

# CAMACOP SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

From the *“God of all Ages”*



*YEAR 3: GOD'S WORD*

Adult/Youth (English)  
Teacher's Manual

**EMBRACING GOD’S WORD**  
First Quarter: Year 3

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This Year 3 Sunday School Lesson Materials is part of the 5-year SS curriculum design of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMACOP).

## TO THE TEACHER



**Year 3 Goal:** That the believers in Christ will grow continually and be deeply rooted in God’s Word and desire to live out their faith in daily living.

**Year 3 Key Verse:** James 1:22 “Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

### Teaching Reminders:

A class is much like a fruit tree—some learners are ripe and ready to understand what is being taught. Some are almost ripe. Others are only half ripe. Yet, some still are entirely green and raw.

As a teacher, you cannot plan only for the advanced learners or for the entirely green and raw learners. But the secret is—plan to engage them all in active participation in class. By doing this, you will discover what the best and applicable teaching methods to use that are proven by you to be the suited and acceptable for everyone.

Merely pouring out of knowledge on your adults or youth is not teaching. The teacher, who talks on and on, without arousing learners’ interest, is a waste of time. Not every learner’s mind is focused on the lesson when each one comes in to attend your class on a Sunday morning.

In teaching the Bible, it is important for you to know and to remember words. But better still—to remember the lesson taught and to internalize it first by you through heart and mind. The teacher should always desire to see changed lives.

## The Lesson Format:

Each lesson has a title, a Scripture passage, a memory verse, and a lesson aim that is stated in the behavioral response.

Each lesson has 4 main parts. These parts should, at least, be done within a 40-minute class time:

<b>Entrance</b>	5 minutes
<b>Substance</b>	20-23 minutes
<b>Significance</b>	5-7 minutes
<b>Performance</b>	5 minutes



Consider these parts as a continuous and systematic but dynamic process of teaching that should flow smoothly.

The **ENTRANCE** is the introduction portion of the lesson. Purpose:

- To prepare & motivate learners to focus attention on the lesson.
- To create awareness in the learners to answer the question: *Why should we study this passage?*
- To lead the learners into the substance/content of the lesson.

The **Transition Sentence** is the sentence that connects to what the learners are about to do or learn from the passage.

The **SUBSTANCE** is where Bible knowledge is gained. This portion answers 2 questions:

- *What does the passage say?*
- *What does the passage mean?*

Being the teacher and having studied the passage more thoroughly ahead of time, you need to guide the discussion into the main or general truth of the passage.

The **GENERAL TRUTH** is distinctly stated in one sentence. This is very important because it is the main basis for the Significance Portion. This is the truth that summarizes the lesson or principle learned.

The **SIGNIFICANCE** is the implications portion. This portion includes varied applications of the General Truth. The truths should be related to life. It answers 2 questions:

- *What does the passage mean to present day life?*
- *What does the passage personally mean to me now?*

The Significance portion is vitally important because this is when learners open areas of their own lives to the probing ministry of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, pauses for silence are essential so that learners may examine areas of their own lives.

The **PERFORMANCE** is the time when the Significance Portion has been achieved in its purpose. The entire lesson is so structured in order to lead to Performance or practical application to life.

The Word of God calls for response after understanding the truth of the lesson, if possible soon after the class hour, or to take part during the week. Each learner should make such response or commitment as soon as he understands how a Bible truth applies to his personal life.

### **A NOTE TO REMEMBER**

There is only one Teacher's Manual for the Adult and Youth classes. Of these two classes, it is the Youth teacher who should have more informal time with his/her learners outside the class.

Who are the adults? Adults are called the grown-ups! They are the career people who have more knowledge and experiences. The expectation for an adult teacher are—speak slowly, clearly, distinctly, and loud enough to get their attention. Involve them in class discussion for they have so much to share.

John Sisemore, a Christian writer once wrote:

*Lose the children, and the church will die in two generations;  
Lose the youth, and the church will die in one generation;  
Lose the adults, and the church may very well die in this generation”*

## UNIT 1: HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO BE

### LESSON 1

## GOD'S REVELATION TO HUMANKIND



**Lesson Aim:** The learners will value what God has revealed to humankind.

**Scripture Text:** Romans 16:25; Hebrews 1:1,2

**Memory Verse:** Hebrews 1:1 – “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.”

### **In Advance:**

- Pray for wisdom as you prepare and teach this lesson.
- Pray for your learners.
- Read and study the Bible passages used in the Substance Portion.
- Study the content of the lesson.
- Memorize the memory verse.

### **ENTRANCE:**

Ask the learners to share one of the most exciting “revelations” that they have ever had.

Examples:

1. That I passed the board exam.
2. That I got the job I like most.
3. That I was having a baby.
4. That my patient’s critical condition was over.
5. That I won in a big event contest.
6. Etc.

**Say:** We were so excited when we knew these “revelations” actually happened to us, right?

**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** Today, we will study the greatest revelation ever made to humankind by the greatest Person in this lesson.

## **SUBSTANCE**

(Use lecture method)

**Ask** the learners to read aloud in unison the following passages:

Romans 16:25; Hebrews 1:1, 2

“Man is finite and God is infinite. If man wants to know God, he must look into God’s revelation of Himself so that he will know who God is and will be able to have fellowship with Him.” *(Source: Erickson).*

What is the meaning of the word “revelation” in the following passages?

1. In Romans 16:25

Answer: Revelation is the unveiling of that which was hidden before.

2. In Hebrews 1:1,2

Answer: Revelation is a communication of truth from God to man.

“Some theologians classify God’s revelation of Himself in two ways: First: God revealed Himself through nature. Second: God revealed Himself through His Word, the Bible.” *(Richardson)*

### **I. General Revelation- God revealed Himself through nature.**

*(Let the learners read the passages as you go along.)*

General revelation is an act of God by which He continually makes Himself known to all men in nature, history, and man’s conscience.

Let’s take a look at how God revealed Himself:

- a. God revealed Himself in nature.

Psalm 19:1- *The heavens declare the glory of God.*

v. 5-*The skies declare the work of His hands.*

Isaiah 40:5- *God's glory will be revealed...all mankind will see it...for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

Acts 14:17- *He gives rain and crops in their season, He provides plenty of food and fills heart with joy.*

b. God revealed Himself in history.

Daniel 2:20,21- *God changes times and seasons*

- *He sets up kings and deposes them.*

- *He reveals deep and hidden things.*

4:17 - *The most high is sovereign over the kingdoms of men...*

c. God revealed Himself in man's conscience.

Romans 2:15- *Their conscience bears witness and their thoughts now accuse them.*

**God's general or natural revelation shows the following truths about Him:**

1. It shows that God exists.
2. It reveals God's eternal power and divine nature- (Romans 1:20)  
- "*...God's invisible qualities: His eternal power and divine nature- have been clearly seen...*"
3. It reveals the loving nature of God (Matthew 5:45)  
"*He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*"

**II. Special Revelation- God revealed Himself in His Word, the Bible**

What does special revelation mean?

- It speaks about God's manifestation of Himself to particular persons at definite times and places, enabling those people to enter into a redemptive relationship with Him. (*Erickson*)
- It is a self-manifestation and a self-presentation of God to man in the Bible, which is personal and direct.
- It deals with the personal God who, as a person, reveals Himself to man. (*Richardson*)

**Ways of God's Special Revelation:**

1. God revealed Himself through miracles.
2. God revealed Himself through prophecy.

Prophecy is the foretelling of future events from a direct communication with God through:

a. Theophany--This refers to the visible manifestations of God through:

- an angel appearing in human form (Judges 13)
- a flame in the burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6)
- a fire, smoke, and thunder on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:18-20)
- a voice of God in the garden of Eden- Genesis 3:8
- a still small voice to Elijah- 1 Kings 19:12ff
- a voice from heaven at the baptism of Jesus- Matthew 3:17

The physical aspect of God's revelation is intended to impress the recipients and authenticate the revelation. Sometimes the recipient does not know immediately- e.g. Samson's father – Judges 13:15-22 (*Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*).

b. God also revealed Himself through dreams- e.g. Joseph the carpenter, Joseph the dreamer, and others.

c. Visions- e.g. Prophet Isaiah, John of Patmos.

d. By the supernatural quickening of minds of chosen men (*Hamilton*).

3. God revealed Himself in the Person of Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ, we have the revelation of the existence of God, the nature of God, and the will of God.

Jesus Christ is the complete and final revelation of God (Hebrews 1:1-3).

4. God revealed Himself in His Written Word, the Bible

The Scripture as a whole is a revelation of God.

5. God reveals Himself to individual Christians through the Holy Spirit who illumines or enlightens their minds to know the truth (John 15:13).

**Ask:** From our lesson today, what did God do so that man will know Him?

Answer: God revealed Himself.

**GENERAL TRUTH:** God revealed Himself to man.

*(Emphasize, explain, and memorize the verse in Hebrews 1:1)*

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

Ask the following questions:

1. How do people in general respond to God's revelation?

**Possible answers:**

- a. Complacent/they do not care
- b. No interest at all
- c. No importance and value to life
- d. Etc.

2. How should we respond to the fact that God revealed Himself to us?

**Possible answers:**

- 2.1 Value His revelation, the Word of God.
- 2.2 Hold on to our faith.
- 2.3 Be more eager to read and study His Word consistently through personal or group Bible study.
- 2.4 Apply the Word of God in our lives.

## **PERFORMANCE**

**Ask:** What would you do this week in response to our lesson today?

**Give** time for self-introspection.

**Let** them pray individually.

**Ask** someone to lead the closing prayer.

## LESSON 2

# THE BIBLE AS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (PART I)



**Lesson Aim:** The learners will stand firm on the truth that the Bible is God's inspired Word.

### Scripture References:

2 Peter 1:20–21; 2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 1:16

Christ's Words: John 10:35; Matthew 5:18; Matthew 24:2

**Memory Verse:** **2 Timothy 3:16** *“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”*

### In Advance:

- Pray
- Study your lesson and read the Bible passages.
- Master the lesson and internalize the truths learned.

## ENTRANCE

**Ask:** Which department in a factory maintains the quality of its production?

**Answer:** The Quality Control Department

**Ask:** How will the person-in-charge of this department know that the products are good?

**Answer:** By following the Standard of Production that the factory had set.

**Say:** If factories have produced quality products based on their own measuring standards, so we too have the books of the Bible that passed certain standards to be recognized as God's Word.

## TRANSITION SENTENCE:

Today, we will learn that the Bible is God's inspired Word.

