



God's Word Life for all

THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF UGANDA

BIBLE WEEK 2015



**"SERVING AS STEWARDS OF
GOD'S HIDDEN TREASURES"**

English

1 Cor. 4:1-2 & Matthew 13:44



The Bible Society of Uganda Bible Week 2015

Theme: "Serving as Stewards of God's hidden treasures" 1 Peter 4:10b, Matthew 13:44

Introduction

The Bible Week is an annual event, organized by The Bible Society of Uganda (BSU) in collaboration with All Churches and Church-related organizations. This event is a climax of a year's planning that takes place in the 2nd week of Advent season, early December or sometimes beginning with late November. This year, the Bible Week shall run from **28th November to 6th December 2015**.

During this week, Churches, Organizations, and individuals are encouraged to do the following;

1. Celebrate the written Word in a special way.
2. Pray for the work of Bible Society in general.
3. Share the vision, mission and objectives of The Bible Society of Uganda.
4. Encourage and recruit more new members.
5. Collect a special offertory to support the work of The Bible Society of Uganda.
6. Send the offertory collections received on the Bible Sabbath/Sunday to The Bible Society of Uganda, Bible House in the most convenient way.
7. Ask The Bible Society of Uganda members to renew their membership.
8. Observe the Bible Sabbath on 5th December 2015 and Bible Sunday on 6th December 2015.
9. Encourage Bible reading and Scripture engagement at all levels in life.
10. Where possible arrange for distribution of Scriptures at Churches, especially where Bible week activities will be held.

The Bible Week offers a unique opportunity to Churches and individuals to support and promote the use of the Bible as a united force; it is important that all Christians participate.

The theme of the Bible Week 2015 is **"Serving as stewards of God's hidden treasures" Matthew 13:44, 1 Cor. 4:1-2**.

God honours faithfulness. He doesn't expect that we are going to be perfect, but He does desire that we be faithful to Him. Be faithful in the place God has called you and in the field where He has planted you, BLOOM!. Learn to cultivate in your life a heart that is never too busy to hear from God, or plans that are so important that God can't "interrupt them". Every day of your life is both an opportunity and a battle. The opportunity is to bring glory to God through your life. Choose to be a servant of God's hidden treasures after having set up to build and plant. Put on the whole armour of God so that you can stand against the attacks and tricks of Satan. This, then, is how you ought to regard us: "as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed." **1 Corinthians 4:1 ESV**

Kindly reflect on the song below as it will be a theme song for the Bible Week 2015. We are praying that this week will be a blessing to every Christian's life as we prepare for Jesus's return!

**Account Name: The Bible Society of Uganda, Stanbic Bank A/C 9030005660636,
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TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE



Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold;
Not a mite would I withhold.
Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Always, only, for my King.

Take my love, my God, I pour
At Thy feet it's treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee
Ever, only, all for thee



DAY ONE

CALLED TO SERVE

"Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." **Jeremiah 1.4-8 ESV**

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." **1Peter 2.9-10 ESV**

"As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled." **Mark 5.18-20 ESV**

"While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him."

Matthew 4.18-20 ESV

"Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear." **Ezekiel 3.10-11 KJV**



Prayer: *Our Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus Christ and for the great work You have call us to do. Guide us, we pray, to serve in Your vineyard. Amen!*

DAY TWO

SEEKING HIDDEN AND LOST TREASURES

"The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field. "Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl."

