

# Season's Greetings

Season's greetings and grateful thanks to you our most valued and faithful customers, donors and volunteers. We could not have done it without you. As you continue to give so selflessly to this highly important literature ministry, may you receive God's matchless favour.

## Farewell

We say farewell to two team mates of Caribbean Christian Publications - **Ms. Sheryl Ward Bradshaw and Mrs. Joan Mars** who recently left the organisation. Sheryl came on staff as executive assistant then later became our marketing officer. Joan was the editor for Older Children publications. CCP extends sincere gratitude to them both and our best wishes for the future. We look forward to their service as volunteers in the future.

## We're Done!

This past summer we embarked on the final leg of lesson writing under the fourth phase of the Youth and Adult curricula. We began in the summer of 2014 and wrote every summer since then. We cannot express enough gratitude to all who were a part of this faith journey. Thanks to every person, donor churches, prayer partners, trustees, other volunteers and the staff of CCP who have been totally committed to this work. God willing it, Phase V will begin with new curricula for the three children's departments in due course. Please be in prayer for this ministry and do offer yourself as a possible volunteer curriculum developer, writer, reviewer, proof-reader in this future undertaking.

*Again, a Blessed and Holy Christmas to everyone.*

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LIVING  
THE WORD



CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS

# Discoverers

Older Children • Age 10-12 • Teacher Guide

September • October • November • December • 2019



**Older Children • Age 10-12 • Teacher Guide**

The learning activities suggested in this book are used as a part of the teaching plan provided in the *Older Children Learner Guide*. It is strongly recommended that each church provides a copy of the *Older Children Learner Guide* for each Older Children teacher as well as for each Older Child.

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## The Daily Examen - A Method to Guide Prayer

Your mandate as a Sunday School teacher includes helping your students to grow spiritually. While the lessons seek to achieve this objective, the teacher has a role in guiding the students in exercises, which encourage them to develop habits that will achieve this goal.

The lessons in this unit require guided reflection on how to use the examples studied to help the children grow in trust and obedience to God. Like adults, children make pledges to work on things that hinder their spiritual growth. However, change is never easy, so they may experience varying degrees of success. Failures can lead to discouragement and even despondency. The apostle Paul understood the frustrations of trying to do the right things and not getting the desired results. In his letter to the Romans, he stated, "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate to do. ... For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." (Romans 7: 5-17 NIV).

We know the necessity of studying God's Word to get to know God's will, so too is developing a prayer life. Some children and adults too, find it difficult to pray. An early religious Father, St. Ignatius of Loyola, developed a method of prayer that will facilitate spiritual growth. It is called the Daily Examen.

### The Daily Examen

This exercise involves prayerful reflection on the day's events, identifying how God was present in these events and seeking God's direction. The goal is to discern how and when God is speaking, so that we may be able to respond correctly. This prayer is usually done at the end of the day and involves the following steps.

#### 1. Stillness: Recalling God's Presence

Prepare yourself for prayer. This may involve being in a special place, breathing deeply, or singing a prayer chorus. Reflect on the fact that you are in God's presence. Invite the Holy Spirit to come into your heart and help you to look honestly at how you acted throughout the day; your response to the different experiences. The Holy Spirit will help you to identify what draws you close to God, what pushes you away from God, and ways in which you fell short.

#### 2. Gratitude: Expressing Thankfulness

As you look over your experiences for the day, thank the Lord for His gifts to you. Spend time to look at the day in detail. Things that happened on your way to work, people with whom you interacted, noises you heard or the various odours, both pleasant and unpleasant. Recall any difficulty that you had, a co-worker who was angry or sad, or one who was very cheerful. Think of how you felt about the experiences, sadness, joy, boredom or being helpless in some situations. For all the experiences, give thanks to God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit.

continued on page 34

# Meet Our Writers

SEPTEMBER



## **Reverend Taniecia McFarlane, Jamaica**

*She has been a Christian for over twenty years. She is a minister of religion. Reverend McFarlane said that writing lessons for Older Children has made her more aware of the potential and reach of Sunday School in changing lives for Christ. She acknowledges that by writing for Older Children, God uses her to reach more persons than she can ever meet. Reverend McFarlane also says that each lesson writing experience has been an humbling experience for her.*