## SUBSTANCE

*(Method: Lecture)*

### I. Definition of Terms: *(From: Evangelical Dictionary of Theology)*

- a. Bible – This is derived from the Greek word “Biblion” or roll or “book”. A Biblion is a roll of papyrus. This material was taken from a reed-like plant whose inner bark was dried and made into a writing material which was used in the ancient world.
- b. Inspiration- is a supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit upon divinely chosen men that make their writings trustworthy and authoritative.
- c. Canon- refers to a group of books acknowledged by the early church as the rule of faith and practice.  
The term “CANON” comes from the Greek word ‘kanon’ meaning “a reed or rod,” or a measuring rod. It is a rule or a standard.

### II. The Bible as God's Inspired Word

“Canon” came to be used therefore to refer to those sacred books which had been “*measured*” or “*approved*” and accepted as inspired of God. This refers to those 66 books which compose our present Bible, all of which are regarded as genuine or divinely inspired.

### III. The Bible as a Canon of Scriptures

The Scriptures originally appeared book by book and on separate scrolls. Later these were bound together into volumes, which became the Bible.

### A. Determining Factors for a Book to Be God's Inspired Word:

#### 1. The External Basis.

This includes the personal testimonies of those who knew the writer, and who had received the original copy from the writer himself. Their testimony to the fact of their genuineness, together with their knowledge of God's inspiration, gives good evidence that the book is canonical.

## 2. The Apostolicity.

This means that a book was written or endorsed by an apostle.

## 3. The “Contents”

### a. Some of the words in the Bible are actual words of God Himself.

#### 1. In the Old Testament:

- Exodus 32:16- “The writing was the writing of God”
- Exodus 31:18- “Written with the finger of God”
- And other Scripture passages.

#### 2. In the New Testament:

God is heard speaking both at the baptism and the transfiguration of Jesus, saying: “*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*”

It is evident from these passages that some parts of the inspired record claim to be a record of the exact words of God.

### b. Some Words were given by God to men.

#### ○ Old Testament Examples:

#### 1) Exodus 4:10-15 -

- v. 12- “*Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say*”

-v. 15b- “*...I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do.*”

#### 2) Numbers 17:2-3

- v. 2- “*Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them ... write the name of each man on his staff.*”

- v. 3- “*On the staff of Levi write Aaron’s name...*”

#### 3) Isa. 8:1,11-12

- v. 1- “*The Lord said to me...*”

- v. 11-12- “*The Lord spoke to me...*”

- Jer. 1:7- “*But the Lord said to me...*”

- etc.

#### ○ New Testament Examples:

#### 1) 1 Cor. 14:37- “*If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually*

*gifted let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command."*

2) Rev. 2:1,8,12,18,

v. 1- "...*These are the words of him...*"

v. 8- "*These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.*"

v. 12- "*These are the words of him...*"

v. 18- "*These are the words of the Son of God...*" etc

4. The Universality - This is one of the greatest factors.

- a. A book is canonical if it is considered genuine and inspired by those who lived nearest to the time it was written -- by those in the ages following and in a continued series.
- b. The church council examined the testimony and declared the tradition's affirmation to the genuineness and inspiration of a book.
- c. Canonicity of the Old Testament- Most important parts of the Old Testament are quoted by our Lord and His Apostles--this points to the genuineness of the Old Testament.

The Hebrew Bible was composed exactly of the same books as our present Old Testament. The testimony of early Christian writers also attest to the canonicity of the Old Testament.

- d. Canonicity of the New Testament- The early Church Fathers and the two *Church* councils indicated that our present 27 books are canonical.

**GENERAL TRUTH:** The Bible is the inspired Word of God and so we ought to stand firm on its truth.

*(Have the class read 2 Timothy 3:16—explain the verse and then memorize it together).*

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** How do people in general regard the Bible?

**Possible answers:**

1. It is just one of the books that were written long ago.
2. A book for the heretics.
3. A book which is not supposed to be read by a layperson.
4. One of the religious books.
5. A book for Christians
6. A book that is hard to understand.
7. A holy book

**Ask:** How should evangelical Christians regard the Bible, knowing that it is God's inspired Word?

**Possible answers:**

1. Treasure it as a book that is special
2. Read and re-read it
3. Practice its teachings
4. Share the truths with others
5. Make it the standard of faith and practice
6. Etc.

## PERFORMANCE

**Ask:** What specific actions will you do this week in response to the truth that the Bible is God's inspired Word?

**Possible Answers:**

1. I will read and meditate on it daily.
2. I will memorize one verse a day.
3. I will make a journal about each passage I read every day.
4. Etc.

**Give** time for the learners to respond personally.

**Let** them pray individually.

**Ask** someone to lead the closing prayer.

## LESSON 3

### THE BIBLE AS THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD (PART II- THE BIBLE IS ERROR-FREE)



**Lesson Aim:** The learners will trust the Word of God to guide them in living out the Christian life.

#### Scripture References:

2 Peter 1: 20 – 21; 2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 1: 16

Christ's Words: John 10: 35; Matthew 5: 18; Matthew 24: 2

#### In Advance:

- a. Pray for God's wisdom as you prepare the lesson.
- b. Seek additional assistance, preferably from your Pastor.  
Read evangelical theology books that explain this doctrine. You may invite your pastor to sit in your class to help answer questions that may arise.
- c. Prepare the materials needed for the Entrance Portion.

#### ENTRANCE:

**Divide** the class into four groups. Give to each group the set of letters you prepared and let them form it into one word. Each group will have one set of letters. *(Print the letters of each word separately and put them inside the envelope.)*

1<sup>st</sup> group: INFALLIBILITY

2<sup>nd</sup> group: INTEGRITY

3<sup>rd</sup> group: DEPENDABILITY

4<sup>th</sup> group: INERRANCY

**Say:** Let's all read the words together as follows:

I-N-F-A-L-L-I-B-I-L-I-T-Y  
I-N-T-E-G-R-I-T-Y  
D-E-P-E-N-D-A-B-I-L-I-T-Y  
I-N-E-R-R-A-N-C-Y

**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** This morning we will see how these words describe the Bible.

## **SUBSTANCE:**

*(Method: Lecture)*

**Let's** define the three terms:

According to Oxford Word Power Dictionary:

1. Dependability means being "trustworthy, reliable."
2. Integrity is the "quality of being honest and upright."
3. Inerrancy is synonymous to infallibility.
4. Infallibility means "cannot make a mistake, cannot be wrong, free of error."

We will continue to study the Bible as God's inspired Word. In this lesson the word infallibility and inerrancy are synonymous.

### **I. DEFINING INFALLIBILITY OR INERRANCY:**

Understanding the Doctrine of Inerrancy:

The Bible, when correctly interpreted in the light of the level to which culture and the means of communication had developed at the time it was written, and in view of the purposes for which it was given, is fully truthful in all that it affirms.

#### **Specific illustrations in defining inerrancy:**

1. Inerrancy pertains to what is affirmed or asserted rather than what is merely reported:
  - 1.1 In the Bible, we can find some false statements made by ungodly persons. The presence of these statements does not mean they are true; it only guarantees that they are correctly reported.

1.2 When something is taken by a biblical writer, from whatever source, and incorporated in his message as an affirmation, not merely a report, then it must be judged as truthful.

2. We must judge the truthfulness of Scripture in terms of what the statements meant in the cultural setting in which they were expressed. We should judge the Bible in terms of the forms and standards of its own culture.

For example:

- 2.1 We should not expect that the standards of exactness in quotation to which our age of the printing press and mass media distribution is accustomed would have been present in the first century.

- 2.2 We should also recognize that numbers were often used symbolically in ancient times. Even to this day, this is true in our current culture. There is a wide diversity, then, between our culture and that of Bible times.

***When we speak of inerrancy we mean that what the Bible affirms is fully true in terms of culture and of its time.***

3. The biblical assertions are fully true when judged in accordance with the purpose for which they were written, that is, the purpose of writing must be considered when judging whether something that is true applies not only to the use of numbers, but also to such matters as the chronological order in historical narratives. This was occasionally modified in the Gospels. In some cases, a change in words was necessary in order to communicate the same meaning to different persons.

For example:

Luke had “*Glory in the highest*” while Matthew and Mark had “*Hosanna in the highest.*” Luke had his thoughts on his readers--that what would make sense to them (the Gentiles) is of first importance.

4. Reports of historical events and scientific matters are observable facts rather than just being written. Biblical reports make no effort to be scientifically exact; they do not attempt to theorize over just what actually occurred.

For example:

The walls of Jericho fell, or the Jordan River was stopped or the ax head floated.

5. Difficulties in explaining the biblical text should not be pre-judged as indications of error.

**For example:**

According to Matthew 27:5, Judas committed suicide by hanging himself.

According to Acts 1:18, “falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.”

For explanation of this:

The specific Greek word in Acts that caused the difficulty regarding the death of Judas is *prēnēs*. For a long period of time it was understood to mean only “falling headlong.”

Twentieth-century investigations of ancient papyri, however, have revealed that this word has another meaning in Koine Greek. It also means “*swelling up*.” Therefore, it is possible to hypothesize an end of Judas’ life which seems to accommodate all of the data.

Having hanged himself, Judas was not discovered for some time. In such a situation the visceral organs begin to degenerate first, causing a swelling of the abdomen that is characteristic of cadavers that have not been properly embalmed, hence, the words “*swelling up (Judas) burst open in the middle and his bowels gushed out.*” While there is no way of knowing whether this was what actually took place, it seems to be a workable and adequate resolution of the difficulty. We must continue to work at resolving all such tensions in our understanding the Bible.

The Doctrine of Inerrancy was applied, in the strict sense, only to the originals. But in a derivative (copied) sense, it referred to the copies and translations, that is, to the extent that they reflect the originals. We must reaffirm that the copies and the translations were also the Word of God to the degree that they preserve the original message.

When we say they are the Word of God, we do not have in mind of course the original process of the inspiration of the biblical writer. Rather, it is the Word of God in a derivative sense that is attached to the product.

## **II. Arguments for Inerrancy: God's Word is dependable because it is free of error.**

The inerrancy of Scripture is a topic that all Christians should understand. By this, we hold on to the truth that the Bible is fully truthful in all its teachings. Some people think that this issue is irrelevant but we, as Evangelicals, believe that this is necessary and a crucial issue so it needs a careful examination.

As we continue to study, may we open our hearts to accept the truthfulness of the Scripture, since it is God who revealed Himself by inspiring the writer of each book of the Bible.

