Welcome to a special Children’s Week of Prayer all about the most amazing book in the world—the Bible!

This week we’re going to embark on a wonderful journey together, exploring the treasures found within the pages of God’s Word. The Bible isn’t just any book; it’s a living, breathing testimony of God’s love, wisdom, and power. So get ready to dive deep into the wonders of Scripture as we discover how God’s Word impacts every aspect of our lives.

From Genesis to Revelation the Bible tells us the story of God’s love for His creation, the redemption plan through Jesus Christ, and the promise of eternal life. It’s filled with exciting adventures, inspiring stories, and timeless truths that teach us about God’s character and His incredible plan for each of us. We pray that this Week of Prayer will draw you closer to Jesus!

Beth Thomas is assistant editor of Adventist World.

**All About God's Word**
The most important book in the world
Manuel Vitug

Memory Verse: “No prophecy ever came from what a man wanted to say. But men
led by the Holy Spirit spoke words from God.” 2 Peter 1:21, ICB

What do a pen, pencil, and paintbrush have all in common? They are all instruments
used by someone. An artist uses a paintbrush to create art pieces. A student uses a
pen or pencil in school to complete their homework. An author uses a pen or pencil
to draft a book.

What is your favorite book? What do you think makes one book more valuable than
another? You see, the importance of the book is not necessarily the pen it was
written with, but the content and the author who wrote it.

This week, we will be learning about the Bible. Did you know that the Bible is the
most printed and read book in the world? It is written in more languages than any
other book. Why do you think millions of people believe that the Bible is the most
important book for our life? Here is essential information: the Bible itself explains
how it was written! Let us look at one of the passages that helps us better
understand the Bible. It is found in 2 Peter 1:20-21.

"Most of all, you must understand this: No prophecy in the Scriptures ever comes
from the prophet’s own interpretation. No prophecy ever came from what a man
wanted to say. But men led by the Holy Spirit spoke words from God" (ICB).
So, prophecy comes from God. Each thought written is guided by the Holy Spirit and
no prophecy is written based on the prophet’s own ideas.

The Bible is unique in that it gives us a picture of what will happen in the future.
This is what we call “prophecy.” When we study the Bible, we see many prophecies
that have already come true. The men who wrote these prophecies did not write
them from their own thinking. Instead, the primary author is God, who guided the writers
through the Holy Spirit.

This means that they were the penmen God worked through, but God was the primary author.
The Bible states that God knows the beginning and the end and He used
people called prophets to write what will take place so that we will know and not be
afraid. Why is that important? Well, there are terrible things happening today. But
the Bible writes that one day soon, Jesus will return and restore everything back to

the way He created it. He will get rid of evil, sickness, and death. And those who
already died believing in Jesus will be brought back to life. Isn’t that exciting? I am
so grateful that God gave us the Bible to give us hope and understand that at the
end, God wins, God restores, and that God is in control. This makes me want to read
and learn more about it. How about you?

Manuel (Manny) Vitug is the lead pastor of the Loma Linda Filipino church. He served as the Children’s Ministries director for the Southeastern California Conference from 2003 to 2021.

**Thinking Together:**

1. Why is the Bible different from any other book?

2. What is one thing you can do to help you learn the Bible better?

**God’s Word Gives Me Hope**

Blessings come in boxes

Memory Verse: “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope” (Romans 15:4, NIV).

Our memory verse tells us that the stories in the Bible were written to teach us lessons of faith, so that we might have hope! One story that is special to me is the story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath, found in 1 Kings 17.

The prophet Elijah was hiding from King Ahab beside the brook Cherith. God told Elijah to drink from the brook and that ravens would bring him food. Every day Elijah’s needs were taken care of. When the water dried up, the Lord told Elijah to go to Zarephath, where He had instructed a widow to supply him with food.

When Elijah got to Zarephath, he found a woman gathering a few sticks. He asked her for a drink of water and a piece of bread. What could she do? There was only enough flour and oil to make bread for herself and her son, and then they would not have any more food.

Elijah told her not to be afraid, but to make some bread for him first, and then make bread for herself and her son, for God had promised that the flour would not run out and that the oil would not run dry. The woman did as Elijah told her, and just as God had said, the woman and her son always had enough to eat (1 Kings 17:7-16).

Several years ago I found myself wondering where our next meal would come from! There just never seemed to be enough money or food to go around. Our simple pantry contained oatmeal, rice, beans, and flour, but it was often almost empty. Each day we prayed, “Lord, You know our needs, and You have promised to take care of us.”

