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# Introduction for Leaders

**P**athfinders from across North America are committing to memory verses, chapters and books of the Bible as part of the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). PBE is a wonderful starting point for Bible study and a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. But memorization is just the beginning.

The Pathfinder Bible Experience was developed to help Pathfinders and young people meditate and reflect on what the Bible says and how it applies to their lives. It features ideas for application to help Pathfinders use what they study and apply it to their daily experience at home, school and church.

There are two objectives for this guide: 1) Pathfinders can learn more about the passages they are studying as part of PBE, examine their lives and grow stronger spiritually; and 2) Pathfinders can use these guides to become involved in outreach by leading out in small group Bible studies with their friends and peers in Pathfinders or at school. The goal is to see young people grow spiritually both in their personal walk with Jesus and as they minister to others.

This resource has the potential to revolutionize Pathfinders' lives. Help them take advantage of it. Use it. Go beyond the reading and memorizing—go deeper. Get into the application and be ready to experience what a difference God can make in them and through them. Show Pathfinders that they don't just need to memorize Scripture—they can also live it.

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*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

—ROMANS 15:4

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## Purpose

The purpose of *The Pathfinder Bible Experience* is to promote and encourage in depth Bible study and memorization by Pathfinders, so their understanding of scripture will increase and their relationship to Christ will grow.

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*Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

— JOHN 17:17 (NKJV)

*Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophets' own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

— 2 PETER 1:20-21 (NIV)

*It is not safe for us to turn from the Holy Scriptures with only a casual reading of their sacred pages... Rein the mind up to the high task that has been set before it, and study with determined interest, that you may understand divine truth. Those who do this will be surprised to find what the mind can attain. The mind must be restrained and not allowed to wander. It should be trained to dwell upon the Scriptures and upon noble, elevating themes. Portions of Scripture, even whole chapters, may be committed to memory to be repeated when Satan comes in with his temptations.*

— ELLEN G. WHITE  
IN *MIND, CHARACTER, AND PERSONALITY*,  
VOL. 1. PAGE 95

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

— PSALMS 119:105 (NKJV)

## How to Use this Resource

King David didn't have a Bible and he never sat on a hillside reading a devotional book. He probably couldn't even read—and yet he knew God as well as anyone who ever walked the face of planet earth. In fact, most people you read about in the Bible were illiterate so they memorized large portions of scripture as they listened to it being recited by their parents and read by priests and scribes in the local synagogues and sanctuary. David learned to love the Bible through listening and memorizing it for himself. Throughout Psalms David talks about how much he loves the sanctuary and God's law—he even says he meditated on it day and night.

The most important passage of scripture in ancient Jewish culture is the Shema:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and  
with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be  
on your hearts.

Impress them on your children.

Talk about them when you sit at home

and when you walk along the road,

when you lie down and when you get up.

When Pathfinders participate in the Pathfinder Bible Experience they are following in the footsteps of the ancient Israelites and Jesus Himself. Memorizing scripture locks it in their minds where no one can take it from them, but if all they do is memorize it, it does little good—they must allow it to guide them as they walk through life every day.

This guide will help Pathfinders in this journey of understanding scripture and living it. The chapter guides are not comprehensive. They do not cover every detail of each chapter—that would take a few hundred pages. Each chapter guide chooses a few key points to help Pathfinders start thinking differently about scripture—to get beyond memorization and on to internalization.

This booklet includes guides for each chapter featured in the 2013-2014 Pathfinder Bible Experience. Once Pathfinders have finished studying a chapter, you can share the corresponding chapter guide with them. Allow Pathfinders to answer questions verbally or by writing their answers in a journal and then discussing them with the group.

May Jesus Christ Himself bless you richly as you embark on this journey to making God's Word a living and vital part of who you are.