### **Reasons for Inerrancy of the Word of God:**

#### **A. Biblical Reasons:**

*(Let the learners read the passages as you discuss each point.)*

1. The Scriptures are the breath of God- the Bible teaches its own inspiration- 2 Timothy 3:16
2. Criteria for distinguishing God's message and messenger from false prophecies and prophets:
  - 2.1 Deut.13:1-5. False prophet (one who misleads the people away from God).
  - 2.2 Deut.18:20-22. False prophet (one who proclaims in the name of the Lord but whose prophecy does not take place or does not come true).
3. The Bible teaches its own authority and this requires inerrancy- Matthew 5:17-20; John 10:34-35. Both of these passages record the words of Jesus.
4. In Matthew. 5:17-20, Jesus says that heaven and earth will pass away before the smallest detail of the law fails to be fulfilled. The law's authority rests on the fact that every minute detail will be fulfilled.
5. In John 10:34-35 Jesus says that Scripture cannot be broken and so it is absolutely binding. Both passages emphasize the Bible's authority, thus, it is grounded in inerrancy.
6. The Scripture uses Scripture in a way that supports its inerrancy- Psalm 82:6; Matthew 22:32

**B. Inerrancy follows from what the Bible says about God’s character.**

God cannot lie- Numbers. 23:19; 1 Samuel. 15:29; Titus 1:2; Hebrews. 6:18. If the Bible is from God and His character is behind it, it must be inerrant and infallible truth.

**C. Historical Reasons:**

1. Throughout its history, the church believed in the complete inerrancy and dependability of the Bible.
2. Augustine, one of the early Church Fathers said: “I have learned to yield this respect and honor only to the canonical books of Scripture; of these alone do I most firmly believe that the authors were completely free from error.”
3. Two great reformers, Luther and Calvin, bear testimony to Biblical infallibility. Luther said: “The Scripture has never erred.”

**D. Theological Reasons:**

1. Jesus, Paul, and other major New Testament figures regarded and used details of the Scripture as authoritative.
2. God is Omniscient, He knows all things. He cannot be ignorant of or have an error on any matter.
3. God is Omnipotent, He is able to affect the biblical authors’ writing such that nothing erroneous enters into the final product.
4. God is Truth, He certainly desires to use these abilities in such a way that humans will not be misled by the Scriptures.
5. God cannot lie:
  - 5.1 Numbers 23:19 - “God is not a man that He should lie...”
  - 5.2 1 Samuel 15:29- “He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.”
  - 5.3 Titus 1:2- “a faith and knowledge resting on the hope”  
Hebrews 6:18 - If the Bible is from God and His character is behind it, it must be inerrant and infallible.

*(Sources: Introducing Christian Doctrine by Millard Erickson, 1992; Evangelical Dictionary of Theology edited by Walter A. Elwell, 1984)*

## **Biblical Passages that Attest to the Inspiration of the Bible:**

*(Let the learners read the passages as you go along.)*

1. 2 Peter 1: 20–21. Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit...*“No prophecy of scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation...for prophecy never has its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God, as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*
2. 2 Timothy 3:16. The Scripture is God-breathed.  
*“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”*
3. Acts 1: 16- The Holy Spirit spoke through the Scriptures.  
*“The Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago...”*
4. John 10: 35- Jesus’ words-  
*“...The Scriptures cannot be broken.”*
5. Matthew 5: 18- Everything written in the Word of God will be accomplished.  
*“...not a smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”*

**GENERAL TRUTH:** The Bible, God’s Word, is our source of guidance for it is sure, dependable, trustworthy and, therefore, authoritative.

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

### **Ask:**

1. What are some attitudes people have towards God’s Word?

#### **Possible answers:**

- a. They love to question God’s Word
  - b. They always doubt God’s Word
  - c. Etc.
2. What should be the proper attitude of evangelical Christians towards the Word of God?

#### **Answer:**

- a. Love it.
- b. Read it.
- c. Believe it.

- d. Obey it.
- e. Trust/depend on it.

### **PERFORMANCE:**

**Let** the learners find a partner and share with each other a Scripture verse that has spoken to them personally.

**Ask them to pray** for one another by asking God to help them read His Word consistently and trust in His Word to guide their lives.

**Close** in prayer.

## LESSON 4

### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

**Lesson Aim:** The learners will value the Bible in their lives.

**Scripture Text:** Joshua 1:8-9

**Memory Verse:** “Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; 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.” Joshua 1:8-9

#### In Advance:

- Pray
- Read, study, and meditate on the Scripture text.
- Memorize the memory verse.
- Read other outside materials that give information about food, namely, milk, bread, and honey
- Prepare a simple survey sheet for the Entrance Portion.

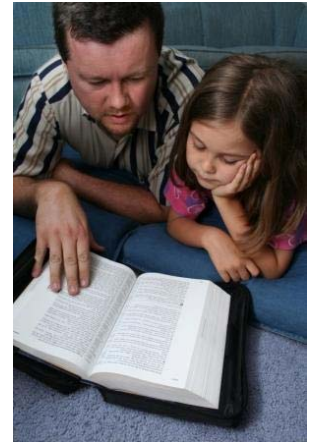
#### ENTRANCE:

*(Request someone from the class to lead the opening prayer.)*

**Say:** Rank the list below according to what is important to you. 1 is the highest score.

- Food/clothing/ shelter
- Work
- Fame
- Riches
- Others (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Say:** From the activity we did a few minutes ago, you ranked the items according to their importance.



**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** We will study this morning the importance of God's Word in our lives.

**SUBSTANCE:**

*(Method: Lecture)*

**God's Word is important because:**

*(Note: Take time to discuss the Bible verses used in this portion).*

**1. Its Author is God Himself.**

Usually, a book gets our attention because of its author. If we are not familiar with the author, we tend to ignore it. We read a book because we know that the author is famous. We should read the Bible because its author is God Himself.

**2. It is in the Bible that God has revealed Himself and His will.**

God has made known who He is and His will in the pages of the Holy Scriptures. When we read the Bible and meditate on its contents, the Holy Spirit illumines or enlightens our minds so that we will be able to know God and understand His will for our lives.

**3. It is in the Bible that the way of salvation is shown.**

Romans 10:13-17 tells us: *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ (NIV).*

**4. It serves as our guide in our daily Christian walk.**

Psalm 119:105 tells us: *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."* The Word of God points us to the right direction and helps us avoid pitfalls that hinder us from scaling spiritual heights. *(Note: This will be discussed more in one of the lessons in Unit 2 of this quarter).*

**5. Obedience to God's will revealed in the Bible keeps us from yielding to Satan's temptations.**

In Matthew 4, we read that Satan tempted Jesus but He did not yield. Jesus overcame every temptation because He was committed to obeying the Word of God.

**6. In the Bible we find promises of God that we can claim for ourselves.**

Not all promises that we read in the Bible are for us today. But there are certain promises that we can claim for ourselves. When God promises, He will certainly fulfill it. He is true to His word.

*(Let the learners open their Bibles to Joshua 1:8.)*

**Ask:** What instructions did God give to Joshua, according to this verse?

**Answer:**

1. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth.
2. Meditate on it day and night so that you will be careful to do everything written in it.

**Ask:** What did God promise to Joshua if he obeyed the instructions?

**Answer:**

Prosperity and success would be his.

*(Give time for the learners to memorize the verse).*

**GENERAL TRUTH:** God's Word contains His will so we must value the Bible by obeying its instructions.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** What are some practical ways we can show that we value the Word of God?

Possible answers:

1. Own a Bible
2. Read the Word of God daily.
3. Make a daily journal of your Bible reading.
4. Memorize verses.
5. Treat it as your treasured possession.
6. Etc.

## **PERFORMANCE:**

**Say:** From the above list, which of these practical ways will you choose to do this week in response to the lesson today?

**Give** time for the learners to decide.

**Let** them pray individually and ask someone to lead the closing prayer.

## UNIT II: THE SYMBOLS OF GOD'S WORD

### LESSON 1

## GOD'S WORD AS SEED



**Lesson Aim:** The learners will sow and cultivate the seed (Word) in the hearts of men until it bears fruit.

**Scripture Text:** Luke 8:4-15

**Memory Verse:** Luke 8:15

*“But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the Word, retain it, and, by preserving, produce a crop.”*

### **In Advance:**

- Pray
- Read, study, and meditate on the passage
- Memorize the memory verse
- Read some materials that give information about the characteristics of a seed
- Prepare seeds for the Entrance Portion.

### **ENTRANCE:**

- Opening prayer
- Greet the class and make a short review on the previous lesson about the importance of God's Word.

**SAY:** There are many seeds on the top of this table. Now, I want you to write down your observations about the seeds.

*(Give learners two minutes to do this activity. Then, let them share their observations in class).*

Sample observations:

1. The seeds are ready to be sown.

2. The seeds have not sprouted yet.
3. The seeds will not grow unless they are tended.
4. Etc.

**SAY:** In the Bible, the Word of God is compared to a SEED.

**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** We will study today the first symbol of God's Word in this unit -- SEED.

## **SUBSTANCE**

*(Method: Question and Answer)*

**Let** the learners read aloud together Luke 8:4-15.

**Ask:** What does Luke 8:11 tell us about the Word of God?

**Answer:**

It tells us that the Word of God is likened to a seed.

**Say:** Let's examine the parable in Luke 8:4-15

**Ask:** Where did the sown seeds fall?

**Answers:**

1. On the pathway
2. On the rocks
3. Among thorns
4. On good soil

**Ask:** What happened to the seeds that fell on each of these places?

- a. On the pathway - The seeds were trampled on and the birds of the air ate them up.
- b. On the rocks- The seeds withered.
- c. Among the thorn- The seeds grew up together with the thorns
- d. On the good soil- The seeds came out and grew up

**Ask:** What became of those seeds?

**Answers:**

- a. The seeds on the pathway did not grow; some were eaten by the birds.
- b. The seeds on the rocks withered because they had no moisture.
- c. The seeds among the thorns were choked up by the thorns.
- d. The seeds on good soil grew and yielded crop a hundred times.

**Ask:** What does the seed refer to in this parable? V.11

**Answer:** The seed refers to the Word of God.

### **Some Practical Observations:**

- 1) A seed remains a seed until it is planted. The Word of God will not have any effects on the lives of people if it is not shared.
  - A seed will not grow if it is just stored in a container. It must be properly planted in good soil.
- 2) We must sow the Word of God into the hearts and lives of people if we want to see it bear fruit.
- 3) A seed is powerful, and so is God's Word when it is sown in the hearts of men.
  - As the seed begins to grow, it will push up the dirt, the rocks, soils, etc. In the same manner, whatever the obstacles are, God's Word sown in the hearts of people will push these obstacles out of the way.
- 4) A seed grows unnoticed under the ground. God's Word likewise works in a way beyond our expectations.
  - The only way to tell if a seed is growing is to dig it up or wait for a plant to appear. There is a big possibility that it will die if you try to dig it up. On the other hand, it is only God who makes the seed (His Word) grow in people's hearts; it is not our work. But we have the responsibility to share it with others.
- 5) A seed needs care and nourishment. Likewise, the Word of God sown in the lives of people needs nourishment.
  - To assure a good harvest, we must take care and protect the plant. We need to water it and cultivate the soil around it.
  - We should allow God's Word to grow in our hearts by continuously studying and living it daily in our lives.
- 6) A seed takes time to grow and bear fruit, and so does the Word of God in our lives.

