

**The Children's  
Character Building  
Collection**  
*Study Guide*

## The Children's Character Building Collection Study Guide

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## HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

We are enthused to finally present to you, this Study Guide for the eleven beloved children's stories from the 1800s which have been the heart of our company's product line for nearly three decades! We are certain this Study Guide will render the stories more useful and profitable to families than ever, providing a good selection of questions and answers as well as memory verses and suggested activities for each book.

In these eleven books of the Children's Character Building Collection, you will notice that, whenever the books quote a Bible verse, it is from King James Version. That was the only English version being widely used at the time these stories were written.

To assist families using this Discussion & Study Guide, we are going to list the Scriptures for you in two versions: The King James Version (KJV) and The English Standard Version (ESV).

A parent and child may use this guide in any manner that works well for you! But what we had in mind and suggest is: After a parent and child read a book chapter together, then talk through the questions together. This should normally be doable in about 20 minutes, but of course you can carry on the discussion for as long as you both find it enjoyable and beneficial!

Some questions are intended just for personal reflection and conversation. Others have a specific answer, and in those instances, the answer will be found in the Answers Section which is a mere turn of the page away.

Our study guide is not meant merely as a test or quiz, to make sure the reader is learning from the story; nor is it all just questions for study. Some of it is designed to simply make the story enjoyable and memorable to both the parent and student, and to provide you some worthy topics to explore and talk about together.

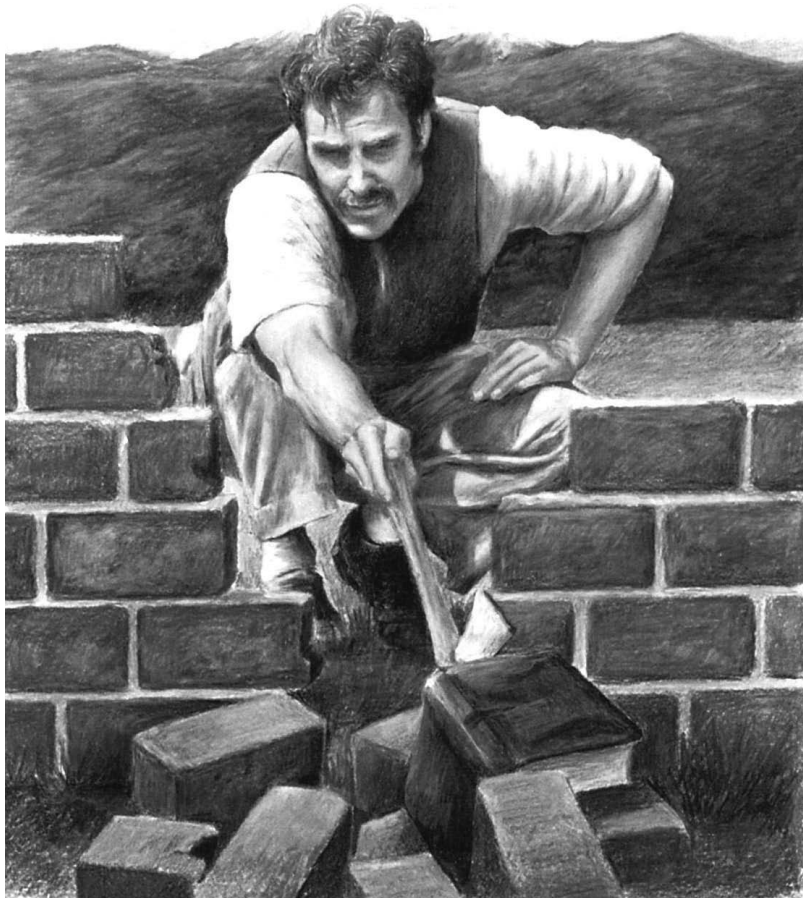


# THE BIBLE IN THE WALL

## Study Guide

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Antonio is given a Bible, but he doesn't want this gift! He is annoyed, even resentful of it, due to irrational fears about the Bible, because he has been exposed to false teachings. But he finds a creative way to get rid of the disturbing gift. Still, our powerful and gracious God desires people to have His Word, and by His sovereign control over all events brings the Bible back to Antonio and transforms his life through it.







## Chapter 1: ANTONIO AND HIS BIBLE

**1** The story begins in the year 1856. Talk about what was happening in the United States at that time (or whatever your country of residence, or world history) so you can picture this story in timeline and perspective. If you have a historical timeline, such as the Adams Chart of World History, this would be a good time to refer to it.

**2** Has anyone ever given you a Bible? How did you react to that?

**3** Antonio was very reluctant to accept this gift. He was even suspicious and resentful. What an odd reaction! What could have made him feel this way?

Antonio is not the only person who ever got hostile when a Bible was brought around! Others do too, even today – but usually for different reasons. What are some of those reasons?

