

## ***Windows Into God's Word***

**Grade Levels:** 3, 4

**Objective:** To show how God speaks to us through the Bible. His Word contains life-changing truth.

### **In This Lesson Plan:**

- **Story Time # 1: "Mutiny Aboard the Bounty"** (read to the students)
  - Discussion questions
- **Story Time # 2: "The Great Disappointment"** (read to the students)
  - Discussion questions
  - Class activity
  - Worksheets (2) + Teacher's KEYS
- **Class Project**
- **Ellen G. White Quotes**

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:** (after reading the story)

1. What do you think would have happened to the *Bounty* crew if they had been caught?
2. Why was there so much trouble in the early days of Pitcairn Island? Do you think things would have been different if they had all loved Jesus?
3. What brought about the change in the islanders?
4. What does reading the Bible do for you? Do you think reading the Bible can change your life?

### **STORY TIME # 1**

## ***"Mutiny Aboard the Bounty"***

Fletcher Christian refused to work another day under the cruel captain of their ship. He would sail away at night, even though that meant he would be wanted for deserting his post.

They were on a ship called *Bounty* and had made a voyage to the South Seas to find breadfruit trees to ship to South America. They had found plenty of breadfruit trees on the island of Tahiti, and now they were on their way back.

As Fletcher Christian made plans for his getaway, he had another idea. Why should he leave? Why not take over the ship instead? The other sailors were on his side. They too were tired of Captain Bligh's cruel leadership.

So, soon after leaving Tahiti, the *Bounty's* crew, under the leadership of Fletcher Christian, mutinied against their tyrannical captain and seized the ship. They forced the captain and the other officers into a small boat and set them adrift.

Then Fletcher Christian took the *Bounty* and its crew of mutineers back to Tahiti to find pigs and goats. Sixteen of the English crew chose to remain on Tahiti. The remaining eight men decided to stay with Fletcher Christian, so the *Bounty* sailed away from Tahiti with nine English sailors, ten or eleven Tahitian women, six Tahitian men and one fifteen-year-old girl.

But where could they go? They couldn't return home because the penalty for their mutiny was death. They had to find a safe place where they could settle down without the likelihood of getting caught. Fletcher Christian had heard of Pitcairn Island, a small rocky islet out in the Pacific Ocean. What appealed to him was the island's isolation, and he decided to take refuge there.

On January 23, 1790, the *Bounty* reached the tiny, uninhabited island. The crew of the ship removed everything that they could possibly use in their new life. Then, to make sure that they would not be discovered, they set fire to the ship. The charred and gutted hull sank beneath the waves, and with it went the danger that they would be found.

But things didn't go well on Pitcairn Island. Unruly behavior, fierce tempers, drunkenness, and low moral standards resulted in violent deaths. And by the year 1800, just ten years after settling on Pitcairn, only one man remained. He was the sole surviving mutineer. His name was Alexander Smith.

Alexander Smith looked around at the wives they had brought from Tahiti and their children. They were in his care. The scenes of bloodshed and violence had sobered Alexander Smith and when he looked around at the young children who had no other person to depend on, he experienced a great change of heart. "I must do something for these children," he decided.

Only two books had been salvaged from the *Bounty*: the Bible and the *Book of Common Prayer*. With these two books, Alexander Smith decided to teach the children to read and write. He also taught them about religion. As the children and even some of their mothers began reading the Bible and learning more about God, their lives began to change. They eagerly read the stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac, Daniel in the lions' den, Jesus' death on the cross, and the more they read, the more they grew to love Jesus.

In 1808 another ship landed on Pitcairn Island. The captain of

the ship reported that he found 35 islanders living in peace and contentment, practicing the Christian faith. What a change from the earlier days of the island.

Alexander Smith later changed his name to John Adams to protect himself from possible charges of mutiny and murder. The power of Scripture had changed a mutineer and murderer to a leader of a Christian community.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**  
(after reading the story)

1. How would you have felt if you were one of the believers waiting for Jesus' coming?
2. Was the prophecy inaccurate? Was the Bible false?
3. What did Hiram Edson realize in the grain field?
4. How can we keep from misinterpreting the Bible?
5. Why is it important to look at the Bible in its entirety?

**CLASS ACTIVITY**

According to Ephesians 6:17, the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. For this class activity, the students will participate in a "sword drill." Divide the class into two. Then name Bible texts, and see which team can find them and read them the fastest. A variation of this activity is a sword drill relay. The two teams should be behind a certain line. After they look up the verse, one person will run to the board and write down the first word and then run back. The next person will write down the second word and so on. (Have both teams using the same version to make it fair.) Use Bible texts that are meaningful to students.