A young couple had been camping in the woods near our house, and we became friends. One day the wife came to my house crying! I asked her what was wrong, and she told me that they had run out of food and didn’t know what they would do. God impressed me to give them some food.

How could I do this? I barely had enough for our own family! But I took a box and went into my pantry and started to fill it up. I scooped up some beans and put them into a bag, then rice, oats, flour, and salt. I added a small container of oil, then put some potatoes and onions in the box. Whatever I had, I shared with her. I was amazed that I was able to share, not one box, but more than three large boxes of food with my friend! And, miraculously, I had more food than I had started with! Just as God provided for the widow, He provided for my family.

Jodi Genson is a retired teacher living in Yakima, Washington, United States.

Thinking Together:

1. Why did it matter that the woman made bread for Elijah first?

2. Has your family experienced a miracle from

God’s Word Is Different From Other Books

It’s a lifesaver!

Memory Verse: “You have known the Holy Scriptures since you were a child. The Scriptures are able to make you wise. And that wisdom leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (2  Timothy 3:15, ICB).

Bullets and musket balls flew around Charles Merrill’s head as he and his brigade of soldiers pressed forward toward the opposing army. Suddenly, as he stepped forward, a bullet struck him in the right eye, sending him reeling backward. As he fell, he felt the impact of a second bullet as it hit his chest. Something stopped it on its path. however. That morning, as he hurried out of his tent, he had grabbed his New Testament Bible and stuck it into his front pocket. The Bible stopped the bullet!

The Bible saved Charles’ life, and it can save yours, too—for eternity. It is the only book with God’s words of life. In John 6:63 Jesus says, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” Every time God’s Word tells us to do something or promises something, His power is there to help us do it.

Jesus used the Scriptures to overcome the power of Satan. When Satan tempted Him three times, He answered, “It is written . . . ,” and Satan was defeated. Just as Jesus used Scripture, you can too! That’s why the Bible is the most feared book by Satan and his angels: because, through it, so many people have been set free from their control. There is no other book with such power! Throughout history millions have found God’s words to be faithful and true. Those struggling with addiction, anger, and more have found the strength to stop. Through God’s Word they can live free.

There are many books with interesting stories, but the Bible tells the true story of how our world began and how it will end. How do we know the Bible can predict the future? Because it has correctly done so in the past. Did you know there are more than 300 prophecies in the Old Testament about Jesus’ first coming? These prophecies were written by many different people hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth, yet they all came true exactly as predicted.

The Bible is the most precious book because it shows us how much God loves us by giving us Jesus, His Son, to die for our sins so that we can live forever with Him. Many religious books claim that the only way people can have eternal life is through doing lots of good works, but the Bible tells us that we can be saved only through the mercy of Jesus.

The Bible, God’s Word, offers us, through Jesus Christ, a pathway to eternal life and freedom from sin. It is a book filled with promises of hope. Start with Jesus every day by exploring His Word.

Ruthie Reeves is the executive director of Starting With Jesus, a ministry focused on helping children develop a daily relationship with Jesus.

Thinking Together:

1. Ask an adult how the Bible has changed their lives.

2. Can you find, in the Bible, a prophecy that later came true?

God’s Word Is My Guide

A built-in navigation system

Memory Verse: “Your word is like a lamp for my feet and a light for my way” (Psalm 119:105, ICB).

When you think of a happy animal, what do you think of? Maybe a sea otter or a dog? Or maybe your very own pet, if you have one! I think of the bottlenose dolphin. I love to watch dolphins swim playfully together. They look like they’re always smiling! Did you know that dolphins can swim more than18 miles (about 29 kilometers) per hour? And they can jump up to 20 feet (six meters) into the air! Dolphins are social animals. You will almost always find them with their friends and family rather than all by themselves. Do you know what a group of dolphins is called? A pod!

Dolphins have a unique way of talking to each other. They make a whistling sound that is carried through the water to the other dolphins in their pod. Each dolphin has their own unique whistle that all the other dolphins can recognize. They have been shown to have very long memories by being able to recognize the whistle of a dolphin that they haven’t heard in up to 20 years!

Dolphins have an amazing system for finding food. It’s called echolocation. The dolphin makes a clicking sound, then listens for the echo of their clicks to bounce off nearby fish that they can eat. This system helps them know which direction to swim for their food and how close it is to them. So even when they can’t see what they need, they trust the echoes that they hear to help them find their way.

Even though your eyes may work perfectly and you can see everything around you, it may be hard to know what you should do next or how you should feel. Sometimes we know that we need Jesus, but on our own we aren’t sure how to find Him. Whether you are happy or sad, confident or confused, God’s Word, the Bible, is always there to lead you in your next steps! That’s why King David described God’s Word as a light when he said, “Your word is like a lamp for my feet and a light for my way” (Ps. 119:105, ICB).