- The seed does not grow and produce fruit overnight; it takes time. We should wait patiently to see growth in our lives and in the lives of those under our care.

7) As more seeds are sown, they will produce a larger harvest. And so will continuous sowing of God's Word produce a larger harvest into God's kingdom.

- The more we study God's Word the more we bear fruit.
- The more we share the Word of God the faster the kingdom of God expands.

**GENERAL TRUTH:** God's Word is like a seed that we need to sow and tend in the hearts of people so that it will bear fruit.

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** Like a seed, how does God's Word work in our lives?

**Possible Answers:**

1. Through the Holy Spirit, the Word of God brings conviction to our hearts.
2. It grows little by little as the person responds to it.
3. It helps the person mend his ways or correct his wrong doings.

**Ask:** As God's Word needs to be sown, how should we as evangelical Christians respond to it?

**Possible Answers:**

1. Participate in sowing/sharing the Word.
2. Involve in the ministry of evangelism in the church.
3. Participate in the church nurturing program.
4. Be consistent in feeding our spiritual life through His Word.

## **PERFORMANCE**

**Say:** Examine your life by asking yourself the following questions:

1. Is the Word of God growing as it should in my life?
2. Am I participating in sharing the Word of God to others? If not, what hinders me from doing so?
3. Would I commit myself to "sow" God's Word in other people?

**Lead** the closing prayer.

## LESSON 2

### GOD'S WORD AS WATER

**Lesson Aim:** The learners will allow the Word of God to cleanse and satisfy them.

**Scripture Passages:** Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3; 4:13-14; Romans 12:20; Proverbs 25:21; Matthew 25:35

**Memory Verse:** 1 Peter 1:22, KJV

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently...”

#### IN ADVANCE:

- Pray
- Read, study, and meditate on the passage
- Memorize the memory verse
- Read some outside materials that give information about the use and nature of water
- Prepare a pail of water and basin of mud for the Entrance Portion



#### ENTRANCE:

*(In front of the class, place a pail of water and a basin of mud. Ask one volunteer to dip his hands in the basin of mud).*

**Ask:** What happened to the hands dipped into the mud?

**Answer:** The hands became dirty.

**Ask:** What should he/she need to do?

**Answer:** Wash his/her hands with water.

**SAY:** The water cleanses out the mud from the hands. In the same way, God's Word is like water that cleanses us from spiritual dirt.

**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** Today we will study the second symbol of God's Word in this unit -- WATER.

## **SUBSTANCE:**

*(Let the learners read the following passages: Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3; 4:13-14; Romans 12:20; Prov. 25:21; Matthew 25:35)*

**Say:** We will study two points of comparison between water and the Word of God. First, water washes or cleanses dirt away while the Word of God cleanses our spiritual lives from sin. Second, water quenches our thirst while the Word of God satisfies our spiritual thirst.

*(Divide the class into two groups. Give them 7 minutes to answer the questions after which ask the secretary of each group to give a report).*

### **Question for Group I:**

1. What does the Word of God do in the life of the church? Ephesians 5:26

**Answer:** It makes the church holy by “washing” her through the Word.

2. How do we, as believers, receive cleansing? John 15:3

**Answer:** Through the Word of God spoken to us.

**Say:** As water cleanses us from dirt, so does the Word of God cleanse us from sin.

### **Question for Group II:**

1. What physical benefit can we get from water? Romans 12:20; Prov. 25:21; Matthew 25:35

**Answer:** It quenches our thirst.

2. What does the Word of God do to a person’s spiritual life? John 4:14; 6:35c

**Answer:**

- a. It brings complete satisfaction-“...will never thirst”- John 4:14; “...will never be thirsty.”- John 6:35

**Say:** As the water quenches our thirst, so does the Word of God satisfy our spiritual thirst.

### **Question for Everybody:**

**Ask:** What is the difference between physical water and “spiritual water,” (the Word of God) in terms of meeting the needs of man?

John 4:13-14

**Answer:**

1. Anyone who drinks the physical kind of water will be thirsty again and again.
2. Whoever drinks the spiritual water will never thirst, and it will become to him a spring of water welling up to his eternal life.

**Ask:** How can the Word of God work in our lives like water?

*(Pause for a while for the learners to think.)*

**Say:** As we daily appropriate God’s Word in our lives, we are also cleansed and our spiritual thirst is met.

God’s Word can work in our lives like water when we:

- **Study it.** As we study, the Word of God cleanses our lives from sin. The Word shows us the areas in our lives that need to change. It also shows us the things we need to stop doing. It truly satisfies our hearts. The Word of God fills the areas of life where we feel spiritually empty.
- **Meditate on it.** As we meditate on the Word of God, we see the dirt from the unpleasant things we do. The need for cleansing and renewal arises. The Holy Spirit, therefore, uses the Word to make us consciously aware of sin, and leads us to confess and repent. God’s Word also reveals God’s perfect will for our lives.
- **Apply its truth in our lives.** A cleansed and purified life is not just a product of head knowledge; it also involves action. The more we study the Word of God, the more we do the things that please Him. We must be willing to obey what the Bible says, and allow it to change our perspectives, our attitudes, and our lifestyle.

**GENERAL TRUTH:** God’s Word is like water that cleanses and satisfies.

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** If God's Word is like water that washes off dirt, how often should we read it and go to God for cleansing?

**Answer:**

1. As often as necessary
2. Everyday
3. Every time we feel we are dirty.
4. Etc.

**Ask:** If God's Word is like water that satisfies our thirst, how often should we go for a drink?

**Answer:**

1. Every day
2. Every time we are thirsty.
3. All the time, even if we don't feel thirsty
4. Etc.

Will you allow God's Word to cleanse you and satisfy the deep longings of your heart?

## **PERFORMANCE:**

**Ask** each learner to share a Bible passage that helped him/her receive cleansing from sin, or any passage that satisfied his/ her spiritual thirst.

*(If the class is big, group them by twos and let them share for about 5 minutes).*

**Ask:** Will you continue to allow God's Word to cleanse you and satisfy the deep longings of your heart this week and in the coming weeks?

**Let** them pray with their partners.

**Ask** someone to lead the closing prayer.

## UNIT II: THE EMBLEMS OF GOD'S WORD

### LESSON 3 GOD'S WORD AS FOOD

**Lesson Aim:** That the learners will regularly feed on the Word of God for spiritual nourishment and health.

**Scripture Text:** Jeremiah 15:16; 1 Peter 2:2-3; Hebrews 5:14; Psalm 19:10; Psalm 119:103-

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 4:4 "...Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."



#### IN ADVANCE:

1. Pray
2. Read, study, and meditate on the passage
3. Memorize the M.V.
4. Prepare little amount of milk, bread, and honey for the Entrance Portion.
5. Photo copy the flyers which is found at the end of the lesson to be used at the Substance Portion.

(Option: If there's no photo copier available you draw the pictures and write the Scriptures in a cartolina or Manila paper).

#### ENTRANCE:

*(Before the class starts, make it sure that the bread, milk and honey are displayed visibly in the room. Place these on the table in front of the class.)*

**Ask:** What do you see on the table?

**Answer:** Bread, milk and honey.

**Say:** Now, I want you to write down in a piece of paper the benefits of these elements to our body. *(When the time is up, have at least three learners share what they have written.)*

**Say:** Food is indispensable for our physical needs. In the same way, God's Word is indispensable for our spiritual nourishment and health.

**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** We will study the third emblem of God's Word in this unit. It is God's Word as food.

## **SUBSTANCE:**

*( Distribute the flyers or handouts you have prepared. Let the learners read together the Scripture verses found in the flyers.)*

**Say:** The Bible says that God’s Word is our spiritual food. The passages we read tell us that God’s Word is like milk, bread and honey. Let’s study these verses and see what implications we can get.

*Divide the class into 4 groups and let them find out how God’s word is being referred to in the following passages:*

**Group I:** Matthew 4:4—What symbol of God’s Word is referred to in this verse?

Answer: **As Bread**

Matt. 4:4 says “...Man shall live on bread alone but on every Word...”

This implies that man is not just a material being. He is also a spiritual being. Thus, he has both physical and spiritual needs. The bread nourishes a person physically but does not nourish him spiritually. So, he needs the Word of God for spiritual sustenance and health.

**Group II:** 1 Peter 2:2-3—What symbol of God’s Word referred to in these verses?

Answer: **As Milk**

In 1 Peter 2:2-3, the Word of God is spiritual milk for new born “babies.” This term refers to those who are new believers. The Word of God is like pure milk for the new believers. They need soft diet food to let them grow up in their salvation. They need “infant formula” of the Word of God.

In 1 Cor. 3:2d, milk in this verse is prepared for those who are not yet ready for an adult solid food.

**Group III:** Hebrews 5:14—What symbol of God’s Word is referred to in this verse?

Answer: **As Food**

It states, “...solid food for the mature who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

Solid food then is obviously necessary for the mature for strength and health.

**Group IV:** Psalm 19:10; 119:103—What symbol of God’s Word is referred to in these verses?

Answer: **As Honey.**

The Word of God is sweeter than honey. Honey gives vitamins to our body. It brings as well healing to an upset stomach. It has soothing effect to a person’s sore throat and gives strength to the weary. That’s the Word of God to our spirits too. It renews our strength and vigor. It brings healing, soothes the pain of our wounded spirits. It brings delight, joy and satisfaction.

## Summary:

1. The Word of God is like bread that sustains us in our Christian life.
2. The Word of God is like milk that promotes continuous growth in Christ.
3. The Word of God is like solid food that gives spiritual strength and health.
4. The Word of God is like honey that provides spiritual vitality.

## Additional Notes:

The following Scriptures provide ideas on how the Word preserves and strengthens every believer in order to become victorious over sin and Satan, the believer's no. 1 enemy:

1. **Psalm 119:9-11-- Hide God's Word in our heart that we will not sin against Him.**

*"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. "*

2. **1 John 2:14 -- Let the Word of God lives in us to overcome the evil one.**

*"I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one."*

Question to Everybody: What then is the main lesson or truth we learned today?

