

Sharing Bible Truth



SABBATH—AUGUST 8

READ FORTHISWEEK'S LESSON: Psalm 119:105; Hebrews 1:1–3; 2 Timothy 3:14–17; 1 John 1:7–9; Isaiah 50:4.

MEMORY VERSE: “ ‘In the same way, my words leave my mouth, and they don’t come back without results [success]. My words make the things happen that I want to happen. They succeed in doing what I send them to do’ ” (Isaiah 55:11, ERV).



Without the Bible, the Holy Spirit is limited in what He can show our hearts about Jesus.

WE TALK ABOUT JESUS when we tell people what they must do to be saved. But how can we expect to know anything about Jesus without the Bible? Without the Bible, how can we know anything about the worldwide war between good and evil? Or God’s love? Or Jesus’ life and death? Or the Second Coming?

Nature shows us God’s power and beauty. But it does not show us God’s plan to save us. We learn about God’s saving plan from Jesus. Jesus “is the true light that gives light to all people” (John 1:9, ERV). Even so, we need the Bible to explain fully God’s truth. The Bible is God’s Word. It gives us the best understanding about Jesus. Jesus is the Living Word. Without the Bible, the Holy Spirit is limited in what He can show our hearts about Jesus.

Jesus says, “ ‘You study the Scriptures [Bible] carefully. You study them because you think they will give you eternal [everlasting] life. The Scriptures you study are a witness [proof] about me’ ” (John 5:39, NIV). Every Bible teaching shows us what is in Jesus’ heart. We share Bible truth so that we can show people the love of Jesus.

WORD PICTURES FOR THE BIBLE (Psalm 119:105)

Read Psalm 119:105; Jeremiah 23:29; Luke 8:11; and Matthew 4:4. What five word pictures for the Bible do you find in these verses? Why do you think these five word pictures were chosen to show us God’s Word, the Bible?

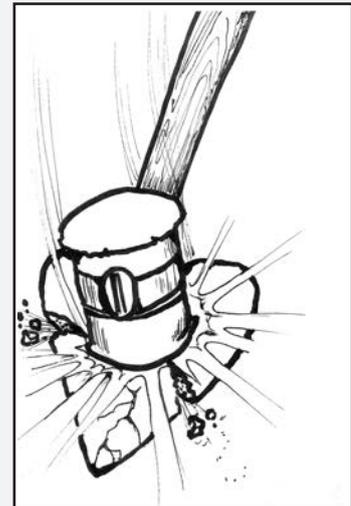
The word pictures in these verses show us the power that the Bible has to change hearts and lives. When we share the Bible with people, it is the same as our shining a light. This light shows people the truth about life. Jesus says, “ I am the light of the world [all the people living on earth] ” (John 8:12, ERV). Our misunderstanding is the same as darkness. Jesus, the Light, shines in our hearts. He shows us who God is. Jesus makes our misunderstanding about God disappear. The Holy Spirit teaches our minds about who God is. The Spirit shows us by the Word of God.

Jeremiah compares the Word of God to a fire and a hammer. The Bible breaks our hard hearts. The same thing happens when we help people see the beauty of Jesus in the Bible. Then their hard hearts break. Jesus’ love is the same as a fire. It destroys every selfish and greedy feeling in the heart. It removes sin from our lives.

The Bible also is the same as a seed. Seeds give life. Seeds also take time to grow. Not all seeds grow at the same time. Not all plants grow fast. But when things are right, the life in the seed bursts from the soil into new life. Remember this word picture when you “plant” the “seed,” or Bible truth, in people’s hearts. We will not always see things happen right away. But the seed grows. In God’s time, the seed we planted in someone’s heart will grow. Then that person will be ready for God’s kingdom.

Jesus says that the Bible is the same as bread. The Bible removes hunger from the heart. It feeds our spiritual wish to be close to God. So, share the promises of the Bible with people. Help your family, friends, and coworkers discover that Jesus is God’s Word. Then their lives will be changed by Jesus’ love. Jesus’ love will charm their hearts. His mercy will surprise them. He will fill every wish of their hearts.

