

LIVING
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS

Bible

Enquirers

Youth • Age 13-18 • Teacher Guide

September • October • November • December • 2023



**Youth • Age 13-18 • Teacher Guide**

The Youth Teacher Guide provides in-depth Bible study with suggestions for teacher preparation and a step-by-step teaching plan for the youth Bible studies. Each teacher needs a copy of the Youth Learner Guide in addition to this Youth Teacher Guide.

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Meet Our Writers



SEPTEMBER

Derri-Ann Palmer

Derri-Ann is an administrator. She has been a Christian for over 20 years. She serves through the communications ministry and on the adult choir at her home church in Jamaica. Derri-Ann worked as Youth Editor at Caribbean Christian Publications for over 10 years. During that time, she learnt that while youth across the Caribbean may face different struggles and challenges, all youth desire a safe space where they can express their opinions, share their doubts and concerns and ask questions. We should seek to provide these spaces and if possible be these spaces.

OCTOBER

Violet Smythe



Violet is a retired educator. She has been a Christian for over 30 years. She serves as the Sunday School Superintendent at her home church in Jamaica. Violet has recognised through writing these lessons that she has grown closer to God and has become more aware that she has to live what she writes and allow God to lead her at all times.



NOVEMBER

Jaevel Brown

At the time of writing, Jaevel was a science teacher and the president of the youth fellowship at her home church in Jamaica. Jaevel has been a Christian for over 10 years and has found that writing lessons for youth has caused her to consider the many struggles which youth face and to evaluate God's Word in a deliberate way to find the truths which meet youth needs.

DECEMBER

Lillieth Ledford



Lillieth is a retired educator living in Jamaica. She has years of involvement in Sunday School ministry. She shared that writing lessons for **Bible Enquirers** has aided her spiritual growth. As a teacher of the Word she is compelled to study the Word and apply it to her life and be a faithful steward.

Caribbean Christian Publications is grateful to the following persons for writing the Bible Backgrounds, which are used in the Teacher Bible Study.

Winston Garner

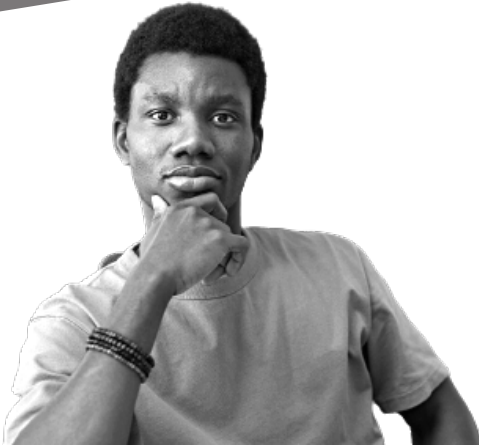
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Prophecies and Revelations



September 3
A Man of Integrity

September 10
Beasts and Kingdoms

September 17
Prayer for a Nation

September 24
The Unseen Battle

Unit Overview: The Unit, *Prophecies and Revelations*, shows the relationship between devotion to God and gaining understanding from God. It will lead youth to examine Daniel's deep devotion to God, commitment to prayer and the strong concern he had for his people to be the people of God they were meant to be. Additionally, it will aid youth in examining prophecy and seeing God's purposes in revealing them to us.

Unit Central Truth: God has a plan for dealing with humankind, and parts of that plan are revealed through biblical dreams and prophecy.

Unit Teaching Aim: Youth will examine God's use of dreams and prophecy to reveal Himself to His people.

Unit Youth Needs:

- To understand the definition of biblical prophecy and divine dreams
- To know that God used prophecy and "divine dreams" to reveal Himself and His purposes, plans and power to His people
- To believe that biblical prophecy is real and divinely inspired
- To see through prophecy that God has a plan and purpose and is actively involved with, and for, His people
- To see through prophecy that God's judgement is timely

Writer: Derri-Ann Palmer, Jamaica

Photo: Theo Decker

PROPHECIES AND REVELATIONS

A Man of Integrity

Bible Focus:	Daniel 2:1-30
Memory Verse:	Daniel 2:23 (NIV)
Central Truth:	God expects us to be people of integrity.
Teaching Aim:	Youth will demonstrate an understanding of what it means to be a person of integrity by defining the term, integrity, and explaining how integrity was seen in Daniel's response to the king's need.