OCTOBER

## **Cheryl Simon, Grenada**

*Cheryl has been a Christian for over 30 years. She has committed herself to serving God through children's ministry. She enjoys writing Older Children lessons, as they allow her to convey, particularly through the Learner lessons, some selected childhood experiences. At a recent Writer Conference, Cheryl expressed eager anticipation for the completion of her training as a minister. She said she has sensed an urgent need to minister particularly to lost children. In her church, Cheryl is involved in the music and worship ministries.*



NOVEMBER



## **Reverend Wayne Smith, Jamaica**

*Reverend Smith is a graduate of the United Theological College of the West Indies and the University of the West Indies. He has been a Christian for over thirty years and pastors congregations in Western Jamaica. He has said that Sunday School is among his greatest motivating factors in the church. He recognises its invaluable role in Biblical teaching in groups of similar characteristics. He finds writing for Older Children a very valuable experience. It has heightened his awareness of the comprehension levels of children. He seeks to ensure that in the churches he pastors, the children are neither excluded nor bored in the worship service.*

DECEMBER

## **Dr Petrea Facey, Jamaica**

*Petrea has been a Christian for over thirty years. She has a keen interest in ministry to children. Petrea is a Sunday School teacher and is also involved in the drama, sign language and youth ministries in her local church. On reflection of her writing experience, Petrea remarked, "Writing for Older Children reminds me of how important and valuable the lessons are in shaping my Christian life." Dr Facey is a research chemist at the University of the West Indies, Mona.*



## Committed servants of God

## Weekly Planning Checklist

Timely planning and preparation of the Sunday School lessons will provide personal interaction with the lessons and help you to achieve the learner goals. A checklist is a useful reminder as you plan your lessons weekly.

Here are some suggestions for you to incorporate in your weekly planning.

### Personal Readiness

- ☞ Always prayerfully seek the guidance of our Lord in your weekly preparation. Remember, through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, you will discern God's will.
- ☞ Think about the lesson often and allow the Holy Spirit to use it to minister to you.
- ☞ During the week, pray for the children in your class, especially for those with special challenges.
- ☞ Make an honest response to the Reflection, provided at the end of the **Teacher Bible Study**. How does the lesson apply to you?
- ☞ Remember to contact your absentees each week.

### Prepare the Lesson

- ☞ Be sure to read the weekly **Teacher Bible Study** in your Guide. It will help to bring focus to each lesson.
- ☞ Read the **Bible Focus** carefully. If possible, read it from different versions of the Bible.
- ☞ Know the focus of the lesson. Ask yourself: What do I want the children to say when parents ask, "What did you learn today?"
- ☞ Practise so that you can present the lesson in an interesting way.
- ☞ Read the Bible story in the *Learner Guide* and plan how you will use it in your presentation. It is always better not to read the lesson to the children.
- ☞ Prepare the suggested **visual aids** as well as other appropriate learning aids. Learning Aids are effective in reaching the age group you teach.
- ☞ Study the **Memory Verse** for the week and prepare the activity you will use to help the children to memorise it.
- ☞ Colour the **Teaching Picture**. Plan how you will incorporate it in the lesson.

### Group Activities

- ☞ Be sure to plan at least two **Group Activities** for each lesson.
- ☞ Provide enough material so that each child can participate and benefit.

### Teaching the Class

- ☞ Observe the teaching steps in the *Teacher Guide*. Recognise the uniqueness of each child and try your best to touch each life.
- ☞ Be mindful of children with undesirable behaviours; for example, "Disruptive Damion". You may be the person God will use to bring about change in their life.
- ☞ Make sure you provide opportunities for Older Children to accept Christ, as they respond to the lesson and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

# SEPTEMBER 2019 - Overview: GOD'S WORD TO HIS PEOPLE

## Session Title & Bible Focus

### God's Word Is Inspired

Exodus 24:1-18; Luke 24: 44- 48;  
2 Peter 1: 20-21

### God's Word Tells Who Saves Us

Isaiah 53:2-9; John1:1-4

### God's Word Should Be Studied

Deuteronomy 11:1, 18-21;  
Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 1: 1-2

### God's Word Is a Guide for Life

Psalm 119:9-16;  
Matthew 22:35- 40

### God's Word Is Protected

Jeremiah 36

**2 Timothy 3:16 KJV**  
*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

**John 3:16 KJV**  
*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

**Psalms 1:1-2 ESV**  
*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night..*

**Psalms 119:105 KJV**  
*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

**Isaiah 40:8 NIV**  
*"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."*

## Unit Description

The Unit teaches that God gave us His Word to help us to know Him. Although humankind wrote the Scriptures, they did not do so by their own will. The Spirit of God inspired them to express God's will in written form. The Word of God reveals His righteousness and His love. It is the highest authority for human life. If we do not study the Word of God and allow it to guide us, we will not come to know our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. The unit also teaches that God's Word cannot be destroyed.