**WORKSHEETS**

***"Wisdom in the Word"***  
(Drawing Page)

**Directions:** To become wiser, Marcy wants to study God's Word,

**STORY TIME # 2**

***"The Great Disappointment"***

"Jesus is coming today!" The believers could hardly contain their excitement. It was October 22, 1844, the day they had waited for with much longing and anticipation. Now it was finally here. Jesus was coming back to take them home.

"Is Jesus really coming today?" the children asked, their eyes sparkling with anticipation. "Is He really going to take us to heaven?"

The sun climbed higher and higher and then slowly started its descent toward the West. The children began to lose some of their enthusiasm. "Why isn't Jesus here yet?" they asked. "Is He really coming?"

The believers waited patiently, singing songs and praising God. "Surely, He will come soon," they said to one another. "We must have faith."

Even as they watched the sun begin to dip behind the mountains, the believers still clung to the hope that Jesus would come that day. Soon darkness settled around them, and reality struck hard. Tears began streaming down their faces.

"Mother, Father, why didn't Jesus come?" the children asked. But there was no answer. Only great disappointment. "Jesus, where are you? How could you do this to us?" With bitter disappointment, they returned home.

Hiram Edson was one of the believers who had awaited Jesus' coming. Yes, Jesus should have come on October 22, 1844. He had carefully studied the prophecies for himself. What had gone wrong? How could something that had been

the Bible. Draw Marcy's Bible in the picture below. For help, look at the picture on the right.

**Answer:** Drawings will vary.

**“Letter Drop”**  
(Coded Hidden Message)

**Directions:** Can you find the hidden message from *Patriarchs and Prophets* (p. 504) by Mrs. White? Simply drop the correct letter from each column into the blank box at the bottom. Some have two choices, and some have three, but only one is correct. (For example, the first letter is either E or D. The second letter is either V or O or M.)

**Answer:** “Every chapter and every verse of the Bible is a communication from God.”

**CLASS PROJECT**

Until the invention of the printing press, the Bible had to be copied by hand. Scribes spent many long hours carefully copying word after word. Sometimes they took the time to decorate the pages and make them look fancy. Imagine how valuable a copy of the Bible was back then. Today, we may take the Bible for granted because copies are readily available, but we should remember that the Bible is still the Word of God and, thus, the most valuable book we could ever own. For this class project, have students copy a portion of the Bible. It could be a Psalm or perhaps one of the shorter stories about Jesus. Have them carefully copy the words down and then illustrate their book. This will give them an idea of how much work it was to copy the Bible and how much the people must have loved the Bible to undertake such a long task.

predicted in the Bible not come true? “Lord, why didn’t you return?”

Hiram Edson was given the answer as he walked through a grain field. He suddenly realized that they had made a mistake in interpreting Scripture. They had assumed that the judgment mentioned in Daniel 7 referred to Jesus’ second coming, but now as he thought about it, the wording seemed to foretell another judgment that would take place *before* the end of time. They had also focused on the parable of the ten virgins, basically ignoring Christ’s other wedding parable. The Bible hadn’t failed them. Instead they had failed to see the complete picture. If only they had figured this out earlier. . . .

After the Great Disappointment, some people stopped believing in God. But others went back to the Bible and studied the Scriptures diligently to see where they had gone wrong. They discovered truths that reassured them that God was faithful. Jesus would come again.

