

# Exploring the Lesson Sections

*Teacher Tips by Editorial Staff*

*Standard Lesson Commentary* and *Standard Lesson Quarterly* aim to provide you with a critical interpretation and explanation of biblical texts in a format that is both accurate and accessible. Each lesson is designed to point you and your group toward faithful understanding and application of the Scripture text. The commentary seeks to identify the original meaning(s) according to the text's historical and literary context(s) and bring them to life. Whether you use Standard Lesson for sermon preparation, group study, or personal edification, we pray that each lesson meets you at the intersection between life and learning.

Every lesson includes an **Introduction**, **Lesson Context**, **Verse-by-Verse Commentary**, and **Conclusion**. Each section is designed with you, *the teacher*, in mind.

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## Introduction

The literary **Introduction** is designed to fuel your creative engagement with the central theme. Each Introduction provides an anecdote that helps set the theme into motion. If you connect with this illustration, feel free to use it to open your teaching! Otherwise, let it remind you of a personal or historical example of your own, and step into your inventiveness and expression as a teacher.

## Lesson Context

The **Lesson Context** is often broken into two sections: literary and historical. Use this information to set the scene for your conceptualization and group work. Let it orient you to the population, time, place, and culture to which the text was written. Some lessons require teaching a signifi-

cant amount of background information before delving into the main text. In others, you may not need to mention contextual details at all—so use this information at your discretion.

## Verse-by-Verse Commentary

The bulk of each lesson is given to **Verse-by-Verse Commentary**. Standard Lesson is committed to commenting on every portion of the assigned text. The teacher books do this by printing one verse at a time, then commenting beneath it. However, the student books follow a slightly different format. They give a complete section of printed Scripture, followed by a redacted section of commentary. Although you may read commentary directly to your class, that may be less than desirable. The curriculum aims to present you with detailed, in-depth information, enabling you to decide what are the best or most essential elements for your group to understand.

You will notice that commentary sections contain many cross references. These are meant to help you consider further research and reading, as well as to document concepts that are found throughout Scripture. They are intended for your information and need not be read aloud. It would take a long time for a class to look up each and every one of them. It is up to your discretion, as the teacher, whether a particular cross-reference is helpful to mention.

## Conclusion

Standard Lesson saves application points for the **Conclusion**. Although this section is typically concise, it is a fundamental part of the lesson. You may want to spend considerable time discussing or processing ways that your group could employ the concepts they've learned. For ideas about how to present this material in a concrete way, see the "Into Life" section on the Involvement Learning page.