STEPPING STONES BIBLE STUDY
GOD’S UNFOLDING PLAN OF SALVATION
HANDOUTS | Free downloadable
NewHopePublishers.com

By Rita Usher, Melanie Story, and Amanda Thornton

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INCLUDES:
- STUDENT LESSON HANDOUTS
- DRAMAS
- CHARTS
- BIBLE VERSES
- GROUP WORK
- BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LESSON REFERENCES

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Letter to Teachers

Welcome to Stepping Stones Handouts, including student handouts, lesson charts, lesson verses, and lesson dramas for use with Stepping Stones: God’s Unfolding Plan of Salvation Bible Study. Please read these helpful reminders regarding this resource as you plan your study with your groups:

Your lesson time. Please note that there is plenty of material for you to cover with students. However, you can customize lesson time length and what you will be able to cover in your group schedule.

Your Bible version. Stepping Stones lessons use Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New International Version (1984), the version used successfully to teach these lessons in many classes. Whatever Bible version you choose, the lesson truths remain the same, including what you’ll ask students to learn using the handouts here. Whatever Bible version you may choose, you can easily review lessons with students and adapt student handouts to that version.

Your Bible study teacher’s book handout keys. These are references in the teacher’s book, Stepping Stones, God’s Unfolding Plan of Salvation. The handout keys make lessons easy to teach. You can use the keys to help emphasize lesson content with your group.

Your student handouts and other teaching tools. These handouts include helpful review sentences and more for participants to refer to, such as information about how the Bible is unique, what are the key subjects of the individual books of the Bible, how the Tabernacle was arranged, important Scripture verses to remember (including verses about anger), charts, and pages for group work. There are also dramatic play scripts and a dramatic monologue—all created out of the Stepping Stones authors’ experiences with diverse small groups studying God’s plan of salvation. These handouts review lesson facts and principles, just like your teacher book—and the handouts include many fill-in-the-blank sheets you can copy to provide for your participants.

Studying through the years, we’ve used numerous references and we acknowledge these in the references list provided, which may be of use to you and your groups in your continuing study of God’s Word.

Your lesson-application activities. You’ll also find lesson-application activities that include suggestions for students to apply to life what the lessons teach. There are creative activities, including visuals you may choose to use, group work, pair work, plays, discussions, movies, and more that will help carry students forward through God’s unfolding plan of salvation. Feel free to customize these to best suit your group.

Your steps. Stepping Stones outlines each lesson, step by step from overview to conclusion, providing tried-and-true ways to use Stepping Stones successfully. We pray these lessons will be a blessing to you and your participants as Stepping Stones has allowed us to share God’s unfolding plan of salvation with many.

Your feedback. We invite you to share your testimonies at: NewHopeReader@wmu.org

Rita Usher, Melanie Story, Amanda Thornton
Lesson 1—Origin and Organization of the Bible

The Bible is unique—one of a kind.
The Best of Josh McDowell: A Ready Defense, describes the Holy Bible:

Here is a book . . .
• Written over a 1,500-year span
• Written over 40 generations

Written by more than 40 authors:
From every walk of life, including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen, scholars, and so on.
• Moses, a political leader, trained in the universities of Egypt
• Peter, a fisherman
• Amos, a herdsman
• Joshua, a military general
• Nehemiah, a cupbearer
• Daniel, a prime minister
• Luke, a doctor
• Solomon, a king
• Matthew, a tax collector
• Paul, a rabbi

Written in different places:
• Moses in the wilderness
• Jeremiah in a dungeon
• Daniel on a hillside and in a palace
• Paul inside prison walls
• Luke while traveling
• John on the isle of Patmos
• Others in the rigors of a military campaign

Written at different times:
• David in times of war
• Solomon in times of peace

Written during different moods:
• Some writing from the heights of joy
• Others from the depth of sorrow and despair

Written on three continents:
• Asia, Africa, Europe

Written in three languages:
• Hebrew—in 2 Kings 18:26–28 called “the language of Judah”; in Isaiah 19:18 (called “the language of Canaan”)
• Aramaic—the common language of the Near East until the time of Alexander the Great (from the 6th century B.C. to the 4th century B.C.)
• Greek—the New Testament language (The international language at the time of Christ)

Finally, its subject matter includes hundreds of controversial topics. Yet, the biblical authors spoke with harmony and continuity from Genesis to Revelation. There is one unfolding story: God’s redemption of man.
Lesson 1—Origin and Organization of the Bible (continued)