Think about the truths that we know only from the Bible. What should this tell us about why we should hold dear what the Bible teaches us?



The Bible is the same as a hammer. It breaks our hard hearts.

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE (Hebrews 1:1–3)

Compare Hebrews 1:1–3; Hebrews 4:12; and Psalm 33:6, 9. What do these verses tell us about the power of God's Word, the Bible?

The Bible is the Word of God. It is the Living Word. God's Word has the power to do what it says. Human words can say what something is. But God can talk about things that are not done and make them happen. He makes things happen by the power of His Word. The Bible is a Word that has the power to make things happen. The words that God says have the power to do everything that He says.

In Genesis 1, the words "God said" are written again and again (Genesis 1:3, 6, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29, ERV). God's words are very powerful. When He speaks, His words cause dry land to come from the water. His words also make plants grow, flowers bloom, and animals come alive.

We see an interesting Hebrew word in Genesis 1 for God's power to make things. It is the word "**bara**." This word shows us God's power to make something from nothing. The verb is written only when God is the subject. That is, only God can "**bara**," or make things from nothing. God makes something from nothing by the power of His Word.

God made this earth by the power of His Word. He also keeps it going by this same Word too. This same power that is in God's spoken word is in His Written Word, the Bible. The same Holy Spirit that helped God make the earth also helped men to write the Bible. The Holy Spirit is there with us when we read the Bible or share it with people. There is life-giving, life-changing power in the Bible. "The power that made the heaven and earth is in the Bible. The Bible gives power. It gives life. Every command in the Bible is God's promise. When we accept one of God's promises, it carries with it the life of God. That is why God's promises can change our hearts to be the same as God's."—Ellen G. White, *Education*, page 126, adapted.

When we trust in God's promises, our lives will be changed. When we help people to believe in them, the Holy Spirit will change their lives too.

Make a picture of this in your head: God said a word and the thing He said happened or came alive from nothing! Wow! That is wonderful! What does this tell us about God's power? Why should this truth about God's power comfort us?



**There is life-giving,
life-changing power in the
Bible.**

THE BLESSINGS WE GET FROM BIBLE STUDY (2 Timothy 3:14–17)

There are many different blessings we get from studying the promises in God’s Word, the Bible. Peter tells us why we should study Bible promises. When we study “these promises you can have God’s own life in you” (2 Peter 1:4, NLV). James also talks about what happens when “God’s teaching . . . is planted in your hearts.” Then “this teaching can save you” (James 1:21, ERV). Paul also talks about “ ‘God and the message about his grace [forgiveness and mercy]. That message is able to give you strength, and it will give you the blessings that God has for all his holy people’ ” (Acts 20:32, ICB). The Bible is part of God’s plan to save us. We see Jesus in the Bible, and we are changed. By seeing Jesus in His Word, we become as loving and holy as He is (2 Corinthians 3:18). “Here is an important rule about the mind and the spirit. Our minds and spirits become changed by what we see. The mind little by little changes itself to become the same as what it thinks about.”—Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, page 555, adapted.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14–17 and John 17:14–17. What other blessings do we get from studying the Bible?

Paul tells Timothy to obey the Bible. Then Paul talks about the blessings we get from Bible study. Paul says that the Bible shows us what to believe. The Bible also helps us to see what is false. The Bible shows us God’s plan for humans. The Bible also shows us our sins. It corrects our wrong ways of thinking. It shows us how to live a holy life. The Bible shows us the saving mercy of Jesus. The Bible leads us away from sin to become the same as Jesus in our hearts. The Bible shows us Jesus’ unselfish love. Then we see how selfish we really are. In the Bible, we see how deeply Jesus loved and cared about people. This Bible truth changes our lives. When we share Bible truth with people, their lives are changed too. When we see Jesus in the Bible, we start to love people more. We become the same as He is in our spirits. Witnessing is not about sharing what we think or believe. Witnessing is all about sharing the everlasting truths found in the Bible. The Bible has blessed our lives in wonderful and surprising ways. So, we should tell people how it can bless their lives too.