## Unit Central Truth

God inspired persons to write His Word to guide, cleanse, protect and change us. God's Word cannot be destroyed and the consequences will be sad for those who reject it.

## Unit Aim

Older Children will understand that they should respect God's Word above all other types of instruction because God's Word conveys God's authority.

September 1

September 8

September 15

September 22

September 29



September 1, 2019



## UNIT 1: GOD'S WORD TO HIS PEOPLE

### Lesson 1: God's Word Is Inspired

**Bible Focus:** Exodus 24:1-18; Luke 24: 44-48; 2 Peter 1:20-21

**Memory Verse:** *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

**2 Timothy 3:16 KJV**

**Central Truth:** God inspired persons to record His Word which informs human beings how to please Him.

Exodus 24:1-18 records that God called Moses to ascend Mount Sinai another time. During the time which Moses spent on Mount Sinai, God gave him instructions concerning a number of things which dominate the concluding chapters of Exodus. Moses wrote down all that God had told him to write. Moses was responsible to tell God's people what God requested of them.

Centuries later, referring to the law of Moses, Jesus reinforced the accuracy and the permanence of the Scripture (Matthew. 5:17-18). Jesus also affirmed that the writings of the Old Testament referred to Him (Luke 24:44-48). This shows that the writings of Moses, and others who wrote the Old Testament, must have been inspired by God to predict events with accuracy.

When reference is made to Scripture as being inspired, it means that God divinely influenced the authors of the Scripture in such a way that what they wrote was the Word of God. God's direct Word is what makes the Bible unique among all books.

One of the Bible writers, Timothy, made reference to the extent to which Scripture is inspired: "*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*" (2 Tim. 3:16 NIV). Timothy commended Scripture for its divine authority, and the unparalleled nature of its contents, which transcends all human capacity. The general reference to "*Man of God*" suggests the harmony and agreement of books of Scripture, though written by different persons in different places, and ages, at different times and in diverse conditions.

Another Bible writer who supports the inspiration of Scripture is Peter. 2 Peter 1:21 says that even though God used individuals with their own personalities and writing styles, they did not speak or write anything of their own will. They wrote as God revealed His mind and plans to them.

**Reflection:** *Given that the Scripture is inspired by God, we should crave its content so that we get to know God's mind and plans for our life.*



# Prepare the Lesson

## Aim:

The children will learn that God influenced authors to write the Scriptures.

### ▶LARGE GROUP STUDY▶

▶ Review the unit summary on page five. Prepare to introduce the unit in the opening moments of the lesson. ▶ Prepare to teach synonyms of *inspire* (encourage, influence or guide)

▶ Prepare to discuss the following **Key Points**:

- God inspired different people through different experiences.
- God uses the Bible to teach us how to please Him.
- The Bible is a sacred book because God inspired men to write it.
- God inspired writers to bring His life-changing messages to people in different languages.
- The accuracy of events predicted by Moses and the other writers of the Old Testament, prove that the writings were inspired by God.
- People honour God when they choose to obey His Word.

▶ Prepare to teach the **Memory Verse** using the *Cross-the-River* activity. Divide the verse and the reference into five phrases. Write each phrase on 'stones' cut from cardboard. Place the 'stones' on the floor, spreading them across the floor. Students will step on each 'stone', repeating the phrase on it, to get across the river.

▶ Write the **Acrostic** below for display in the class area.

God's message to us is:INSPIRED

**I - Instructive:** It tells us how we should live.

**N - New:** It brings new messages to us each time we read it.

**S - Sacred:** It uses familiar words to share a message that is life changing.

**P - Powerful:** It is able to control how we live.

**I - Illuminating:** It helps us to understand God's will for us.

**R - Righteous:** It is fair, just, pure and right in God's sight.

**E - Enduring:** It can never fade or be destroyed.

**D - Distinguished:** It is unique among all books and types of information.

▶ Colour the **Teaching Picture** and plan how you will use it.

▶ Prepare to read the song, "The Ballad of the Bible", in *CariSing*, page 7.