**GENERAL TRUTH:** God's Word, like food, is the believers' spiritual nourishment and health.

*(Let the learners memorize the memory verse: Matthew 4:4)*

## SIGNIFICANCE:

**Say:** God's Word is food for the nourishment and health of our souls.

**Ask:** If God's Word is our spiritual nourishment and health, how often should we "eat" it?

**Possible answer:** daily, consistently regular

**Ask:** How do Christians feed themselves in the Word of God?

**Possible answer:** Christians ought to feed regularly through--

1. Sunday church message
2. Sunday School
3. Wednesday prayer meetings
4. Cell groups for believers
5. Etc.

**Ask:** Aside from church weekly spiritual feeding, what other means can we feed ourselves with God's Word?

**Possible answers:**

1. Personal daily devotion or Quiet Time
2. Bible study
3. Family worship time
4. Retreat & introspection
5. Etc.

**PERFORMANCE:**

- **Let** the learners make a plan on what they will do to feed themselves in the Word of God for the coming week. (*Have them do it individually*).
- Group learners by twos.
- Let them share their plans and have them pray for one another.
- **Ask** someone to lead the closing prayer.

## LESSON 4

# GOD'S WORD AS LAMP



### Lesson Aim:

The learners will seek daily guidance from the Word of God in every area of life and situations.

**Scripture References:** Psalm 119:105; Psalm 32:8; 1 John 1:5-

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 119:105- –*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”*

### In Advance:

1. Pray for wisdom including each learner.
2. Master the lesson
3. Memorize the verse
4. Prepare the materials needed

### ENTRANCE:

**Activity:** Choose 3 learners for each one to walk blindfolded from one side to the other side of the room. Let the three do it one at a time.

After the activity, ask them the following questions:

1. How do you find walking while being blindfolded?
2. What is the difference between walking blindfolded and not?

**Say:** Walking blindfolded is hard because you don't see the way ahead of you. It's just like walking in a dark room where you often struggle and stumble due to unexpected obstacles along your way.

**Transitional Sentence:** One emblem of God's Word is a lamp and through it we will see how God's Word would help us in our Christian walk.

### SUBSTANCE:

*(Method: Lecture)*

**Ask** the learners to read the passages: Psalm 119:105; Psalm 32:8; 1 John 1:5

**Question:** What do you think is a lamp?

Answer: A lamp is a device made out of little vessel which held little oil and would constantly need replenishing (*Vines expository Dictionary*). The reason is--it can continue to provide light. When the oil is used up, the light dies.

This lighting device was commonly used during the olden days. In some remote places or barrios with no electricity this lamps are used to provide light.

We are going to find out from the verses--what do the phrases “lamp to guide my feet” and “light for my path” mean.

**A. The Word of God is “a lamp to guide my feet.”**

The first part of the verse, describes the Word of God as “the lamp to my feet.”

**Question:** What do you think does this phrase mean? (*Allow the learners to respond.*)

We use our feet for walking through which our body would bring us to where we want to go. In like manner, the Psalmist illustrates--that God’s Word is like a lamp to our feet when we walk in the dark.

**Explanation:** Let us draw out implications from that phrase—The Word of God:

1. Helps us see clearly where we stand, whether we are standing on a dangerous belief or on a safe and secured faith.
2. Leads us to see where our spiritual condition is heading.
3. Assists us in realizing that we need guidance before we take the next step forward.
4. Aids us in our helpless condition without His guidance.
5. Helps us see how our present walk with God is.
6. (*Entertain more insights from the learners.*)

So then, the Word of God calls our urgent attention to make personal assessment of our individual standing before God.

## **B. The Word of God is “a light for my path”-**

A path suggests the next step we have to take to move onward towards our destination.

1. The Word of God as “a light for my path” serves as a GUIDE to:
  - a. Choose on which way to take or on which way to turn to.
  - b. Light the path ahead so as not to stumble or fall while we walk.
  - c. Direct us in our walk or daily living.
  - d. Brighten the path of life for us against this dark and sinful world.
  - e. Lead each of us to discover His will for our lives.
  - f. *(Entertain insights from the learners.)*

Light is the opposite of darkness. Without light, we cannot clearly see people and things very well. In a similar matter--the Word of God is there to enlighten our spiritual understanding in order for us to live in accordance to His Word. The Bible speaks also of a light as symbol of God’s presence and righteous activity.

### 2. The Word of God as a Light- 1 John 1:5

**Ask:** From 1 John 1:5, why is the Word of God being spoken of as a light?

**Answer:** Because God Himself is the Light -- “God is light, and There is no darkness in Him at all”.

#### **Implication:**

“God is Light!” This means that God is perfect, holy and true. So His Word is likewise perfect, holy and true. Therefore, He alone can guide us out from the darkness of sin into the light of God’s righteousness.

**GENERAL TRUTH:** God’s Word is the believer’s daily guiding light in every area of life.

#### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** Instead of going into the Word of God for guidance, where do people usually turn to?

#### **Possible answers:**

1. Palm reader/ fortune tellers
2. Parents/friends and loved ones
3. Counselors
4. Experts

## 5. Zodiac signs and occult

**Ask:** If the Word of God is a guiding light for believers, why do some failed to go to the Word for guidance and direction?

**Possible answers:**

1. They do not know what is in the Word of God.
2. They rely heavily on their own knowledge and wisdom.
3. They reason that the Bible does not provide specific answers to problems.
4. They don't want to spend time reading, studying, and searching His Word for guidance.
5. They are just too self-centered to accept His Word.
6. Etc.

**Ask:** As believers in Christ, to whom should we go to for guidance and direction in our daily living?

**Expected Answer:**

1. To the Word of God
2. To Christian counselors
3. To our pastor
4. To our Christian friends
5. To our matured loved ones who are in the Lord
6. Etc.

## PERFORMANCE:

**Say:** Here is a set of questions for self evaluation: *(Let the learners respond to the questions silently)*

1. When you needed guidance in the past, to whom did you turn to?
2. Have you developed a habit of looking into the Word of God for guidance and direction?
3. Would you commit yourself to go into the Word of God for guidance and direction?

**Give** time for self introspection and commitment.

**Spend** time in prayer.

## LESSON 5

### GOD'S WORD AS MIRROR



**Lesson Aim:** That the learners will know that, like a mirror, the Word of God reflects our true Christian identity.

**Scripture Text:** James 1:22-25; Matthew 7:24-26; Romans 2:13

**Memory Verse:** James 1:25

*“But the man who looks intently to the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it- he will be blessed with what he does.”*

#### **In Advance:**

- 1) Pray.
- 2) Study the lesson.
- 3) Memorize the memory verse.
- 4) Prepare the materials to be used at the Entrance Portion: a mirror and a box:
  - Glue the mirror inside flat bottom of the box with a removable lid for easy opening of it.

#### **ENTRANCE:**

- Open the lid and allow each learner look inside the box.  
Ask them what they saw.

Answer: my own reflection

**Say:** What you saw in the mirror inside the box is exactly the reflection of you!  
The mirror will not deny.

**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** Today we will study another symbol of the Word of God—a Mirror!

**SUBSTANCE:**

Let the learners read James 1:22-25.

Let's find out implications what God's Word, as a mirror, does in our lives.

**The Word of God discloses who we are spiritually.**

**A. It Reveals (James 1:22)**

**Ask:** What does the mirror do to you?

**Answer:** It reveals who you are. It helps you see how you look like.

**Implication:**

When we study the Word of God sincerely like looking in a mirror, it reveals who we are spiritually and tells us what we should do. If we find some dirt, we wash those sins by using His Words.

We can measure the effectiveness and result of our study in the Word, how? It is clearly shown through our actions, attitudes, and behaviors. It brings up to the surface our inmost thoughts and whole being revealing our true identity as a Christian.

**B. It Reflects (James 1:23-24)**

*(Let a learner read aloud vs. 23-24)*

James, the author, uses a simile to illustrate his point about God's Word that is compared to a mirror. It reflects also what is right and what is wrong in our lives. When one looks in the mirror, that person will have the opportunity to study his own reflection.

But usually that person does not do this. Instead, he gives himself a casual glance without any consideration of his identity. According to James, this is how most of us treat the Word of God. Even those who look in the "mirror" regularly may even become careless and forget the instructions from His word.

God's Word is like a mirror that can show us who we really are spiritually speaking.

**C. It Recognizes (James 1:25)**

*(Let a learner read the verse aloud)*

Basically as a believer one essential element is missing—How does God see me? How is my own reflection on His mirror see me?

The answer is—when we spend much time looking into His Word, then we will discover and recognize the blemishes we have gathered. Reading the Word of God, therefore, is not enough. Studying, reflecting, and applying to life the message of His Word are necessary components in “walking our talk.” Why so? It is simply because we are the “open Bible” in our community that is being read always.

Thus, we should not merely listen to God’s Word but do what it says.

**Ask:** What is the reward for the doer of God’s Word?

**Answer:** He will be blessed in what he does.

**GENERAL TRUTH:** God’s Word is like a mirror that reflects the Christian’s true identity.

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** How do people respond to what God’s Word reveals on who they are spiritually?

**Answer:**

1. They do not show interest.
2. They try to do something but find not enough power to do it.
3. They justify themselves.
4. Etc.
- 5.

**Ask:** As evangelical Christians, what should we do in response to God’s “mirror” of who we really are spiritually?

**Answer:**

1. Obey His commands, “not hearers only”
2. Take immediate action to correct the flaws that God’s Word reveal.
3. Examine our own hearts and lives in the mirror of God’s Word.
4. Etc.

## **PERFORMANCE:**

**Ask:** From the above list--which one do you think you need to work on this time or within the week?

**Let** them pray individually and then let them pray for each other.

**Lead in** the closing prayer.



## LESSON 6

# GOD'S WORD AS TREASURE

**Lesson Aim:** That the learners will value God's Word like a precious treasure.

**Scripture Text:** Psalm 19:7-10; 119:72; Psalm 119:127.

### Memory Verse:

"I love your Commands more than gold, more than the finest gold."  
Psalm 119:127

### In Advance:

- Pray that your learners will truly value God's Word in their hearts.
- Research: Read and find out at the internet (if you have) about the current market value of gold and silver.
- Memorize the memory verse and mean it.
- Study your lesson ahead of time.

### ENTRANCE:

**Give** information about the current market value of gold and silver.

**Ask:** Why do you think gold and silver are expensive and rare today?

**Answer:** It is because these treasures are very important elements.

**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** We will study today another emblem that exceeds far more than the value other gems and it is God's Word as precious Treasure.

