

**TEACHER NOTE:** Being grounded in the Word of God (spiritual maturity) comes through receiving all the Scriptures (Romans 16:25-26). Going forth with the Word of God to the world has a two-fold plan. "...to all nations for the obedience of faith." It requires Scripture translation for all nations and Scripture publishing to all nations. When Christians are involved in the printing and publishing of the Bible, God is pleased, and miracles, such as people getting saved, can take place.

### III. PUBLISH THE BIBLE IN PRINT SO THAT THE CHURCH CAN SEND IT

**READ:** Colossians 4:16

**ASK:** What was the church at Colosse supposed to do with Paul's epistle, or letter, when they had read it? (Take it to the church of the Laodiceans so they could read it as well.) What they received was not to stay with them. They were to copy it and pass it on ("cause that it be read also").

God wants us to make the Bible available to others so they can read it as well. Pastors, missionaries, and teachers can sometimes have limited availability, but the printed Word of God never needs to rest; It can cross borders into any country, it never gets old, it will never die, and it can be readily available for someone to use twenty-four hours a day, three hundred and sixty-five days a year! God promises us that His powerful Word will never fail!

### CONCLUSION

More than likely, you own a Bible. As a matter of fact, you may have even more than one. What a privilege it is to have a copy of God's Word, but so many people in the world are still waiting to even see their first copy of God's Word. How can you get involved with this important and God-given task of helping others around the world to have a copy of God's Word? First, you can pray. Take a map, pick out a country, study about the people of that country, and then ask God to help them get His Word. Also, you can give so others can have a Bible just as you do. It has been provided, protected, and preserved for us. Now, we must give together and work together to publish God's Word around the world...that all the earth may know!

### LESSON DEFINITIONS

**CLARITY:** Very clear and comprehensive.

**CONVICTION:** Firmly convinced in what one believes.

**CREDIBILITY:** The quality of being trusted and believable.

**PUBLISH:** To proclaim by mouth, or to send a book into the world.

**PROPHET:** An inspired teacher or proclaimer of God's Word.

**GREAT COMMISSION:** A term used for the last commandment Jesus Christ gave after His resurrection to "*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*"

# GOD PUBLISHES His WORD!







# LESSON FOUR

## GOD PUBLISHES HIS WORD!

### KEY VERSES

Habakkuk 2:1-2

### DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Each student will realize that God has given them a responsibility to uphold God's Word.

### TEACHER'S GUIDE NOTES

Maps are used by many people for various purposes. The primary purpose of a map is to give direction. Maps help us get from point A to point B. Throughout history, maps have been useful tools for explorers seeking to discover unexplored areas of the globe. The Word of God is similar to a map. It gives us direction through life, guides us as we enter new challenges, and it helps us navigate through the will of God for our lives. Everyone should have a copy of God's Word for their lives, but not everyone has one. If they don't have God's "Map," how will they ever discover God's plan for their lives?

We have seen in the previous three lessons that God wanted to reveal Himself to mankind, and He ultimately did so through the written Word of God. Then, we learned that something as valuable as His Word should be handled in a very specific way. We also saw that if that were going to take place consistently, then a very particular group of people should be involved in the process. Now, we are going to look at the next step. Why did God command His people to produce His Word to an entire world?

There can be no debate that God expects every Christian to publish His words to people who have not heard. There are many verses that teach us that truth. Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:44-47, and Acts 1:8 are just a few to which we commonly refer. The part of publishing Scriptures that has been greatly left out in the modern era of the church (which was a part of life to the early Christians) is the copying and passing on of the Scriptures they received.

### ILLUSTRATION

Translate God's Word — design a tract in another language

Not everyone in the world speaks, reads, and understands my language. In fact, there are probably people in my town who speak a different language than me. How can we get them God's Word in their language? This can be illustrated by making a tract.

Supply your students with paper, pens, pencils, crayons, or colored pencils, and have them design a simple tract. Have them draw a cross, an empty tomb, or something that would help the reader understand the Gospel message. Using the supplied verse in Russian, have your students copy it onto their tract.

Ибо так возлюбил Бог мир, что он дал  
Сына Своего Единородного, что  
всякий, верующий в Него, не погиб,  
но имел жизнь вечную. Иоанна 3:16

( For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 )

Once they are finished, challenge your students to give their tract to someone. Perhaps it would be a friend at school, someone who speaks Russian in their neighborhood, or maybe they could even mail it to a missionary who lives in Russia! Remember, God wants His Word to be published in all nations, and He has given that job to the church!

### INTRODUCTION

We now understand that it was God who first provided His Word in written form, protected it in special places set apart for His use, and preserved it without error for thousands of years by using His people to do the copying and printing. Armed with a better understanding as to how God's Word still exists today (in the form of the Bible), we must now look at what Christians are to do with this precious and perfect gift from God.

In the Bible, Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:19-20 that we are to go out into all the world and teach everyone about God! This teaching is to be not only about how to trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, but also to teach them about all of the things that God wants us to know about Him. Absolutely everything God wants mankind to know has been provided, protected, and preserved in His Word, but it is the Christian's job to make sure that everyone else knows about it!

In school, teachers have much they can teach us about reading, math, science, and history. To help them teach, they always make use of textbooks and workbooks that help us understand. If God's people are to obey Jesus' command to teach the world about Him, then shouldn't we make sure that all the "students" have a textbook to learn from? The Bible is God's textbook for us, provided so we may learn about Him and then teach others!



### I. PUBLISH THE BIBLE SO OTHERS MAY READ IT FOR THEMSELVES

**READ:** Habakkuk 2:2

**ASK:** What was Habakkuk supposed to do with the vision that God gave him? (Write it.)

**ASK:** How was Habakkuk's writing to look? (Plain.)

**ASK:** What would the people do who read Habakkuk's writing? (Run.)

God told the prophet to write down what God had revealed to him. God wanted His Word to be written down so it would have credibility and clarity. It was not enough for Habakkuk to just tell everyone what God had said; God wanted His Word to be put into print so it would remain permanent and accurate for generations to come. God's written Word was also meant to bring conviction. This means that whenever God's people read those words, they would be moved to immediate action!

**TEACHER NOTE:** The vision was written for CREDIBILITY. The vision (Word of God) that God was giving was of such importance he had to write it down ("Write"). It was not enough that Habakkuk just tell the people what God said, he had to put it into print. Writing is a more permanent, accurate, and secure method of seeing that God's Word is carried to the next generation. It was written for CLARITY. The vision (Word of God) that Habakkuk wrote was to reveal clearly ("plain") what God wanted them to receive. Without clear understanding, there could be no application. It was written for CONVICTION. The vision (Word of God) that God was giving was of such importance that it was to be responded to immediately ("run").

There are so many people today that have never heard or handled God's Word. It is our responsibility as Christians to tell them about Jesus. Just as God spoke His Word in the beginning, He expects us to tell others about Him. Just as God had His Word written down in a book, He expects us to copy His Word in the language of the people. We must publish the Bible so people around the world can have a chance to place their faith in Him.

### II. PUBLISH THE BIBLE SO THAT ALL CAN RECEIVE IT AND OBEY IT

**READ:** Romans 10:14, 17

**ASK:** Where does faith in God come from? (From hearing the Word of God.)

The title of this lesson is "God Publishes His Word." The word "publish" is a wonderful word to learn! It means to announce, or proclaim openly for all to know.