Just as God created the dolphins with special ways to find what they need, God has given you His Word to help you find Him! You are a priceless treasure to Him! That’s why He was willing to give His Son in your place so that you could be in heaven with Him. So open your Bible and let the light of God’s Word direct your path as you walk with Him!

Stephanie McNeilus is a wife and mother of three children in southern Minnesota, United States.

Thinking Together:

1. How is echolocation similar to spending time with Jesus in His Word every day?

2. Is it OK for us to skip our daily time with God? Why not?

God’s Word Helps Me Grow

It plants seeds of truth

Memory Verse: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalm 119:11, NIV).

Have you ever wondered how you can grow closer to God? Well, let me tell you a little secret—it’s all about His Word! God’s Word is like a special seed that, when planted in our hearts, helps us grow in our relationship with Him.

Psalm 119:11 says, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (ICB). Imagine having a treasure chest in your heart (which is really your mind), where you store God’s Word. When you hide His Word in your heart, it’s like planting seeds of goodness that help you do what is right. We can then live in a way that pleases God.

So how can we hide God’s Word in our hearts? Well, it’s not like hiding a toy under your bed! Instead it means memorizing verses from the Bible, understanding what they mean, and letting them guide your thoughts and actions.

For example, maybe you’re feeling really angry with your brother or sister for breaking something that was special to you. Instead of yelling at them or breaking something of theirs, you remember what King David wrote in Psalm 133:1: “It is good and pleasant when God’s people live together in peace!” (ICB). This verse reminds you to show kindness and pray for your sibling, even when you’re upset. You’re able to react differently this time! That’s hiding God’s Word in your heart!

As you grow older, you’ll face different challenges, such as making friends, dealing with difficult situations, or choosing what’s right rather than what’s easy. God’s Word has guidance for every situation! The more you read and learn from it, the more you’ll understand God’s love and His plan for you.

Think of your relationship with God the way you’d think of a beautiful garden. Just as plants need water, sunlight, and good soil to grow, you need God’s Word to grow spiritually. The more you water your heart with His Word, the more you’ll bloom into the amazing person God created you to be!

So, my dear friends, let’s make a promise together today—to hide God’s Word in our hearts, to let it shape our lives, and to grow closer to Him every day. With God’s Word as our guide, there’s no limit to how much we can grow in His love and grace!

Beth Thomas is an assistant editor for *Adventist World*.

Thinking Together:

1. Do you have a special verse you’ve memorized?

2. It’s funny to think of God’s Word as a seed that grows. Maybe next time you’re near a garden or see a packet of seeds, it will remind you of the Bible!

God’s Word Gives Me a Picture of Jesus

It shows me how to live like Him

Memory Verse: “You carefully study the Scriptures because you think that they give you eternal life. Those are the same Scriptures that tell about me!” (John 5:39, ICB).

When Jesus lived here on earth, not everybody liked Him, including many of the religious leaders. God’s people, the Jews, were privileged to have the Scriptures. They studied it because they looked forward to the special promise of a Saviour—someone they thought would save them from the cruel Romans who ruled their land.

Unfortunately, many studied the Scriptures without allowing God to help them understand what they were reading. Many read the Scriptures because they felt they had to, without knowing that it had living power. This blinded them to the truth of how the Saviour would come. They missed out on what the prophet Isaiah had written in Isaiah 53 that the Savior would come as a humble person. Many missed out on making Jesus their friend, yet He lived with them every day. They missed out on seeing God’s love and character shown through Jesus’ life. Jesus came to show us how to obey God and how to love each other no matter how difficult life is.

Just as many in Jesus’ time did, it’s easy for us to fall into the trap of reading the Bible every day and missing out on making Jesus our friend. The Bible has the power to bring healing to our broken hearts and set us free from our sinful habits. But we can experience this power only when we choose to interact with the Bible for what it truly is, God’s living Word.

Growing up, I used to go to church, but never thought that God loved me, because I had gone through some difficult stuff. I thought that God was punishing me. I tried to become a good person by going to church and doing nice things for others, but my heart did not connect with God or other people around me. One day I read John 3:17, which says, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”This scripture took away the pressure I had put on myself to be a good person. I learned that making Jesus my friend is the only path to peace and living a victorious life.

Jesus wants to be special friends with you so that He can show you the secrets He has for you in His Word and the special work He has for you in this world. Will you invite His Holy Spirit to guide you every time you read the Bible? Will you take time to pause and listen to His voice as He speaks to you? I pray that you’ll experience God’s inexpressible love and presence as you connect with Jesus through the Bible.

