when his disciples began following Jesus. But he chose to take joy in Jesus' success. He realized his role was to prepare the way.