

SU News

An inside view of
Scripture Union

What Time is It?

I recently purchased a used smart watch, in addition to other things, to help me track my activity and my heart rate. It's been some time since I've worn a watch on my wrist, and I have to admit that I like looking down to see what time it is - much better than fumbling for my phone.

The strides in technology continue to amaze me, even as I begin to take them for granted. It is still hard to believe that my watch can read a text message to me and even take dictation to respond. Talking close to the watch face, I find myself feeling a bit like "Jane" Bond.

My new watch reminds me each hour to stand up and walk around a bit. Each morning and throughout the day, I receive notifications for the Bible App, reminding me to read my subscribed reading plans. Who could have imagined, less than a generation ago, that the watch we wear or the phone we hold could prompt us to engage God's Word? What a gift this technology can be!

In this issue of SU News, we highlight some of the Bible engagement and study resources that we have made available for you through the popular Bible App, YouVersion. Our Essential Bible Series is designed to help you engage the big story of God's Word, see the key passages that point to and introduce Jesus in the Old and New Testament, and understand your role in the church as described through the book of Acts. You can read them alone or invite friends to join you in the plan. Your smart watch, if you have one, might even remind you when it's time to read each day! Of course, if you prefer print, as I do, you can always order the books themselves.

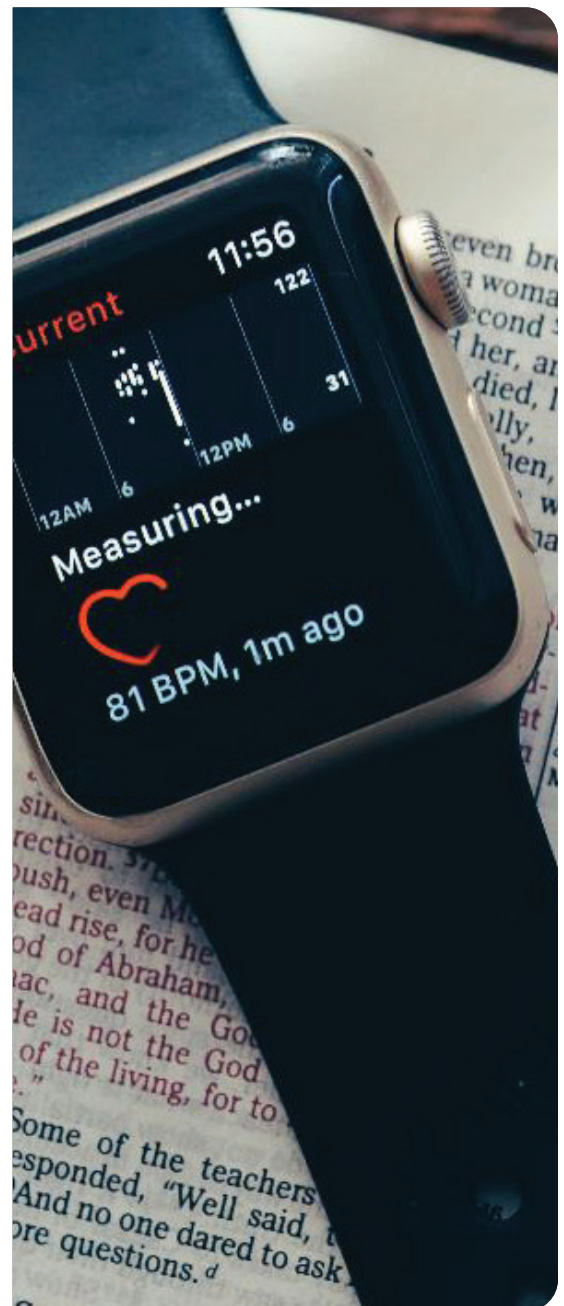
During the pandemic, we began a weekly video podcast tied to our daily Bible readings, called *Encounter with God Together*. It has been a wonderful addition to bringing our community together around the same Scripture passages. I would love it if more of you could join us!

It is always a good time to engage God's Word, and we pray that our resources are a blessing to you.



Every blessing,

Gail A. Martin, *President, Scripture Union*



YouVersion



Scripture Union's trio of Essential books are all now available on the free Bible app, **YouVersion**. This free app can be downloaded onto your tablet or smartphone, or read online at Bible.com.

Written by President Emeritus Whitney Kuniholm, the three Essential books are a must read.

Subscribe to one of the plans today!



The Essential 100, E100, helps you get an overview of the Bible... without getting bogged down. The Plan guides you through 50 Old Testament passages and 50 New Testament passages — The Essential 100 — so you can see the big picture of God's Word and form a daily Bible reading habit in the process. Each day's commentary reads like a letter from a friend. Whether you're a new or experienced Bible reader, you'll gain a fresh appreciation for the big picture of the Bible, and in the process, you'll be meeting with God every day.



The Essential Question is a fast-paced journey through the book of Acts and is broken down into 10 parts on YouVersion.

In 50 carefully selected passages from the Bible, you will discover the essential question Paul asked the Lord while he was traveling to Damascus: "What shall I do, Lord?" Have you ever asked yourself, "What difference am I making with my life?" On some level, we all struggle to find our own answer to that fundamental question.



Essential Jesus is 100 readings through the Bible's greatest stories of Jesus broken down into 10 parts on YouVersion.

Follow the storyline of salvation — "the Bible's greatest story" — in 25 Old Testament and 75 New Testament readings. It provides engaging devotional commentary, prayers, personal application questions, group discussion questions, and more for all Essential Jesus passages.

If you prefer a physical copy of any of these books, visit us online at www.ScriptureUnionResources.com and purchase one today. A member services representative can also be reached at 1-800-621-5267 to assist you with your purchase.