TEACHER
BIBLE STUDY

The book of Daniel is considered a fascinating book by many, with several important lessons for the people of God. One such lesson is that God works through people and on behalf of people who remain faithful to Him in spite of the trials they face. The first part of the book, chapters 1—6, provides narrative on God's faithfulness to His servants who display unwavering devotion. Chapters 7—12 provide apocalyptic literature that describes visions Daniel received from God.

God's People Are Not Exempt from Trials (Daniel 2:1-6, 12)

In the sixth century (BCE) the Israelite people were exiled in Babylon. Among the exiles were Daniel and his friends. The king, Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream that troubled him. He demanded that his wise men not only tell him what he dreamt but also interpret it. Some of them indicated their inability to do so and this made the king angry to the extent that he

ordered their execution. Daniel and his friends were considered to be ten times better in wisdom and understanding than the other wise men (Daniel 1:20), so they would also be executed.

Believers must expect trials, hence the need to be firmly grounded in faith to face the trials with assurance.

Daniel's Response (Daniel 2:13-23)

Despite the life-threatening situation, Daniel remained calm and responded in a way that we can model. Firstly, he asked questions instead of reacting. Verse 14 (NIV) acknowledges Daniel as speaking ... *with wisdom and tact*. We can avoid speaking and acting rashly by heeding the advice of the apostle James...*be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry* (James 1:19 NIV).

Secondly, Daniel requested time in order to seek God's intervention (Daniel 2:16), and he also asked his friends *to plead for mercy from ... God* (v. 18 NIV) so that together they might avoid execution *with the rest of the wise men of Babylon* (v. 18 NIV).

Throughout Scripture, we find that the people of God seek God through prayer in times of trouble. They also call on others to assist in petitioning God. Jesus encouraged us to do likewise when He stated, ... *if two of you on Earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven* (Matthew 18:19 NIV).

Initially, Daniel's prayers were requests for God to reveal the dream and its interpretation. Then Daniel prayed again, but, this time to thank and praise God for revealing the mystery to him.

Attribute Your Achievements to God (Daniel 2:25, 29-30)

Daniel acknowledged God, not only in private, but also in public. Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar, ... *this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind*" (v 30 NIV). God revealed the mystery to Daniel. Therefore, God is the revealer of dreams. Daniel also made it clear that the revelation he received had nothing to do with him being wiser than the other men, but because God used him to accomplish God's purpose.

Daniel showed humility, honesty and total dependence on God. These are qualities which should be evident in God's people who live their lives with integrity. Like Daniel we should give God praise for victory over trials.



PLANNING

Plan to Meet These Youth Needs:

1. To realise that when we choose to be devoted to God, He is devoted to us
2. To know what integrity means
3. To know why it matters to be a person of integrity
4. To learn what one should do when one is threatened

Prepare to Teach

- Prepare a **Unit Poster** with the **Unit Title** and **Lesson Titles**.
- Make a poster with the definition of 'integrity' to display during **Get Class' Attention**.
- Enlist a boy and a girl to prepare to dramatise the story in **A Leaf from Life** during **Get Class' Attention**.
- Prepare a summary of the information in **Teacher Bible Study** to share during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- On strips of paper, write the 12 statements from **Bible Search** for use during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Complete the **Weekly Preparation Checklist** on page 32.



GUIDE THE SESSION

STEP 1 Get Class' Attention

Welcome youth to class. Offer an opening prayer. Talk with them about their expectations and goals for the new school year. Encourage them to prayerfully set goals for the school year.

Display the **Unit Poster** and share with youth an overview of the lesson for the Unit. Ask: *What does the word integrity mean?* Have youth respond and then display the poster with the definition. Have the two youth you selected dramatise the story in **A Leaf from Life**. Discuss the answers to the questions which follow the story.