### ▶SMALL GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITIES▶

#### Group 1: Acrostic Flashcard

☞ Provide stiff paper, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, stars, glitter.

☞ On one side of the card, the children will write GOD'S MESSAGE IS INSPIRED. On the other side, they will write the acrostic.

#### Group 2: Acrostic Greeting Card

☞ Provide stiff paper, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, stars, glitter.

☞ The children will decorate the front of the card and write "God's message is INSPIRED. They will choose another section of the card to write the acrostic.

☞ Plan to encourage both groups to show their cards to persons and explain what INSPIRED means.



## Step 1: Start Off

Arrange your class area before the children arrive. Display the **Acrostic Chart**. •Welcome the children. Acknowledge visitors and other children who were absent. •Discuss briefly the text books the children will use during the new school year in their new classes. Talk about how these books can help them to learn at school, and what they need to do to perform well. Ask if the Bible is one of the books they will use.

## Step 2: Large Group Study

•Point out the following: **a)** The **Unit** for the month of September focuses on the most important of all books, the Bible. **b)** It is God's inspired messages to people. **c)** We will learn that God motivated or inspired persons to write the Bible with messages about how all peoples can be saved. **d)** We will learn the importance of studying the Bible and how to use it as a guide. •Mention that each child should have his or her own Bible. Encourage those who do not own one to ask their parents or guardians to get them one. •Introduce the **Unit Title**. •Discuss the synonyms for the word *inspire*. •Have students find the passages in their Bible. •Explain the passages, ensuring that the points listed on page 7 are discussed. •Teach the **Memory Verse**.

## Step 3: Small Group Activities

### Group 1: Acrostic Flashcard

### Group 2: Acrostic Greeting Card

1) Explain the activities. 2) Hand out the paper, pens, pencils, markers, crayons, stars and glitter. 3) Let them complete the activity.

## Step 4: End the Session

1) Reassemble the groups. 2) Have the children display what they did in **Group Activities**. 3) Let the class repeat the **Memory Verse**. 4) Invite the children to listen to a poem which describes the Bible. Encourage them to listen well so that they will be able to tell something they remember from the poem. 5) Read the poem and, then, ask the questions. 6) Ask a boy to pray thanking God for guiding persons to write what God wants us to know. Ask a girl to pray that each student will own a Bible, read it every day, and will take care of it to show their respect for God's Word.

September 8, 2019

**UNIT 1: GOD'S WORD TO HIS PEOPLE**

**Lesson 2: God's Word Tells Who Saves Us**

**Bible Focus: Isaiah 53:2-9; John1:1-4**

**Memory Verse:** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* **John 3:16 KJV**

**Central Truth:** The Bible teaches that Jesus is our Saviour.

Both the Old and New Testaments identify Jesus, whom God ordained before the creation of the earth to be the Saviour of human beings. One of the blessings which God promised Abram was that all people would be blessed through Abram if he were obedient. Jesus, a descendant of Abram, would fulfil that promise. All Christians share in the fulfilment of that blessing.

Approximately 700 years before Jesus' birth, the prophet Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be a sacrifice (Isaiah 53). Isaiah described Jesus as the Suffering Servant of God. Through Isaiah's inspired account, we have a vivid description of Christ's suffering and the glory following the suffering. The prophecy showed that Jesus would be rejected by persons for whom He would suffer and die. The fulfilment of those and other prophecies about Jesus shows that the Bible is inspired and accurate.

John states that Jesus has always existed, and that He is God (John1:1-4). Jesus was involved in the creation of the world. However, because of the matchless love of God, in His plan of redemption and peace for 'fallen humankind', He sent Jesus to the earth (John 3:16).

Jesus, the divine Son, the Word of life, the Word of God, appeared in human form and nature so that He might be the Author and Giver of eternal life to humankind. This would be through His death, on the cross of Calvary, and His resurrection.

Jesus came to the earth because of God's love for all of us, regardless of differences in religion, country or culture. God wants fellowship with us. He wants us to experience His mercy and forgiveness which are needed to make us whole.

Some people believe they do not need Jesus, but it is very important for all human beings to understand why we need Him. Jesus Himself testified that He is the 'Truth' and the 'Way'. No human being is born with the truth, nor knows the way to God by himself or herself. Everyone needs spiritual rebirth, which is available only through Jesus, our Saviour.