### SUBSTANCE:

**Ask** the learners to read the following passages: Psalm 19:7-10; 119:72; Psalm 119:127.

- A. The Word of God is more precious than gold or silver-** Psalm 119:72; 119:127

1. In Psalm 119:72, it says, “*The law of Your mouth is better than thousands of coins of gold and silver.*”
2. Psalm 119:127 says, “*Therefore I love your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold.*”

**Ask:** What do Psalm 119:72 and 119:127 say about the Word of God?

**Answer:**

The Word of God is more precious than gold and silver.

**Ask:** Why is it that the Word of God surpasses all the gold and silver in this world? Psalm 19:7-10

**Answers:**

The Word of God surpasses all the gold and silver in this world because:

1. The law of the Lord is perfect- v. 7
2. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy- v.7
3. The precepts of the Lord are right- v. 8
4. The commands of the Lord are radiant- v.8
5. The fear of the Lord is pure- v. 9
6. The ordinances of the Lord are sure and righteous- v. 9
7. They are more precious than gold- v. 10
8. They are sweeter than honey- v. 10

(Note: The underlined words are all used as synonymous in meaning that is referring to the Word of God.)

**Ask:** What are nurturing effects that the Word of God gives? Psalm 19:7-9

**Answers:**

**The Nurturing effects of God’s Word are as follows:**

1. It refreshes and revives the soul- v. 7  
The Word of God brings continuing strength and comfort.
2. It makes wise the simple- v. 7  
The Word of God transforms anyone even the simple minded.
3. It gives joy to the heart- v. 8  
The Word of God gives clear conscience and it offers inward happiness that flows out from within.
4. It gives light to the eyes- v. 8  
The Word of God is a guiding light to those who seek the way.

5. It endures forever and altogether righteous - v.9

The Word of God has no end and there is nothing false or unjust in it, rather we can depend on it forever.

**Ask:** Since the Word of God is like a precious treasure, what must we do with it? Psalm 119:11-15

**Answers:**

1. Keep it! Keep it in our hearts - Psalm 119:11

Let us allow the Word of God to guide, purify and empower our daily life. Psalm 119:11 says, *“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against thee.”* To hide means to keep His Word.

A quotation says, “Sin will keep you away from the Word of God but the Word of God keeps you away from sinning.”

2. Rejoice in His Word- Psalm 119: 14

3. Meditate in His Word – Psalm 119:15

4. Delight in His decrees- Psalm 119:15

**GENERAL TRUTH:** The Word of God is like a precious treasure to value and keep into our hearts.

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** How do people nowadays show that they value God’s Word, the Bible?

**Possible answers:**

1. By keeping it away from children that might tear its pages.
2. By putting it up on the shelves.
3. Making it as clean as possible.
4. Buying a good quality material Bible.
5. Etc.

**Ask:** What daily manifestations should we do to truly show that we highly value the Word of God?

**Possible answers:**

1. Read and meditate on it daily.
2. Memorize some important verses and chapters by heart.
3. Underline with colored markers the verses that God had impressed in us while reading and meditating in those verses.
4. Focus one’s thoughts on the meaning of the verses read.
5. Make and frame wall mottoes of Bible promises

6. Etc.

## PERFORMANCE:

**Say:** Let's evaluate how we value the Word of God. (*Write the numbers on the chalkboard for analyzing and concentrating purpose*)

**Rate** yourself between 0-10 and 10 is the highest mark.

0-----1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8-----9-----10

**Give** time for self examination.

**Let** the learners write down in their notebook some specific actions they will do this week in response to the lesson.

**Let** the learners pray for commitment to value the Word of God more and more in their lives.

Lead in the closing prayer.



## LESSON 7

### GOD'S WORD AS WEAPON

**Lesson Aim:** The learners will use God's Word as a spiritual weapon.

**Scripture Text:** Ephesians 6:17; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 6:17

*"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."*

#### **In Advance:**

1. Pray for your learners.
2. Memorize the verse.
3. Photocopy the picture of a Roman soldier in full armor gear to be used at the Substance Portion located at the last page of this lesson.
4. Photocopy the list of verses that can be found in the second to the last page of this lesson.

#### **ENTRANCE:**

**Ask** the learners to enumerate the weapons used for war.

Examples:

1. Machine guns
2. Grenades
3. Mortars
4. Bazooka
5. Carbine
6. Thompson
7. Pistol
8. Bombs
9. Patriot
10. Etc

**Ask:** What are these weapons for?

**Answer:** To destroy or defeat the enemy.

**Say:** We have just enumerated the weapons to fight against the enemy.

**Transition Sentence:** We will learn another emblem in this lesson that is referring to the Word of God like--a Weapon to fight against our enemy.

## **SUBSTANCE:**

**Ask** the learners to read Ephesians 6:17.

*(Note to the teacher: In this lesson, do not discuss the full armor of God because it will be discussed in details in Lesson 5 of the Second Quarter.)*

**Show** the picture of a Roman soldier in full armor gear.  
Talk about the picture briefly.

Say: God's Word is like a Sword or weapon.

### **I. God's Word as a weapon- Ephesians 6:17**

*"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God."*

**Ask:** What is the sword of the Holy Spirit? Ephesians 6:17

**Answer:** The Word of God

A Sword is a weapon to be used against the enemy. The enemy is not afraid of a sword in itself. But once it is in the hand of a warrior ready for attack, then the enemy has all the reason to be afraid.

In our Christian life, we fight not against "*flesh and blood but against rulers, authorities, against powers and against spiritual forces of evil...*" The weapon to fight against our enemy that God has given us is the word of God. The enemy is not afraid of the word of God in itself but once it is used to attack him, he is afraid. He cannot withstand against it. God's word is powerful.

### **II. God's Word is the only offensive weapon of the Christian. Ephesians 6:10-17**

**Ask:** What are the 5 weapons to use for defensive warfare in vv. 14-17?

**Answers:**

1. Belt of truth
2. Breastplate of righteousness
3. Feet with the gospel of peace
4. Shield of faith

## 5. Helmet of salvation

**Ask:** Of the 5 weapons, which one is the Only weapon to use for offense warfare?

**Answer:** The Word of God or the sword of the Spirit.

### III. Jesus used the Word of God to repulse the tempter (Matthew 4:1-11).

**Ask:** How did Jesus respond to the devil's temptation?

**Answer:** Jesus used the Scriptures to fight against Satan:

1. V. 4- "It is written, 'man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (cf. Deuteronomy 8:3)
2. V. 7- "It is also written: do not put the Lord your God to the test." (cf. Deuteronomy 6:16)
3. V. 10- "Away from me Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only." (cf. Deuteronomy 6:13)

#### **Implications:**

1. Christians should use the Word of God to fight against the enemy. It is the Holy Spirit's sword to drive away Satan and his demons.
2. We are soldiers of God. We are expected to fight our spiritual enemies through offensive attack, not just defensively. God has provided us the weapon of offence—His Word.

**Ask:** What are the provisions given in 2 Cor. 10:4-5 about the weapons we use in fighting the enemy?

**Answer:**

1. The weapons are not of this world
2. These have power to demolish Satan's strongholds.

In our Christian life, we wage war against rulers, authorities, and spiritual forces of Satan. To withstand their attacks, we have to depend on God alone. We cannot win victory over Satan when we rely on our own strength. Satan is powerful. But in Christ Jesus, our commander-in chief, we become more than conquerors.

**(Note: A list of Bible passages to use to fight the enemy is available from this lesson. Distribute the photocopy of the list and talk about it very briefly. If you have time, let the learners read a verse from each item.)**

**GENERAL TRUTH:** The Word of God is our weapon to use against the enemy.

## **SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** What are some wrong practices on how some people use the Word of God as a weapon?

**Possible answers:**

1. Use it as “anting-anting” to ward-off witches or evil spirits.
2. Use it as necklace pendant for spiritual protection.
3. Place it under a pillow as protection while sleeping.
4. Etc.

**Ask:** In what situations of life should we use the Word of God to fight against the enemy?

**Possible answers:**

1. When there are temptations
2. When casting out demons
3. When we feel there is a spiritual resistance in sharing the Word of God to the unsaved
4. When doubts come to our mind
5. When we are discourage and sad
6. When we are confused
7. When we don't know where to turn to
8. When we are physically weak
9. When we need counsel
10. Etc.

**Ask:** If God's Word is our weapon, what should we do so we will know how to use it properly?

**Possible answers:**

1. Do deeper study and research God's Word.
2. Mastery and skill on the use of the weapon is needed
3. Discipline yourself by memorizing and saying the right words.

4. Know and find the appropriate passage to use in any situation of life.

## **PERFORMANCE:**

**Let** the learners examine themselves by asking the following questions:

1. Have you used the Word of God to fight against the enemy this week?
2. Are you obedient to what Word of God teaches in your personal life?
3. Are there unusual life situations where you find yourself unable to fight against the enemy?
4. Have you tried trusting God's Word completely in order to win victory over Satan?