**4** Here are some better and more Biblical attitudes about the Word of God:

Psalm 119:162: “I rejoice at Your Word like one who finds great spoil.” (ESV)

“I rejoice at Thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.” (KJV)

Psalm 1:1-2: “Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night.” (ESV)

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.” (KJV)

1 Peter 2:1-3: “So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (ESV)

“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (KJV)

**5** We suggest you look up resources about Martin Luther and learn about him. Many people, when they hear this name, think instead of Dr. Martin Luther King (1929-1968)! But these are two very different people. Martin Luther was a German monk, then preacher and reformer in the 1500s (16th century). Make sure your child understands that these are two different people!

## Answers for Chapter 1

*Note: Not all questions or points have an answer provided here, as some of them were just raised for you to discuss with your child, or to get his reaction to the events in the story.*

**1** If you have a historical timeline, such as the Adams Chart of World History, this would be a good time to refer to it (<http://www.graceandtruthbooks.com/product/adams-syn-chronological-chart-and-map-of-history>). In 1856, James Buchanan was elected President of the United States. He was the last one before Abraham Lincoln. The United States was in a time of serious tensions between north and south, over several issues, black slavery being one. John Brown led a massacre of men in Kansas in which many who opposed slavery were killed in a night; and even on the floor of the U.S. Senate, two Senators (Preston Brooks and Charles Sumner) had a fight over it, and Sen. Brooks ended up beating Sen. Sumner with his cane! Also, a little town began in Texas – named Dallas.

**2** Just enjoy some conversation together on this question!

**3** In Europe at that time, the Roman Catholic Church was teaching people that they should not even read the Bible, saying it was dangerous for them to do so, because it was too spiritual for them, “over their heads,” and they should rely on the priests to tell them what it meant rather than read it for themselves. This was a serious error which, happily, we rarely hear anymore. While many despise the Bible today, at least pretty much everyone who goes to church at least believes that we should read it and learn from it ourselves, and not just wait for “experts” to tell us what it means!

Others will say, all the Bible does is make them feel guilty (sometimes, they should feel guilty!). Or, they may think that those who quote it to them are trying to make them feel condemned, using it to control them and not allow them to do what they want. We should always be gracious when we quote the Bible to people, and not use it to “smack down” people with a final answer on a subject, but be humble about it, as recipients of the grace of God ourselves. We also should not just make the Bible sound like a book full of rules and commandments, because it’s so much more than that! It’s the Story of the wondrous things God has done in the world!

What does the person who mocks the Bible need to happen in their heart? He or she needs a new heart, bestowed by the Holy Spirit, which receives and loves the Word of God. This does not come to people naturally but is a work of God in us. See Ezekiel 36:26-27 and Acts 16:14. The Lord is the one who opens hearts and changes hearts!

This is a worthy subject to talk at some length with your child about: How could people get to where they feel such an animosity to the Bible, even mocking it (as Antonio’s co-workers did)? Ask your child if he knows anyone like that. What does the person who mocks the Bible need to happen in their heart?

**4** No “answer” is provided here.

**5** Here is a brief biography of Martin Luther: <http://www.biography.com/people/martin-luther-9389283#later-years>. We also highly recommend these books available from Grace and Truth Books:

- *When Lightning Struck! The Story of Martin Luther*, by Danika Cooley (for children 8 to 12)
- *What Should I Do? The True Story of Martin Luther and the Reformation*, by Catherine Mackenzie (for children ages 5 to 7)

# Chapter 2: THE WILD SOUTH WIND

## Chapter 3: THE FIRE

*It is best to read and discuss chapters 2 and 3 together; partly because chapter 2 is so brief, and also because they are really just aspects of the same incident.*

- 1 Find the town of Glarus, on a map of Switzerland or Google Earth. You are going to find a beautiful place! Have you ever seen mountains this big? The two mountains named in this chapter (Mt. Shilt and Mt. Glarnisch) are both nearly 10,000 feet in elevation! Besides Mt. Shilt and Mt. Glarnisch, there are many mountains in that region (known as The Alps) much bigger than those! Switzerland is an amazing land and enjoyable to learn and talk about; even moreso to visit!
- 2 Have you heard stories of other cities that were burned down by great fires?
- 3 Telegraphs (page 11) are certainly a thing of the past. Tell your child a bit of how this was the email or text messaging of two or three centuries ago!
- 4 For many centuries there have been volunteer fire departments, and there are even today. Does your family know a fireman? Why would men risk their lives for others, as volunteers (without pay)?
- 5 Why does the story bring up thankfulness (page 12) here? Was it sin that the villagers never thanked God for years and years of safety?
- 6 Despite failing to thank God, the citizens of Glarus did have this good trait: after the fire, in those needy, crisis days, they showed real, practical care for one another, being generous with food, shelter, construction, and helping one another rebuild. Has your family ever participated personally in disaster relief?