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel at www.youtube.com/ScriptureUnionUSA



You will find the weekly *Encounter with God* Together series with President Gail Martin as she chats weekly with special guests on the upcoming readings from our bible guides. Various webinars that we provide for our programs, as well as other content, are also posted on our channel.

2022 Summer Beach Missions

Ship Bottom CSSM

July 23 – Aug 6

16th St Ship Bottom NJ 08008

Surf City CSSM

July 30 – August 13

11th St Surf City, NJ 08008

Virginia Beach CSSM

August 7 – 12

40th St and Ocean Front
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

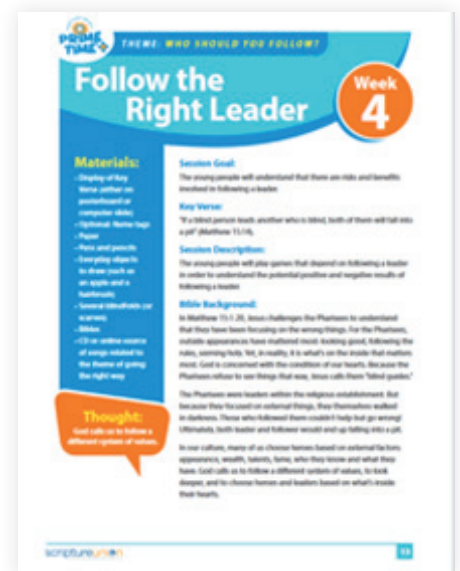


PrimeTime® Plus for Homeschool and After School Programs

PrimeTime® Plus is a program designed for use with young people between the ages of 12 and 14. It aims to help young people develop positive relationships with program leaders, learn about God, develop a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, and introduce them to a life of Christian discipleship.

Most PrimeTime® Plus programs take place one day a week for 40 weeks, corresponding to a typical school year. The curriculum includes a great deal of material that is suited to use in a homeschool or after school care setting and can be expanded for use three or five days a week. For homeschooled students, the material can be used in the home or with groups of other homeschooled students.

The curriculum includes weekly goals, Bible passages and key verses, large and small group activities and discussion, prayer time and lesson extensions/challenges. Full guidelines for use in homeschool and after school settings are available and include weekly planner templates and samples for a one, three, or five day program. You will also find a sample of the curriculum in the guidelines.



To download a free copy of the guidelines, go to www.scriptureunion.org/PrimeTime

SU Global Snapshot

Sixty years and still going strong

SU Hong Kong marked its 60th anniversary on January 12, 2022. National Director of SU Hong Kong, Matthew Wong said, "We thank God for His guidance and provision to SU Hong Kong for all these years. Today our staff join to celebrate His love and grace. We also thank God for the love and fellowship of Scripture Union friends around the world, their support means a lot to SU Hong Kong."

As they enter their 60th year, the SU Hong Kong team is launching a series of five short videos, called "Bible Mini-Classes." The five-minute videos highlight special gospel messages and, for the first time, include sign language for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Matthew explained, "It's our response to those who work with people who have disabilities worldwide. We hope God will use the videos to be a blessing to many."

SU Hong Kong operates a thriving children's and youth ministry, providing Bible reading resources which are widely used throughout the Chinese speaking world.

For more information go to www.scriptureunion.global



ABOUT HONG KONG

Population: 7,613,745

Religion: 49% Chinese Folk Religions, 21.3% Buddhist, 14.2% Taoist, 11.8% Christian and 3.7% identified with Other

Population under 15: 12%



Volunteer Spotlight

Meet Scripture Union's distinguished volunteer, **Yvonne Vitale**. Yvonne was first introduced to SU in 2007 while volunteering at her church's vacation bible school. Her church, Fort Lee Gospel in New Jersey, was using SU's SuperKids program for their VBS curriculum. In addition to being active in VBS, Yvonne also volunteers her time during the school year with SU's PrimeTime program. While the pandemic has obviously been a struggle in many ways, Yvonne expressed how it opened opportunity for SU to reach a larger audience geographically. Though some programs have gone back to in-person programming, this PrimeTime program has a core group of kids ranging in age from 7-14, living as far away as Peru, who continue to meet weekly on Zoom. Trained as an actor, Yvonne is able to engage the children through her playful antics, and reports that the children really do participate. Yvonne asserts that the SU programs have a brilliant structure, and that the curriculum bridges a vital connection to Jesus. She also loves witnessing firsthand how the programs build community.

Yvonne lives outside of New York City with her 22-year-old twin sons who are also passionate about SU. So much so that the three of them traveled to Rimlishof, France 5 years ago to volunteer at an American camp run by Scripture Union France. They taught worship songs to middle school aged children and were thrilled to witness several of them give their lives to Jesus that week.

Yvonne and her boys lend their artistic and creative talents to SU in so many ways. Whether it be live musical performances at SU events or various digital creations, Scripture Union is blessed to have them. We thank the Lord for leading us to Yvonne that day 15 years ago!



Testimonials

"I start my day with SU's EWG. I like the changes you have made, especially the Introduction to each book we study; it is quick to turn to and easy to read. I have enjoyed your publication for many years and look forward to every issue."

- RR, Flower Mound, TX

"I attended a retreat on developing small group ministry in MD back in the late 80s. There in my room was a copy of EWG. I read it those 2 days and discovered more meaning to my Bible reading! This guide has helped me grow in His grace and I thank God for bringing this into my life these 30+ years." - JS, Petoskey, MI

"Introduced to Scripture Union in 1964 at the Urbana Missionary Conference by IVCF. Have used it ever since!"

- PS, Albuquerque, NM