**Group** the learners by twos for sharing and let them pray for one another.

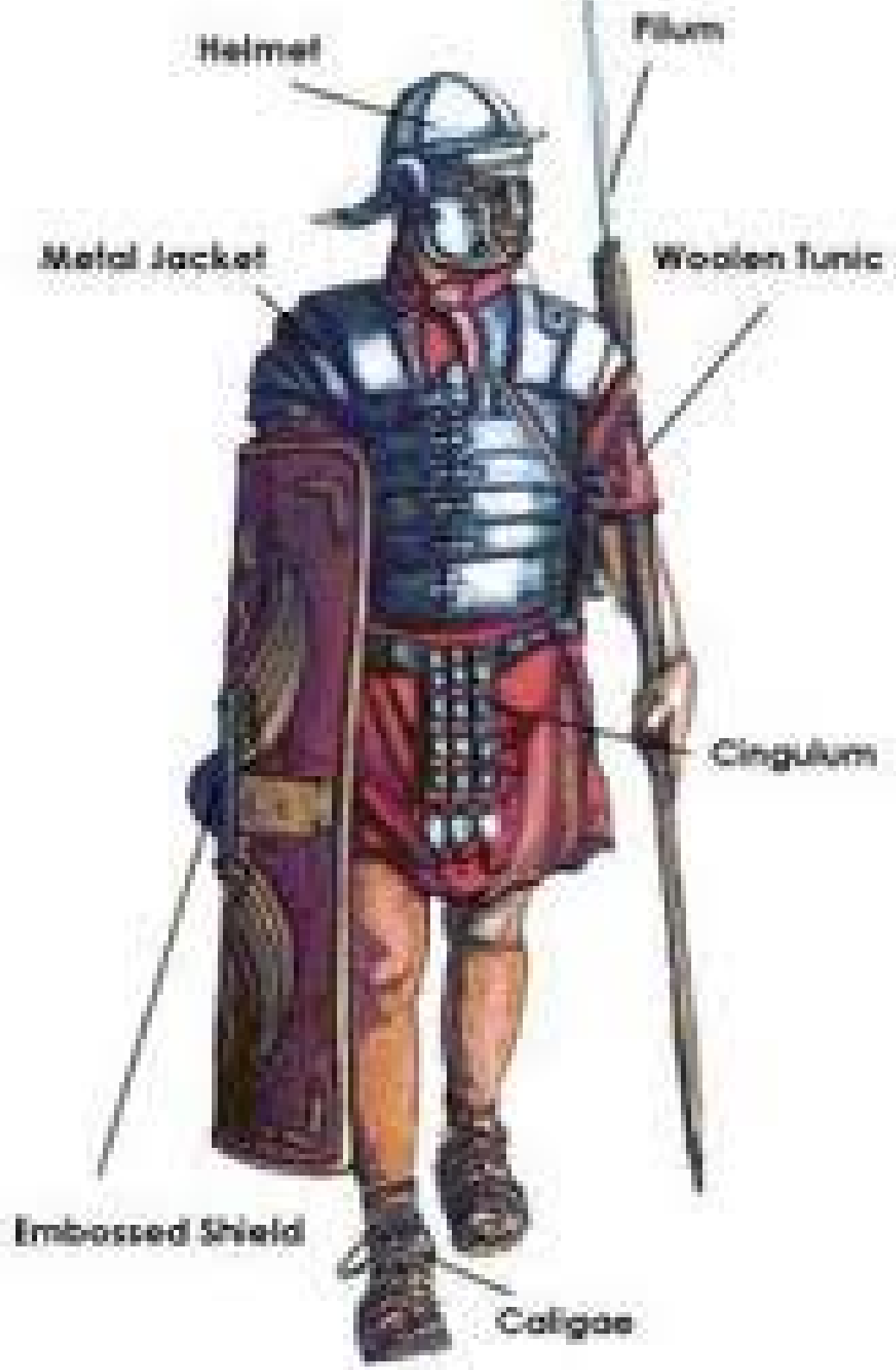
**Ask** someone to lead the closing prayer.

**(Note: Refer to the last page of this lesson for the photocopy handout mentioned at the Substance portion)**

**List of the Bible Passages that will be helpful to believers when we are going through some struggles in life: (Source: Gideon's New Testament Bible)**

1. Afraid- Psalm 34:4; Matthew 10:28; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 13:5,6
2. Anxious- Psalm 46; Matthew 6:19-34; Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:6,7
3. Backsliding- Psalm 51; 1 John 1:4-9
4. Bereaved- Matthew 5:4; 2 Corinthians 1:3,4
5. Bitter or Critical- 1 Corinthians 13
6. Conscious of Sin- Proverbs 28:13
7. Defeated- Romans 8:31-39
8. Depressed- Psalm 34
9. Disaster threatens- Psalm 91; Psalm 118:5,6; Luke 8:22-25
10. Discouraged- Psalm 23; 42:6-11; 55:22; Matthew 5:11,12; 2 Cor. 4:8-18; Philippians 4:4-7
11. Doubting- Matthew 6:26; Hebrews 11
12. Facing a Crisis- Psalm 121; Matthew 6:25-34; Hebrews 4:16
13. Faith fails- Psalm 42:5; Hebrews 11
14. Friends Fail- Psalm 41:9-13; Luke 17:3,4; Romans 12:14,17,19,21; 2 Timothy 4:16-18
15. Leaving Home- Psalm 121; Matthew 10:16-20
16. Lonely- Psalm 23; Hebrews 13:5,6
17. Needing God's Protection- Psalm 27:1-6; Psalm 91; Philippians 4:19
18. Needing guidance- Psalm 32:8; Proverbs 3:5,6
19. Needing Peace- John 14:1-4; 16:33; Romans 5:1-5; Philippians 4:6,7
20. Needing Rules for Living- Romans 12
21. Overcome- Psalm 6; Romans 8:31-39; 1 John 1:4-9
22. Prayerful- Psalm 4; 42; Luke 11:1-13; John 17; 1 John 5:14,15
23. Protected- Psalm 18:1-3; Psalm 34:7
24. Sick or in Pain- Psa. 38; Matt. 26:39; Rom. 5:3-5
25. Sorrowful- Psa.51; Matt.5:4; John 14; 2 Cor.1:3,4
26. Tempted- Psa.1; 139:23,24; Matt.26:41; 1 Cor.10:12-14
26. Thankful- Psalm 100; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Hebrews 13:15
27. Traveling- Psalm 121
28. In Trouble- Psalm 16; 31; John 14:1-4; Hebrews 7:25
29. Weary- Psalm 90; Matt. 11:28-30; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9,10
30. Worried- Matthew 6:19-34; 1 Peter 5:6

# The Roman Soldier



# THE ARMOR OF GOD

## EPHESIANS 6:10-18

"Be strong in the Lord and in the mighty power of His Word for the evil forces of hell are active and ready to overpower the faithless." - 1 Th 2:18

### The Helm of Truth (ep 6:17)

Truth is being sure that God will keep His promises. Truth in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

### The Belt of Truth (ep 6:17)

Put on the Belt of Truth by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sin and rose again.

### The Breastplate of Righteousness (ep 6:16)

Righteousness is being honest, good, sensible, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

### The Belt of Truth (ep 6:17)

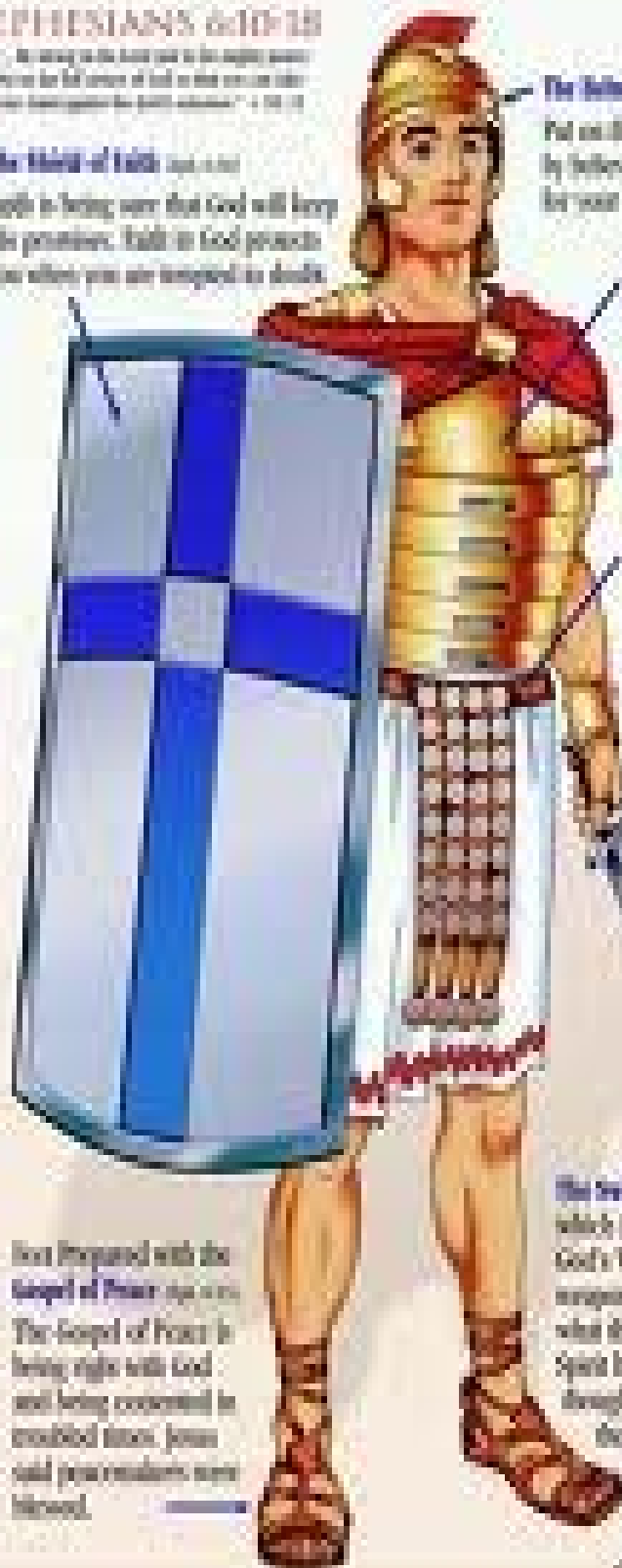
Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Conquer your beliefs and actions in the truth of the Word of God.

### The Sword of the Spirit (ep 6:17)

which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

### Be Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (ep 6:15)

The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being excellent in troubled times. Jesus said persecutions were blessed.



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## LESSON 8

### GOD'S WORD AS HAMMER

**Lesson Aim:** The learners will recognize the power of the Word of God and allow it to accomplish its purpose in their lives.

**Scripture Text:** Jeremiah 23:29

**Memory Verse:** Jeremiah 23:29

*“Is not my word like a fire,” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”*

**In Advance:**

1. Pray for wisdom and guidance.
2. Read the whole chapter of Jeremiah 23 for the lesson background.
3. Photocopy the picture of different kinds of hammer (ancient and modern) in the last page of this lesson.

**ENTRANCE:**

**Ask** the following questions:

1. Is there anyone here who knows about carpentry? *(Pause and wait for response)*
2. What do you think are some important tools to use for carpentry work? *(Let them enumerate)*

**Say:** One indispensable tool of a carpenter is a hammer. *(Show pictures of different kinds of hammers found at the last page of this lesson.)*

3. What are some uses of a hammer?

**Answers:** The hammer can be used to--

- a. Drive nails into a wood.
- b. Break a rock.
- c. Fix broken furniture.
- d. Remove nails from a wood.
- e. Etc.

**Say:** Obviously, a hammer is an important tool in doing carpentry work.

**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** Today, we will learn another symbol or emblem of God's Word--A Hammer.

## **SUBSTANCE:**

**Ask** the learners to read aloud Jeremiah 23:29.

**Say:** For the class to have a better understanding of this verse, let give a brief lecture on the background of Jeremiah chapter 23.

### **Give a Brief Lecture:**

*(Write the simple outline of Jeremiah 23 on the chalkboard for learners to grasp the background of the lesson)*

We, like Jeremiah of old, live in a time when false prophets are many. False teaching has permeated our culture and society. As a result, many Christians have been deceived and conditioned to accept almost anything without question.