The 39 Old Testament Books

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<th>5 Poetical</th>
<th>17 Prophetic</th>
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The 27 New Testament Books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 Gospels</th>
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<th>21 Epistles</th>
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<td>Matthew</td>
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<td>1 Timothy</td>
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<td>2 Timothy</td>
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*Halley's Bible Handbook* describes the Bible book divisions in this way:

- **Historical:** Rise and Fall of the Hebrew Nation.
- **Poetical:** Literature of the Nation’s (Israel’s) Golden Age.
- **Prophetic:** Literature of the Nation’s (Israel’s) Dark Days.
- **Gospels:** The MAN (JESUS) whom the Nation Produced.
- **Acts:** His Reign among all Nations Begins.
- **Epistles:** His Teachings and Principles.
- **Revelation:** Forecast of His Universal Dominion.
Lesson 1—Subject—Leading Thoughts of Bible Books

Halley also shares how some of the Bible books have a principal thought, while other Bible books are about a number of things.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD TESTAMENT</th>
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<td>Hebrew Nation Founded</td>
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<td>Covenant with Hebrew Nation</td>
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<td>Numbers</td>
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<td>Judges</td>
<td>First 300 years in the Promised Land</td>
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<td>Ruth</td>
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<td>Lamentations</td>
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<td>Ezekiel</td>
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<td>Daniel</td>
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<td>Malachi</td>
<td>Final Message to a Disobedient People</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 1—Subject—Leading Thoughts of Bible Books (continued)

NEW TESTAMENT
Matthew  Jesus the Messiah
Mark       Jesus the Wonderful
Luke       Jesus the Son of Man
John       Jesus the Son of God
Acts       Formation of the Church
Romans     Nature of Christ's Work
1 Corinthians Various Church Disorders
2 Corinthians Paul's Vindication of His Apostleship
Galatians  By Grace, Not by Law
Ephesians  Unity of the Church
Philippians A Missionary Epistle
Colossians Jesus' Deity
1 Thessalonians The Lord's Second Coming
2 Thessalonians The Lord's Second Coming
1 Timothy  The Care of the Church in Ephesus
2 Timothy  Paul's Final Word
Titus      The Churches of Crete
Philemon   A Runaway Slave's Conversion
Hebrews    Christ the Mediator of a New Covenant
James      Good Works
1 Peter    To a Persecuted Church
2 Peter    Prediction of Apostasy
1 John     Love
2 John     Caution Against False Teachers
3 John     Rejection of John's Helpers
Jude       Imminent Apostasy
Revelation Ultimate Triumph of Christ

Lesson 1—Creation

What did God create on each day? What did He think about His creation?

Day 1 (Genesis 1:3–5)
He created

Saw that the light was __________________.   Genesis 1:4

Day 2 (Genesis 1:6–8)
He created

Day 3 (Genesis 1:9–13)
He created

Saw that it was __________________.   Genesis 1:10, 12

Day 4 (Genesis 1:14–19)
He created

Saw that it was __________________.   Genesis 1:18

Day 5 (Genesis 1:20–23)
He created

Saw that it was __________________.   Genesis 1:21

Day 6 (Genesis 1:24–31)
He created

Saw that it was __________________.   Genesis 1:25

Saw all that He had made, and it was __________________ ______________.   Genesis 1:31
God’s creation of man and woman was special and unique.

- God does not say, ________________________________

- He does say:
  - Genesis 1:26 ________________________________
  - Genesis 1:27 ________________________________

His creation of mankind is a very personal act. Note the words He used in these verses:

- Genesis 2:7 ________________________________
- Genesis 2:21–22 ________________________________

God has purposes for mankind.

- Genesis 1:26 ________________________________
- Genesis 1:28 ________________________________
- Genesis 2:5 ________________________________
- Genesis 2:15 ________________________________
  - Work is not a ____________________________.
- Genesis 2:19–20 ________________________________
Lesson 1—Creation (continued)

Two Trees, One Law
God planted two special trees in the middle of the garden. What are they? Genesis 2:9

__________________________________________________________________________________

God gave man one restriction or law. What was it? What was the consequence? Genesis 2:16–17

__________________________________________________________________________________

What did God do when He finished creating? Genesis 2:1–3

He __________________________ the work He had been doing.

He __________________________.

He __________________________ the seventh day and made it ________________________.

Other Bible verses that point to the relationship God wants to have with mankind:

Exodus 33:12–17 _________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________

Isaiah 43:1, 7 _________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________

Jeremiah 1:5 _________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________

Matthew 10:29–31 _______________________________________________________________

________________________________________________