### *Memory Verse*

**Amos 3:6**

“Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it?” (ESV)

“Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?” (KJV)

## Answers for Chapters 2 & 3:

- 1 Just enjoy talking about Switzerland and the mountains, beholding the beauty!
- 2 Tell a little about the stories of Chicago, and Rome, for instance. You may find others. There may even be some history of terrible, destructive fires in your own city or town. Here are some links about the famous fires in Chicago and Rome:

- <http://www.history.com/topics/great-chicago-fire>
- <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/neros-rome-burns>

Talk with your children about why the strong winds worried the people so much; this always makes destruction by fire much more likely and worse. This may not make sense to a child unless they understand how strong winds can spread fire. Explain how fire in a city can move from house to house, with embers carried in the wind. I was told by someone in Mexico once that, most homes are built with concrete walls and metal roofs, instead of wood, to make fire damage less likely.

- 3 Just enjoy the discussion on this one.
- 4 Explain how the work of volunteer firemen shows love for the people of their community. You can compare this to the love found in the gospel: Romans 5:6-8 – which is, of course, a far greater love. It is this love of God in Christ which, of course, we as the readers – and Antonio in the story – will learn more about later in this story.
- 5 Yes, it is in fact unthankful to enjoy safety and protection for years, and not thank God for it. After that is understood, consider raising this topic with your children: Is God at all obliged to protect people from danger, who never worship or serve Him, or thank Him? Certainly not.
- 6 Parents: Is there an opportunity near you to get in on this kind of relief effort – to help people, after damage from a flood, fire, tornado, hurricane or some other disaster? Consider doing so! Maybe there isn't right this moment; but when the need arises, consider how you can turn that into an educational moment while being a blessing to others too!

# Chapter 4:

## FINDING THE BIBLE

- 1 A new character emerges in our story: Mario. Talk about what Mario has learned (page 14) about “the deadly error of teaching salvation by works.” What does this mean? Why is it deadly?
- 2 The word “doctrine” appears near the top of page 15. Many Christians feel an aversion to talking about doctrine. But is this the right attitude?
- 3 Giovanni loved his Bible but unfortunately, due to Catholic beliefs of those times, he was pressured to give it up. Do you love the Word of God? If you do, how will that show?
- 4 Have you ever read the Bible aloud to other people? This is a great method of evangelism. Especially when you don’t know what to say to someone or how to witness to them, you can ask them if the two of you could just read the Bible together.
- 5 How do we learn to pray by reading the Psalms? (page 19)
- 6 The writer refers to “the blessings of being hated” (page 20). Now, that’s a very unusual way to think! Nobody wants to be hated. What possible blessing could there be in being hated?

### *Memory Verse*

Ephesians 2:8-9

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (ESV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” (KJV)

## Answers for Chapter 4:

1 The author means, it is fatal to a person's soul when he trusts in works for salvation. For there is no way to know God or the path to eternal life by our good works. If there is anything the Bible is clear about, it's this!

2 See Acts 2:42: the new converts to Christ in the first church ever are described there as devoted to four things, and one of them was "devoting themselves to the Apostle's doctrine." Explain to your child that the word doctrine just means teaching. Do we crave being taught about God? Of course we should, and hopefully we do! That is what doctrine means.

3 Love for the Word of God will show, of course, first of all by:

- Reading it with interest, a genuine desire to learn what God has to say.
- A habit of meditation on it (see Psalm 1). "Meditation" means, to not quickly forget what we have read, but to turn it over in one's mind, think about it often.
- A readiness to do what the Word says (see James 1:22-26)

4 A valuable book for making the most of this idea is *One to One Bible Reading*, by Paul Helm.

5 We often prove how true Romans 8:26 is, that we do not know how to pray. Reading Psalms gives us wonderful samples of men praising and worshiping God; confessing sin to God; making their requests to Him, and more. When you fail to find words to pray in, it is often a big help to pray with one of the Psalms!

For example: When you need to confess sin to God, try using Psalm 32 or Psalm 51 in your prayer. Or, if you want to worship God and can't think of the words to say, try declaring the words of one of these Psalms: 145 through 150.

6 Help your child grasp this biblical viewpoint. In Acts 5:41, after the Apostles had been arrested and beaten for preaching about Jesus, they considered it a joyful privilege that they were given the opportunity to suffer for the name of Jesus!

Also see Matthew 5:11-12: Jesus declares that we are blessed if we are spoken against and persecuted, because it shows who we really are!

Look also at John 15:18 to see that, when the world hates us, Jesus said to remember that they hated Him also. If walking close to Him results in us being hated, so be it. We will be far happier in the long run to have His favor than the world's!