Our text for this lesson has much to say about false teaching. On our chalkboard is a simple outline of--

#### Jeremiah Chapter 23

1. Bad Leaders, vs. 1-4
2. The Good Leader, vs. 5-8
3. The False Prophets, vs. 16-40
  - 3.1 Their character, vs. 9-15
  - 3.2 Their message, vs. 16-40

On Bad Leaders: Verses 1-4 is a summary statement of God's purpose to judge the wicked political leaders of Judah. King Zedekiah was a weak leader of the people. The Jews, God's people, were scattered during his reign and God was not pleased with these bad leaders of Judah.

On the Good Leader: Verses 5-8 according to Jeremiah a King is coming who will reign wisely. The Jews will enjoy peace, righteousness, and prosperity under Him. Jeremiah was quick to condemn King Zedekiah's rule that is full of false teaching and deceptions all over the nation.

On the False Prophets: Verses 9-40 tells us concerning false teaching

preached by false teachers about the holiness of God. People everywhere in the land were encouraged to commit sin. False teachers led the entire nation astray. Thus, God sent Prophet Jeremiah to rebuke their wickedness and sin.

**Say:** It was in this context that God through Prophet Jeremiah declared, “Is not my word like fire...like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

In today’s society, false teaching and false teachers are becoming increasingly common and popular. Just watch TV and internet to prove to you the kind of world we are in.

Therefore, in this lesson we will study the analogy of the Word of God-- to a hammer. In the next lesson, we will tackle the Word of God as a fire.

### **I. God’s Word, as a hammer, is powerful!**

- A. God’s Word cannot pass away, Luke 21:33. Its power cannot be stripped away: even when it is despised by false prophets; even when the words of false prophets are received by the people.
- B. God’s Word will always accomplish its purpose- Isaiah 55:10-11  
Its power will accomplish the salvation of God’s people – Romans 1:16. There is nothing that can ever stop the Word of God from accomplishing its purposes. The prophet Jeremiah reminded God’s people that the word he spoke was the Word of God and that to oppose it was to oppose God.
- C. God’s Word brings judgment upon the false prophets- Jeremiah 23:39-40. Jeremiah reminded God’s people that the word he spoke was the Word of God. No one can oppose or despise it.

### **II. God’s Word, as a hammer, breaks the rocks in pieces**

**Ask:** What do you think does a rock represent here? (*Entertain answers from the learners*)

**Say:** A rock may represent anything that is hard, which cannot be easily move or be changed in its position.

A hammer can do two functions: One is to break and the other is to build.

**A. As the hammer breaks the rock, God's Word breaks down:**

- a. Man's natural rebellion. It smashes proud hearts and breaks the yoke of sin.
- b. The stony and rocky hearts of sinners-Ezekiel 11:19
- c. Strongholds of the enemies- 2 Corinthians 10:4,5

As a hammer cannot do anything without the hand of the one who uses it-- so is God's Word when used by the Holy Spirit to accomplish its purpose.

**B. A hammer builds the pieces of rocks, God's Word in the hand of the Spirit drives home:**

- a. The nails of conviction-Acts 2:37
- b. The nails to fasten precepts- Deuteronomy 6:6-8
- c. The nails to fasten promises to one's heart-Ecclesiastes 12:11

**GENERAL TRUTH:** The Word of God like a hammer is powerful and it accomplishes its purpose to what it intends to do.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** In the light of our lesson today, how then should we regard the Word of God in our lives?

**Possible answers:**

- 1. Accept it with awe and respect
- 2. Recognize it with reverential fear
- 3. Apply its truths to our life
- 4. Obey it sincerely
- 5. Allow it to break our stony heart
- 6. Etc.

**Ask:** Are there believers today in church who lead people farther away and get astray because of departing away from God's Word? (*Allow interactions*)

**Ask:** What do you think are areas of life that is hard to "hammer" down to pieces by the "Carpenter's hand"?

**Possible answers:**

1. Pride of life
2. Rebelliousness
3. Stubbornness
4. Unbelief in God
5. Lack of trust
6. Habitual sins
7. Etc.

**PERFORMANCE:**

**Ask** the following questions:

1. When was the last time you experience God’s Word as a hammer in your life? How did we respond to it?
2. What areas in your life that you feel the Word of God is “hammering” hard on you at this time?
3. Would you be willing to surrender and obey His word?

**Give** time for personal response.

**Let** them pray silently.

**Lead** the closing prayer.

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Sources:

1. Learn the Bible. Org  
By: Benjamin Keech
2. The Mighty Power of the Word  
By Jim Feeney
3. Pictures: Internet

**Pictures of the different kinds of hammers: (Taken from the Internet)**



## LESSON 9

### GOD'S WORD AS FIRE



**Lesson Aim:** The learners will allow God's Word to purify their lives and share it faithfully to others despite negative responses.

**SCRIPTURE TEXT:** JER. 20:7-13; 23:29; 1 COR. 3:13

#### Memory Verses:

*"Is not my word like a fire...?"* Jeremiah 23:29a

*"His word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up my bones".* Jeremiah 20:9b;

#### In Advance

1. Study the Scripture passages.
2. Pray for your learners to have deeper understanding of His words.
3. Prepare: (a) a box of match to be used in the Entrance Portion.  
(b) bookmarks with the words: "Never Give up in sharing the word," to be used at the Performance Portion.

#### ENTRANCE:

**Show** learners a box of match and ask them what is it for?

**Answer:** To start a fire.

**Say:** In the olden days, people start a fire by striking or rubbing two bamboo sticks together or rubbing two stones.

**Ask** the learners to enumerate the importance of fire.

**Answers:** Fire is for the purpose of—

1. Cooking
2. Drying
3. Burning rubbish or garbage

4. Purifying/ disinfecting
5. Etc.

**TRANSITION SENTENCE:** We will focus our study on the last symbol or emblem for the Word and it is like a fire.

## **SUBSTANCE:**

Ask the learners to read Jeremiah 23:29

**Lecture** this portion: *(Write on the chalkboard the outline for learners to follow the lesson step by step)*

### **I. Nature of Fire:**

1. It has a purifying and separating nature. As fire purifies the gold and silver, it separates the impurity and dirt on the metal.
2. It has also a consuming nature that burns combustible matters.

### **II. God's Word as Fire:**

1. It purifies and destroys all that are false.
2. It enlightens and penetrates every part.
3. It tests the quality of each man's work- 1 Corinthians 3:13
4. It convicts the heart of sinners to repent of their sins.
5. It opposes, weakens and burns up the worst in man- his lust and moral corruption.
6. It quickens, pierces, and penetrates into the hearts and consciences of men.

**Note:** Fire represents the power to consume or to purify.

### **III. God's Word as fire and its effect on individuals:**

#### **A. To the Sinner**

1. They see their own impurity, impotence and insufficiency of their own righteousness and their way of life.
2. They will be convinced that they are sinners- 1 Corinthians 14:24

#### **B. To the Unbelieving Person**

1. It has a scorching and tormenting effect- Revelation 11:5
2. It consumes and burns
3. It condemns- John 12:48

C. To the believer in Christ

1. The Word of God purges and purifies life- Malachi 3:3
2. It refines- Zechariah 13:9
3. It is a source of holiness and righteousness
5. It serves as a warning device.
6. It brings comfort to the heart of the saints.
7. It causes the believer's heart to burn and inflame within them with the love for God. Jeremiah 9:11
8. It compels the believer to share God's Word to others- 1Corinthians 9:16

**Sources:** *Clark's Commentary on the Bible*  
*Gill's Exposition of the entire Bible*  
*Parallel Commentaries*

**Let the learners read Jeremiah 20:7-13**

*(Divide the class into 3 groups and let them answer the following questions:)*

**Question for Group I:**

- What happened to Jeremiah when he preached the Word of God? (Jeremiah 20: 7, 8)

**Answers:**

1. Jeremiah was insulted
2. He was ridiculed
3. The people cried out for his destruction.
4. The Word of God brought him great shame.

**Question for Group II:**

- Due to ridicules, insults, and shame that Jeremiah had received in return to his faithful service to God, what did Jeremiah wanted to do? What did the Word of God do to him? Jeremiah 20:9

**Answer:**

1. Jeremiah did not want to pursue his preaching career anymore.
2. God's Word, like fire, shut up in his bones. He felt weariness of

heart of holding the power of God's Word inside him. This means the power within him pushed him to proclaim what God had intended him to share to the people.

**Question for Group III:**

- How did Jeremiah comforted himself? (Jeremiah 20: 11-13)

**Answers:**

1. Jeremiah acknowledged God's Word as mighty.
2. As he proclaimed God's Word, he realized that God is with him.
3. He knew God would punish those who insulted him.
4. He acknowledged that vengeance is from the Lord. In v.13 Jeremiah worshiped God for he knew God will rescue him from the hands of his enemies.

**Say:** In spite of all those painful rejections and shame he received from people, Jeremiah was truly comforted because of the greatness of our Heavenly Father.

**Ask:** What can we learn, then, from the life of Jeremiah?

**Answer:** Obviously enough, Jeremiah continued non-stop proclamation of His Word. Like fire in his chest, it continued to compel him to share God's Word to others.

**GENERAL TRUTH:** God's Word like fire purifies and compels the believers to share the Word to others despite negative responses.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**Ask:** To the believers, what should be the response to the fact that God's Word purifies?

**Possible answers:**

1. Allow God's Word to purify our lives on a daily basis.
2. Ask God to remove sins or impurities in our lives.
3. Turn to Word of God for comfort, guidance and enlightenment.

**Ask:** How do Christians today respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting voice to

share the Word of God to others?

**Possible answers:**

1. They keep ignoring and putting it aside--not really a priority
2. They are fun of making excuses or 'alibis'
3. They keep postponing an opportunity to share.
4. Etc.

**Ask:** Like Jeremiah, how should Christians today respond to the Holy Spirit's reminders in sharing the Word of God to others?

**Answers:**

1. Obey without delay
2. Find every opportunity to share in and out of season.
3. Pray for someone to whom you can share the Word.
4. Train self on how to share the Word to others.
5. Etc.

## **PERFORMANCE:**

**Give** time for the learners to evaluate their own lives through the following questions:

1. When was the last time that you have asked God to purify your life through His Word? Would you commit to let God's Word purify you regularly?
2. When was the last time that you felt compelled to share the Word of God to others? And how did you respond to that irresistible force within you?

**Let** the learners respond to God and let them pray a prayer of commitment.

**Distribute** the bookmarks you prepared to encourage and remind learners of the obligation to share God's Word to others.

**Lead** the closing prayer. Then, sing or recite the following chorus prayerfully:

Lord lay some souls upon my heart  
And save that soul through me  
And may I nobly do my part  
To win that soul for you.

