LESSON ONE DEFINITIONS

PRESERVE: to keep alive or in existence; to keep safe from harm or injury

PUBLISH: to proclaim; to speak forth by mouth; to put down in print for distribution

PREEMINENT: above or before others; superior

TEACHER NOTES:

NATIONAL BIBLE PUBLISHING MONTH

ADULT TEACHER GUIDE 1

GOD'S PLAN

FOR PROVIDING HIS WORD
TO EVERY GENERATION

TEACHER GUIDE NOTES

"Let all things be done decently and in order" (I Corinthians 14:40). Our God is a God of order. At creation, not only was everything that exists created, but it was then inspected by God Himself. His opinion upon inspection was that "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). God's attention to every detail is unquestionable! God thought it important enough to even tell us that things happening unorganized, chaotically, or with "confusion" are not authored by Him (I Corinthians 14:33). Just read the instructions for the tabernacle and its contents (Exodus 25-27). Everything from the materials to be used to even the exact dimensions of each item were exactly described by God. God was going to involve mankind in the process of producing and keeping that which was to be holy and reverenced. With such a proven track record of His being meticulous and careful for details, doesn't it make sense that He would be the same way with His plans for handling His precious Word? He promised over and over He would preserve His Word from generation to generation, and His Word would not pass away, even though everything in heaven and earth will pass away. Does it not stand to reason that He would have a workable plan in place for mankind to continue to be involved with the producing and care for that which is Holy? These lessons will begin to lay the foundation laid by God for His plan in handling and preserving His Word.

In the beginning, God's means of communicating His desires to and for man was oral. In creation, He spoke His desires into existence from nothing. In the affairs of mankind, God came and spake with them. As time went on, God altered His chosen method of communication. He began to give man everything He desired them to know in writing. His written Word was then taken to the people in order for them to hear, read, and understand for themselves what God desired to communicate.

I'm sure you are familiar with the telephone game played by children. One child whispers something into the ear of a person at the front of the room and tells him to pass it on to the next person. By the time this message reaches the person at the other end of the room, it amazes everyone how much the message has been changed. Imagine how easy it would have been for people to get confused with the message God had conveyed to them. By the time it was passed from person to person, how accurate would it have been? Putting God's message in writing for people to read would eliminate this issue. They would no longer have to rely on remembering what they had *heard* God had said; the man of God could now read it to them time and time again.

LESSON **ONE**

God's Plan For Providing His Word to Every Generation

God promised that His Word would be preserved forever (I Peter 1:23; Matthew 5:18; 24:35). Doesn't it make sense that He would have a plan in place in which to carry out this process? These lessons are intended to not just show this divine plan in Scripture, but also to show how that we can be involved in this heavenly work.

I. <u>ORAL</u> Publishing — God Spoke it.

This was the period of time that God chose to publish His Word by speaking it. His written Word would come later in time.

A. Creation (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29).
God spoke, and it came into existence.

B. Conduct of man – For a period of time, everything God intended mankind to know concerning their conduct was given orally by Him. The offspring had to rely upon their parents passing down what they remembered God had told them. (Exodus 24:3).

1. God commanded Adam (Genesis 2:16, 18-19; 3:8).
2. God counseled Cain (Genesis 4:6, 9-10, 15).
3. God instructed Noah (Genesis 6:13-7:5).
4. God promised Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17).
5. God called Moses (Exodus 3:4-4:23; 19:19).
6. God gave the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17).

II. <u>INSPIRATIONAL</u> Publishing — the beginning of the written Word of God (II Timothy 3:16; Exodus 34:27-28; II Peter 1:21).

Moses is recognized as the human author of the first five books of the Bible. The Apostle John was the writer of five books, including Revelation, the last book of the Bible. Both men were eyewitnesses to the living Word of God; both heard first-hand the spoken Word of God; and both understood the potential of the written Word of God. When John wrote the book of I John, he used the word "write" seven times and the word "written" five times. He obviously knew the importance of the written Word of God. Both John and Moses were involved in God's plan for providing His Word for every generation. Will you be involved?

A. God gave it and God also recorded it (Exodus. 24:12).
B. Man began to be involved in the process (Exodus 34:4 — Moses provided the stones, but God still did the writing. Deuteronomy 10:1-4 is Moses' personal testimony of this account).
C. Man provided all the materials and just wrote what God told them to write (Deuteronomy 31:9, 24-26; II Peter 1:20-21).

III. <u>EDUCATIONAL</u> Publishing — Man took the writings and taught the people.

Moses was never supposed to just glory in the fact that God had given His Word in writing. God's plan was always for Moses to take God's Words to the people, not only so the people could hear what God said, but also so the people could be taught to *apply* what God said.

A. Moses took the Scripture to the people (what was required) (Exodus 34:29-32).
B. Moses taught them to obey the Scriptures (what was right) (Exodus 24:12; 35-36:4; Deuteronomy 5:30-33; 29:9; 31:9-13).
C. Moses taught them how to copy the Scriptures (what was their responsibility)(Deuteronomy 6:8-9; 11:18-21; 17:18-20; 27:1-8).
D. Joshua took them back to the Scriptures (what was written) (Joshua 1:13; 8:34; 23:6).

Conclusion: God places such a preeminent value upon His Word (Philippians 2:9-10; Psalm 138:2). He took such care and attention to see that what He gave was provided for others. What value do you place on providing God's Word for others?