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
Introducing Jesus—John 1:29–34

- Jesus had a ____________ childhood. Luke 2:51–52
- _______________ the ______________________ was the forerunner of Jesus. John 1:23
- He made sure people knew that he was not the ______________________. John 1:20, 26–27
- Jesus comes to him for ________________.

Jesus comes toward him and the people, and John the Baptist answers an important question.

- _______________ asked, “Where is the ________________?” Genesis 22:7–8
- _______________ said, “Behold the ________________.” John 1:29
- John saw the miraculous sign of the ________________ of God coming down on Him like a ________________. John 1:32

Cleansing the Temple— John 2:12–25

- Plan of the Temple courts—Draw on the back.
- Why were the merchants in the Temple?
  - _______________ sacrificial animals and _______________ money.
- The merchants were keeping the ________________ from God.

What do we learn from these verses?

- The Temple was to be the ________________ of ________________ for all ________________.
- They were ________________ the people in God’s house.

- Jesus’ anger is ________________ anger. He is defending the Temple, God’s name, and the purpose of the promise made to Abraham—to bless all nations through his descendants. It is the shepherd’s job to protect the flock, and that is what Jesus is doing here.

- Ephesians 4:26–27: Anger that is ________________ becomes sin and gives the devil ________________.
Lesson 12—Jesus—Introduction and Teachings (continued)

Jesus Teaches a Teacher—John 3:1–21

- Who is Nicodemus? A ____________________
- Nicodemus identifies Jesus as a __________ and a __________.
- Jesus says we must be _____________ to see the __________ of God.
- What does Nicodemus think Jesus is talking about? ________________
- Jesus explains that there are two __________:
  _____________________ and ___________________

Look at each phrase of John 3:16, the gospel (good news) in a nutshell.

  For God ________________________________
  So loved _______________________________
  The world _____________________________
  That he gave ___________________________
  His one and only son ___________________
  That whoever ___________________________
  Believes in Him _________________________
  Shall not perish _________________________
  But have eternal life _______________________

Why did Jesus come into the world? Not to ____________, but to ____________

Who is saved from condemnation? The one who _____________________ in Him

Definition of mercy: ___________________________________________________

Definition of grace: ___________________________________________________

Jesus does not condemn the rest. They stand condemned because they _____________
__________________________.
Lesson 12—Some Bible Verses About Anger

Some Bible Verses About Anger

• God gets angry at sin because of what sin does to us and how it affects our relationship with Him. He wants to forgive and show compassion and restore us.

  “Remember this and never forget how you provoked the LORD your God to anger in the desert. From the day you left Egypt until you arrived here, you have been rebellious against the LORD.” Deuteronomy 9:7

  “The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.” Psalm 103:8–10 (See also Psalm 30:5.)

• We are to avoid anger, and worry leads to evil.

  “Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil.” Psalm 37:8

• Jesus shows how outward sins (like murder) begin with inward attitudes (like anger). So the attitudes are just as sinful as the actions. Also, we are to reconcile with others before we come to worship God.

  “You have heard it said to the people long ago, ‘Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. . . . Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:21–24

• Anger that is mishandled becomes sin and gives the devil a way to get to us.

  “‘In your anger do not sin’ (quote of Psalm 4:4); Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.” Ephesians 4:26–27

• Paul shows us what attitudes to get rid of (e.g. anger) and how to behave instead.

  “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:31–32 (also Colossians 3:8)

• Pray without anger.

  “I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.” 1 Timothy 2:8

• Be slow to anger, because anger does not bring about righteousness.

  “My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.” James 1:19–20 (See also Psalm 103:8–10.)

• Leaders in the church are not to be easily angered.

  An overseer (bishop) must not be quick-tempered. (Titus 1:7)