Faith Gor is a children’s speaker based in Nairobi, Kenya. Her YouTube channel “Teacher Faith” produces children’s content promoting Christian values.

Thinking Together:

1. What did God’s Word do for Teacher Faith?

2. What have you learned about Jesus by reading His Word?

God’s Word Gives Me Peace

Discovering happiness and comfort in the Bible

Memory Verse: “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NIV).

What does “peace” mean? Peace is when everything feels calm, quiet, and happy. It’s snuggling up in your favorite blanket, feeling warm and cozy. Peace is not being scared or worried about anything.

Did you know that there’s a special place where you can always find peace? It’s in God’s Word! In John 16:33 it says, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (NIV). This verse is a special message from God, reminding us that even when things get tough, we can find peace in Him.

When I was young, I used to be scared of the dark. I remember being so afraid that I wouldn’t even turn my back away from the wall in bed, just in case something spooky happened behind me. The only way I could sleep was with my back against the wall. But even then it would take me a long time to fall asleep. In the morning I’d wake up feeling tired because I hadn’t slept well.

My mom noticed I was always tired and asked me why. I told her about my fear of the dark and how I could sleep only with my back against the wall. She gave me a great idea to help me feel better. She said, “Tonight when you go to bed, open your Bible to Psalm 91 and read it out loud. Then leave the Bible open next to your pillow all night.” At first I didn’t see how that would help me fall asleep. But you know what? The first night was OK. By the second and third nights, I started feeling calmer and more relaxed every time I read Psalm 91 before turning off the lights. It really worked! It gave me peace. And you know what else? I even learned the whole psalm by heart! Now whenever I feel stressed or worried, I recite Psalm 91, and it helps me feel peaceful again.

How does the Word of God give us peace? It helps us feel better inside, giving us peace in our hearts. It reminds us that we don’t need to worry, and encourages us to think positive, happy thoughts. It reminds us that we’re never alone. When we follow God’s Word and live according to His teachings, we experience a sense of peace in our hearts.

Remember, God’s Word is like a precious gift we can turn to whenever we need peace and comfort. The next time you feel worried or troubled, open your Bible, read a verse, and let God’s peace fill your heart.

 Jasmin Stankovic is a licensed counselor and psychotherapist. She is also a mother and pastor’s wife in Western Australia.

Thinking Together:

1. How do you think remembering Jesus’ promise of peace can help you feel better during tough or scary times?

2. Can you think of a time reading a Bible story or hearing a Bible verse helped you feel peaceful or brave?

God’s Word Gives Me Something to Share With Others

Something incredible in Isle Royale

Memory Verse: “You will be his witness to all people. You will tell them about the things you have seen and heard” (Acts 22:15, ICB).

It had been a full day of hiking and lugging our backpacks across Isle Royale, an island national park on Lake Superior in the United States. It is the kind of place that is worth the long and difficult trip to get there. We had driven more than eight hours and camped overnight to be ready to take the 6-hour boat ride in the morning to get to the island. By the time we finally arrived at the park, we were already exhausted.

We strapped on our heavy backpacks and headed off. We had miles to hike before we could go to sleep. We hiked all the next day, too. We did this day after day until our trip was just about over. We had seen geese and moose, a swan, a fox, snakes, and all kinds of trees and flowers. We were having the time of our lives in God’s creation.

It was our second-to-last night on the island and we were resting our tired feet and sore shoulders. We sat on a dock watching Lake Superior glisten in the afternoon sun. As I looked out over the water, I had to blink to make sure what I was seeing was real! I told my wife to look quickly and she saw it too—right in front of us. We waved to the other campers nearby so that they could see it too. It was a whole family of river otters! They swam right up to where we were sitting and raced around, swimming this way and that. They chased each other, doing twists and loops as they flew though the water, up onto the rocks by the shore, and back into the lake.

We will never forget the joy of seeing those otters playing in the water. It was pretty much the only thing that any of the campers could talk about that evening as we had our supper and visited. I can only imagine that if God’s creation can bring us this much joy, how much more excited would we be if we saw the Creator? Now THAT would be something to talk about.

When we dig into God’s Word and explore the treasures that are hidden there, we actually CAN see Jesus each and every day. Open up your Bible and spend time looking for Him. When you find Him, I’m sure you’ll want to tell others all about it!

Ben Martin is the children and family discipleship pastor at Pioneer Memorial Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Thinking Together:

1. Name one person you would like to share God’s Word with.

2. This week maybe you can draw a picture of or make a card with your favorite Bible verse and give it to someone special.