**Reflection:** *Jesus is my Saviour and the Saviour of all, including children, who put their trust in Him. I must help Older Children to understand the truth that Jesus is the Saviour of all of humankind.*



# Prepare the Lesson

## Aim:

For boys and girls to know that the Bible tells that Jesus saves all people.

### ◀LARGE GROUP STUDY▶

▶ Include the following **Key Points** in your preparation:

- Sin is unacceptable to Almighty God. It separates man from God, and from the possibility of eternal life.
- The Bible tells of acts which are sinful.
- When we know what displeases God, we will know what not to do.
- God loves everyone and does not want anyone to perish. He made a great sacrifice. He sent His Son to die on the cross in our place.
- Isaiah tells how Jesus suffered to pay for people's sins.
- John tells how Jesus came into the world and He helped people to see that God loves them and cares for them.
- Everyone needs to be saved and no one can save himself or herself. Only Jesus Christ can save us.
- The Bible helps us to look forward to the coming of Jesus to take us to live with Him in heaven.

▶ On a large sheet of paper, write the words of the song, "Give Thanks for the Bible", *CariSing*, page 13.

▶ Prepare to teach the **Memory Verse** using the *Memory Verse Musical Chairs* activity. Collect tape and different colour squares of paper to be taped under several chairs before the start of session. Provide a music CD and a CD player. Plan to have the children march

around the chairs, to the music being played on the CD, as they say the **Memory Verse**.

▶ Colour the **Teaching Picture** and plan to use it for discussion and display.

### ▶SMALL GROUP LEARNING ACTIVITIES▶

☞ The **Group Activities** will help to reinforce the need for the boys and girls to be saved and to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### Group 1: Skit

☞ The children will create a short skit showing someone who learnt from the Bible that: Only Jesus saves people from sin.

☞ They should include in the play a) the **Memory Verse**, b) the **Central Truth**, c) proof that the Bible, tells that Jesus will save people from their sin.

#### Group 2: The Bible Says So

☞ The children will match Bible facts with the correct references. Write the statements below on a poster board:

- All peoples are born sinners
- Jesus came into the world to save peoples.
- Jesus died to save us from sin.
- We can ask Jesus to come into our lives and save us.

☞ Write the following references on strips of construction paper:

1 John 1:1-9; Psalm 51:5; Romans 6:1-2; Isaiah 53:4-6.

☞ Provide glue.

# Teach the Lesson



## Step 1: Start Off

•At a focal point, display the **Teaching Picture** and the sheet of paper with the song, “Give Thanks for the Bible”. •As the children arrive, greet them and invite them to view the **Teaching Picture** and read the song, until it is time to begin the class. •Arrange the seats for the **Memory Verse Musical Chairs** activity. •Pray, acknowledging that God provided instructions for human beings in the Bible. Thank Him for His Word which teaches us how to be saved from sin and how to please Him.

## Step 2: Large Group Study

•Ask the boys to find one of the focal passages and the girls to find the other. As you discuss the lesson, encourage participation by having the children read specific verses as you indicate them. •Share the **Key Points** suggested on page 10. •Reinforce the **Central Truth**, “The Bible teaches that Jesus is our Saviour”. •Teach the **Memory Verse** using the **Memory Verse Musical Chairs** activity. Play the CD. Stop the music periodically. When the music stops, the children will sit. Have them check under the chairs for the coloured squares. Ask the students with coloured squares to repeat the **Memory Verse**. Those who cannot repeat it will continue marching around until they can repeat it. •When the **Memory Verse** activity ends, encourage the children never to doubt that the Bible is God’s Word and is a book of truth. •Sing together “Give Thanks for the Bible”. Use the song sheet.

## Step 3: Small Group Activities

### Group 1: Skit

1) Instruct the children to create a skit showing someone who discovered from the Bible that Jesus is our Saviour. The activity could be in the form of a conversation.

### Group 2: The Bible Says So

1) Explain the activity. 2) Give the children the poster board with the statements and the strips with the references. 3) They will read the references in their Bible and, then, paste the matching strips beside the correct statements.

## Step 4: End the Session

1) When the children reassemble, ask volunteers to tell ways in which the **Group Activities** will help them. 2) Have **Group 1** present the skit to the class. 3) Encourage the children to remember that God’s Word is important; it is inspired by God and tells us about Jesus, who saves us. 4) Lead the class in prayer, then dismiss.