STEP 2 Examine Bible Lesson

Read the parts for the narrator in **Bible Focus**, Daniel 2:1-30 and ask for volunteers to read for the king, astrologers and Daniel. Thank the volunteers then share your summary of **Teacher Bible Study**. Review Daniel's prayer (vv. 20-23) and note how he attributes all wisdom and revelation to God. Emphasise Daniel's integrity in publicly declaring God's power and telling the king that the revelation of the vision came from God and not from his (Daniel's) intellect.

Distribute the papers with the 13 statements from **Bible Search**. Have each youth answer whether the statement is true or false. Correct responses: 1) T, 2) F, 3) T, 4) F, 5) F, 6) T, 7) T, 8) T, 9) F, 10) T, 11) T, 12) T.

STEP 3 Apply Bible Truth

Divide the class into three groups. Assign to **Group 1** and **Group 2** a scenario from **Personal Learning Activity A** and to **Group 3**, **Personal Learning Activity B**. Have groups present and discuss their responses in the class. Possible responses for **Personal Learning Activity B**: When faced with death Daniel remained calm, was respectful and asked questions before jumping to conclusions (v. 14); He sought the help of fellow believers (v. 17); Daniel turned to God for assistance (v. 18).

Read the **Central Truth** and discuss the responses to the **Central Truth Application**. Discuss responses to **Personal Learning Activity C**.

STEP 4 Commit to Action

Ask the class to read the **Memory Verse**, Daniel 2:23 (NIV). Remind youth that the Bible provides guidance on how to live with integrity. In times when they are not sure of the right choice, they should pray, asking for God's wisdom which He gives freely.

Read together **The Lesson and Me**. Have youth say private prayers seeking God's assistance in living with integrity. Close in prayer for youth to seek God and study God's Word as a guide to living with integrity.

State the topic for next week's session and encourage youth to prepare the lesson.

PROPHECIES AND REVELATIONS

Beasts and Kingdoms

Bible Focus:	Daniel 7:1-28
Memory Verse:	Daniel 7:17-18 (CEV)
Central Truth:	The kingdoms of Earth will fail, but the kingdom of heaven with God on His throne will reign forever.
Teaching Aim:	Youth will demonstrate an understanding of Daniel 7 by sharing what they think they can learn from it and applying it to their spiritual life.

TEACHER
BIBLE STUDY

Last week we noted that the book of Daniel is divided into two parts. Consider that chapters 1-6 comprise a narrative of the historical events in the lives of Daniel and his friends, while the Jews were exiled in Babylon in the sixth century (BCE). Chapters 7-12 comprise the second part and record what many people regard as the prophetic revelations of Daniel. This reflects a period far beyond that of the exile. While some scholars regard the events as prophecy, others believe they reflected contemporary rather than future events. They believe that the entire book may have been written or compiled around the time of the Seleucid king, Antiochus Epiphanes in the second century (BCE). The Jews experienced great persecution during his reign.

If, indeed, the book was written in the second century, instead of the sixth century, the events alluded to were already fulfilled. If this is the case, the Jews may have used the Babylonian exile as an interpretive

lens for their present situation. Through those lens, they saw that regardless of the seemingly unlimited power of earthly imperial rule, God, Who remains sovereign will bring these earthly kingdoms to an end.

God's Sovereignty

God's sovereignty over all earthly imperial powers remains a fact, whether or not the latter half of Daniel is truly prophetic. Moreover, many persons still consider Daniel to be one of the greatest prophets. They claim that some of his predictions have come to pass, while some are yet to be fulfilled. Some, who contend that the latter half of the book reflects already fulfilled events, claim that the only predictions that are yet to be fulfilled are found in chapter 12. However, note that regardless of the view one holds, the book of Daniel is part of the Scriptures which reveal God's plan of salvation for humanity.

The Dream (Daniel 7:1-14)

In Daniel's dream he saw the four beasts (vv. 1-8), the Ancient of Days (vv. 9-12), and the Son of Man

(vv.13-14). It is evident that this book was not written in chronological order, for the fact that Belshazzar, whose death is recorded in chapter 5 is spoken of as being in his first year in chapter 7.