When we see Jesus in the Bible, we start to love people more.

LIVING THE TRUTH (1 John 1:7–9)



On the cross, Jesus won the war against sin when He died.

There are more than 3,000 promises in the Bible. Each promise comes from the heart of a loving God. This God “can do much, much more than anything we can ask or think of” (Ephesians 3:20, ERV). Bible promises are promises that God makes to each one of us. What happens when we trust in these promises and teach people to trust them too? Then God pours out His blessings on us. In Romans, Paul tells us the reason why God does this: “He even let his own Son suffer for us. God gave his Son for all of us. So now with Jesus, God will surely give us all things” (Romans 8:32, ERV). Peter explains the reason a little more. Peter says, “Jesus has the power of God. And his power has given us everything we need to live a life devoted to God” (2 Peter 1:3, ERV). On the cross, Jesus won the war against sin when He died. He also won the war against Satan, the power of evil, and the grave. Jesus’ winning allows Him to give us everything we need to live a holy and spiritual life. Jesus also promises to take care of our basic needs.

Compare 1 John 1:7–9 and Philippians 4:13, 19. These promises are very different from each other. But what do they teach us about what is in God’s heart? How have these promises made your life better?

Each promise in these verses is different. But both promises give us a picture of God that is the same. These promises show us that God is loving and forgiving. He has all power in heaven and on earth. God also cares for our basic needs. So, these promises show us that God cares deeply for us.

Read Hebrews 3:19; Hebrews 4:1–3; and Matthew 13:58. What do these verses tell us about our need for faith?

God gives us many wonderful Bible promises. How do we make these promises ours? We must believe in them because Jesus made them. Then the blessings in these promises become ours. So, why do God’s promises not come true in our lives? Because we do not show enough faith. We do not believe God will do what He says He will do. So, pray that God will lead you to someone who needs the Bible’s promises. These promises will fill hearts with hope.

SHARING BIBLE TRUTH (Isaiah 50:4)

Good news is for sharing. Think about the times in your life that good news made you happy. Maybe it was the day you got married. Or the day your child was born. Or the day you got a new job, a new car, or a home. You were so excited you wanted to share the news.

Sure, it is wonderful to share our joy with people. But the best news we can share is about Jesus. Think about the times when you discovered a beautiful truth in the Bible. You wanted to share it, right? The same thing happened to Peter. The religious leaders try to stop Peter and his friends from preaching Bible truth. But Peter tells them, “ ‘We cannot be quiet. We must tell people about what we have seen and heard’ ” (Acts 4:20, ERV).

“As soon as someone comes to Jesus, he wants to tell people that Jesus is his precious Friend. Nothing can stop him from sharing this truth. When Jesus makes us holy, we are filled with the joy of His Holy Spirit, who lives in us. We want to tell people about it.”—Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, page 78, adapted.

In Romans 1:14–16, NLV, Paul writes: “I must help the people who have had a chance to hear the Good News and those [people] who have not. I must help those [people] with much learning and those [people] who have never learned from books. So I want to preach the Good News to you who live in Rome also. I am not ashamed of the Good News. It is the power of God. It is the way He saves men from the punishment of their sins if they put their trust in Him. It is for the Jew first and for all other people also.” Paul never gets tired of telling his story about how Jesus changed his life. For Paul, good news must be shared. He cannot keep quiet.

What important rules about sharing Bible truth do Isaiah 50:4; Ecclesiastes 3:1; and 2 Timothy 4:2 give us?

Jesus gives us the chance to share our faith when we give our lives fully to Him. He opens people’s hearts. Then He brings these people into our lives. When we share our faith, we must remember three rules: what we say, how we say it, and when we say it.

How can you be a better witness for Jesus to the people in your life?