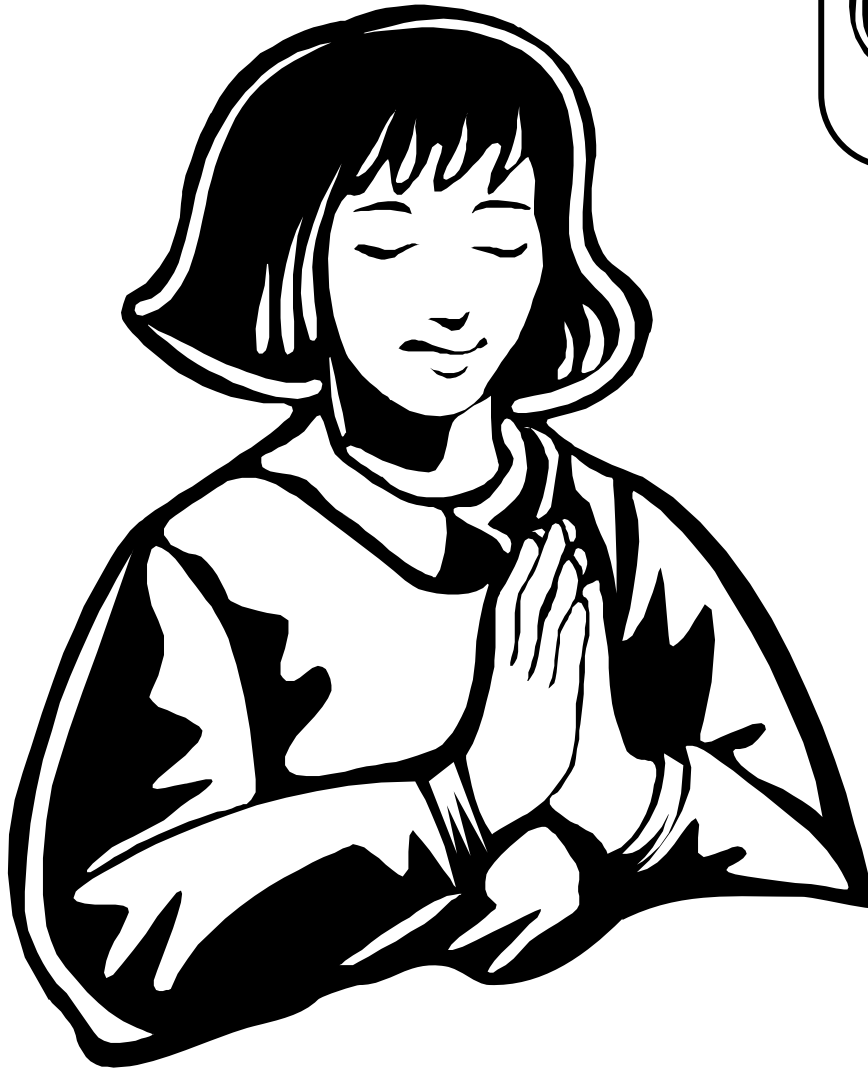
## ELLEN G. WHITE QUOTES

- “No other knowledge is so firm, so consistent, so far-reaching, as that obtained from the study of God’s Word.” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 499
- “Those who prayerfully study the Scriptures go from their study wiser than when they opened the Bible.” *The Upward Look*, p. 52
- “Every chapter and every verse of the Bible is a communication from God to men. . . . If studied and obeyed, it would lead God’s people, as the Israelites were led, by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 504
- “Dig for the truth as you would for treasures in the earth, and present the Word of God, the Bible, before your Heavenly Father, and say, Enlighten me; teach me what is truth. And when His Holy Spirit shall come into your hearts, to impress the truth into your souls, you will not let it go easily.” *In Heavenly Places*, p. 350
- “He who through the word of God has lived in fellowship with heaven, will find himself at home in heaven’s companionship.” *Education*, p. 127
- “No other study will so ennoble every thought, feeling, and aspiration as the study of the Scriptures. No other book can satisfy the questionings of the mind and the craving of the heart.” *My Life Today*, p. 23

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# Wisdom in the Word

To become wiser, Marcy wants to study God's Word, the Bible. Draw Marcy's Bible in the picture below. For help, look at the picture on the right.



"Those who prayerfully study the Scriptures go from their study wiser than when they opened the Bible." *The Upward Look*, p. 52

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# Letter Drop

Can you find the hidden message from *Patriarchs and Prophets* (p. 504) by Mrs. White? Simply drop the correct letter from each column into the blank box at the bottom. Some have two choices, and some have three, but only one is correct. (For example, the first letter is either E or D. The second letter is either V or O or M.)

	V	S		
E	O	T	N	P
D	M	E	R	Y

			J	T		
R	H	A	O	L	E	X
C	I	M	P	S	A	R

A		
K	O	L
S	N	D

	B		R	S
U	V	T	M	Y
E	H	E	A	G

	E	R	P	
Y	M	L	T	W
V	X	I	S	E

L	F
O	I

		E
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A	C	O

	I	B		
B	A	T	W	E
G	N	R	L	A

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		E	H	U					T	I		N
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C	R	M	M	Q	U	E	C	K	S	D	P	A

		T	
F	R	D	M
L	E	O	N

G	O	
P	I	D
V	L	C



JESUS LOVES YOU!

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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	V	S		
E	O	T	N	P
D	M	E	R	Y
<b>E</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Y</b>

			J	T		
R	H	A	O	L	E	X
C	I	M	P	S	A	R
<b>C</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>

A		
K	O	L
S	N	D
<b>A</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>

	B		R	S
U	V	T	M	Y
E	H	E	A	G
<b>E</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Y</b>

	E	R	P	
Y	M	L	T	W
V	X	I	S	E
<b>V</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>E</b>

L	F
O	I
<b>O</b>	<b>F</b>

		E
T	H	K
A	C	O
<b>T</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>E</b>

	I	B		
B	A	T	W	E
G	N	R	L	A
<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>E</b>

I	
Y	A
N	S
<b>I</b>	<b>S</b>

R
E
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<b>A</b>

	E	H	U						T	I		N
H	O	Y	T	P	N	I	J	A	U	M	O	W
C	R	M	M	Q	U	E	C	K	S	D	P	A
<b>C</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>

		T	
F	R	D	M
L	E	O	N
<b>F</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>

G	O	
P	I	D
V	L	C
<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>D</b>



JESUS LOVES YOU!