The beast, like a lion with eagle's wings in verse 4 of chapter 7, represents the Babylonian kingdom. The beast, like a bear, represents the Medo-Persian Empire which succeeded Babylon (2:38-39). In the vision, the bear was raised up on one side. This reveals that the Persians were superior in power when compared with the Medes. The third beast which looked like a leopard represents Greece. Through the leadership of Alexander the Great, they quickly took over much territory. The fourth beast did not look like any known animal and this was a representation of the Roman Empire. Some scholars claim that the description of the fourth kingdom reflects Greece. If this is the case, the first three may be Babylon, Media, and Persia. Some scholars claim that the Ancient of Days in verses 9-12 refers to God the Father, while the Son of Man, in verses 13-14, refers to Jesus, the Son of God.

Divine Interpretation (Daniel 7:15-28)

Daniel was given the interpretation of the dream which had caused him much distress. In the end, it revealed that all earthly kingdoms would fall, but God would establish an everlasting kingdom.



PLANNING

Plan to Meet These Youth Needs:

1. To realise Bible prophecy, whether yet fulfilled or not, is relevant to their lives
2. To know that fulfilled prophecy reveals that God's messages are real and can be trusted
3. To accept that prophecy, not yet fulfilled, helps us to know and prepare for what God has in store for the future

Prepare to Teach

- Prepare welcome tokens for youth who may come to your class for the first time.
- Prepare to play "Book of Daniel Summary: A Complete Animated Overview" which can be found on YouTube. Play the video during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- On cards, write the 17 answers found in **Examine Bible Lesson** for **Bible Search**. Use the answer cards during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Make a poster with the eight sentences from **Bible Search**. Ensure that the blank spaces can fit the answer cards. Use during **Examine Bible Lesson**.
- Prepare a sheet of cartridge paper, blank sheets of paper and glue for use during **Apply Bible Truth**.
- Plan to play the song "God Is In Control" by Twila Paris during **Commit to Action**.
- Complete the **Weekly Preparation Checklist** on page 32.



GUIDE THE SESSION

STEP 1 Get Class' Attention

Welcome youth as they arrive to class. Welcome specially youth coming for the first time and give them a token. Open in prayer.

Ask for a volunteer to read the story in **A Leaf from Life**. Discuss the responses to the questions which follow the story. Close the discussion by reminding youth that though changes in leadership may cause anxiety and even have negative outcomes, we are assured that God is in control.

STEP 2 Examine Bible Lesson

Play the video on the book of Daniel from The Bible Project. Have each youth read a verse from the **Bible Focus, Daniel 7:1-28** until the passage is finished. Share your summary of **Teacher Bible Study**. Inform youth of the suggested kingdoms that the beasts represent. However, place emphasis on God's sovereignty, as regardless of the identity of the kingdom, God reigns and will continue to reign.

Display the poster with the sentences from **Bible Search**. Distribute the cards with the words to fill the blanks. Have youth read the sentence with the blank spaces they will fill and then place their cards on the poster. Correct responses: 1) Belshazzar, 2) heaven, 3) beasts, lion, bear, leopard, 4) frightening, ten, mouth, 5) Ancient

of Days, seated, 6) slain, 7) Son of Man, sovereign, worshipped, 8) everlasting, never.

STEP 3 Apply Bible Truth

Discuss the responses to **Personal Learning Activity A**. Some possible answers: 1) God's people will face oppression. 2) There will be world powers that will carry out acts of dominance and influence and disregard God. 3) God is sovereign and ultimately His kingdom shall reign.

On the top half of the cartridge paper write the responses to **Personal Learning Activity Bi**. Distribute sheets of paper on which youth may write their prayers as indicated in **Personal Learning Activity Bii**. Ask for volunteers to paste their prayers on the lower half of the cartridge paper.

STEP 4 Commit to Action

Have youth read the **Memory Verse, Daniel 7:17-18 (CEV)**. Play the song "God Is In Control". Encourage youth to listen to the words and then discuss the answers to the **Central Truth Application** questions.

Read together **The Lesson and Me**. Close in prayer thanking God for the assurance that He is in control.

State the topic for next week's session and encourage youth to prepare the lesson.

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