The best news we can share is about Jesus.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT: Read Ellen G. White, “A Knowledge of God,” pages 87–91, in *Steps to Christ*; “Bible Readings With Families,” pages 192, 193, in *Gospel Workers*; and “Bible Work Techniques,” pages 481–486, in *Evangelism*.

God works on hearts all around us. We need to have the spiritual eyesight to see God’s work. Then we will see the chance to share Bible truth with people. God gets their hearts ready for us to plant the seeds of truth. The Holy Spirit got the heart of Nicodemus ready. The Holy Spirit also got the heart of the Samaritan woman at the well ready. And the heart of the woman with the flow of blood, the thief on the cross, the Roman army leader, and other people too. The Spirit made them ready to accept Jesus before Jesus ever met them. The Spirit did this by giving them different experiences in life. The Spirit also filled their hearts and minds with thoughts from God.

We may be shy about asking people if we can pray with them, share a Bible promise, or give them some magazines about the Bible. But did you know what is really happening when you want to share your faith with someone? Many times the Holy Spirit already got that person ready to hear what you have to say.



God gets the hearts of people ready for us to plant the seeds of truth.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① What if someone comes to you and says he feels very guilty. He needs God to forgive him. What advice will you give him? What Bible verses will you share? What has been your own experience with guilt and the power of God’s forgiveness in your own life?
- ② Sometimes God brings people into our lives because He wants them to know His truth. What can we do to make sure we are ready to help the ones God brings to us?
- ③ Think more about God’s power and His Word in the Genesis story about how God made the sky and the earth. Outer space is so big. It is hard for us to make a picture of it in our minds. But the God who made it must be even more powerful than what He made! This powerful God loves us too. How can this thought comfort us? What hope do we get from knowing these things about God? How can this knowledge help us share our faith in a more powerful way?

A NEW HEART FOR ALEX

Alex was born with a hole in his heart. Alex is from Finland. The doctors hoped that Alex's heart would heal. But it didn't. So when Alex was eight, doctors operated on Alex's heart. After the operation, Alex's mother looked with wonder at her small boy. She thought, *For some reason God let this happen. God has a special plan for our lives.*

Alex's mom wrote about the experience on Facebook. Many people in Finland read about Alex's experiences on his mom's Facebook page. This gave Alex's mom the chance to talk about God with people who normally do not have any interest in talking about God at all. God used little Alex as a worker for Him!

Alex healed fast from the operation. He went home after only five days. It was a miracle! The devil tried to snatch this little boy's life away. But Jesus gave Alex a new heart.

That summer it was very hot. Alex complained about a pain in his chest. At the hospital, doctors saw that Alex's heart had swelled to double its normal size (see photo below). The doctors rushed Alex to the operating room. Hours later, the doctors announced that the operation was a success. The devil had tried to snatch this little boy's life away again. But Jesus had given him a new heart.

Alex acted strange after he got home. Usually, he was a very nice and quiet boy. But he started to fight and shout. He was very nasty to his father. One night, Alex was worse than usual. He was angry and yelled mean words. He threw his eyeglasses on the floor.

"Why are you behaving this way?" Father asked. Father put his hand on Alex's head to pray. This was something that Father had done many times in the past before they prayed.

But this time, Alex refused the prayer. "Take your hand away!" he yelled.

Father went into the kitchen, where Mother was fixing dinner. "This behavior is not normal," he said. "This is not our Alex. We need to pray."

Father and Mother walked over to Alex. Without saying a word, Father put his hand on Alex's head. Mother put her hand on Alex's face above his eyes. "In the name of Jesus, we command you, evil spirit, to leave Alex," Father said. "We give Alex to God, and you are not welcome in our son's life."

After the prayer, Alex became his normal self. He smiled and laughed as if nothing bad had ever happened!

The devil had tried to snatch this little boy's life away again. But Jesus gave him a new heart. Mother hopes that Alex will serve Jesus when he grows up and that his story will continue to change hearts.



"In the name of Jesus, we command you, evil spirit, to leave Alex," Father says.