Matthew 13:44-45 GNT

If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. **Proverbs 2:4-7 KJV**

"But as one was cutting down a tree, the iron axe head fell into the water; and he cried out and said, "Alas, master! For it was borrowed." So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float. Therefore he said, "Pick it up for yourself." So he reached out his hand and took it." **2Kings 6:5-7 NKJV**

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" **Phillipians 3:7-10 KJV**

"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." **Colossians 2:2-3 NIV**

"And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. "

1 Chronicles 28:9 ESV



Prayer: *Almighty God as we seek hidden and lost treasures, open our minds through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to choose those that build your Kingdom from Glory to Glory Amen!*

DAY THREE

BEING A FAITHFUL STEWARD

" Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? " **Matthew 24:45 KJV**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon



him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. **Isaiah 42:1-4 NRSV**

And he said, "Hear my words: When there are prophets among you, I the LORD make myself known to them in visions; I speak to them in dreams. Not so with my servant Moses; he is entrusted with all my house. With him I speak face to face— clearly, not in riddles; and he beholds the form of the LORD. **Numbers 12:6-8 NRSV**

"He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." **Luke 16:10-13 RSV**

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Beware, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison so that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have affliction. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. **Revelation 2:10 NRSV**

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men," **Colossians 3:23 ESV**

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, holy partners in a heavenly calling, consider that Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses also "was faithful in all God's house." Yet Jesus is worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) " **Hebrews 3:1-4 NRSV**



Prayer: *Lord God, you called us to share in the vocation of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, a trustworthy steward in your house. Lead us to grow in being like Him in the way we serve to make His Gospel known and loved. Amen!*

DAY FOUR

DOING GOD'S WILL

"For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ." **Galatians 1: 10 ESV**

"But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts". **1 Thessalonians 2:4 ESV**

"You take no delight in sacrifices or offerings. Now that you have made me listen, I finally understand - you don't require burnt offerings or sin offerings. Then I said, "Look, I have come. As is written about me in the Scriptures: I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart. " **Psalms 40:7-8 NLT**

"You shall be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess. " **Deut 5:32-33 ESV**

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing



what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." **Romans 12:1-2 GNT**

Prayer: *Our Father in heaven may Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen*



DAY FIVE

USING GOD'S GIFTS TO BECOME GOOD STEWARDS

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen." **1 Peter 4:10-11 NLT**

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 NLT

Prayer: *Dear God, Most merciful, we thank you for the unspeakable gifts that you endowed upon us your beloved servants. Empower us we pray, that we may use them as stewards of Your Word, to build your Kingdom, through the mighty name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.*



DAY SIX

WHERE TO STORE THE TREASURE

"So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory." **Colossians 3:1-4 NRSV**

"Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." **Luke 12:33-34 ESV**

"As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." **1 Timothy 6:17-19 NRSV**

"Receive instruction from his mouth, and lay up his words in your heart. If you return to the Almighty, you will be restored, if you remove unrighteousness from your tents, if you treat gold like dust, and



gold of Ophir like the stones of the torrent-bed, and if the Almighty is your gold and your precious silver, then you will delight yourself in the Almighty, and lift up your face to God.”

Job 22:22-26 NRSV

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God” **Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NKJV**

“I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” **Psalms 119:111 NLT**



Prayer: Almighty Father lead us to set our minds on the things of your Kingdom above all else and to find fulfillment and joy in loving You and our neighbors.
Amen.

DAY SEVEN

CHALLENGES WHILE SERVING AS STEWARDS

And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

Luke 17:1-4 (ESV)

Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name’s sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it therefore in your minds not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. 17 You will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. **Luke 21:10-19 (ESV)**

saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.” **Luke 22:42-46 (ESV)**

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.” **Daniel 3:16-18 RSV**



"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come," **Romans 8:35-38 NKJV**
 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. **John 16:33 KJV**



Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, we thank You for the victory you won for us through your Son dying on the cross. Uphold our faith so that it doesn't wither during challenges as we serve as stewards of Your hidden treasures. **Amen.**

DAY EIGHT

THE REWARD OF A FAITHFUL SERVANT

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it..... If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward But if your work is burnt up, then you will lose it; but you yourself will be saved, as if you had escaped through the fire.

1 Corinthians 3:10 & 14 GNT

God is not unfair. He will not forget the work you did or the love you showed for him in the help you gave and are still giving to other Christians. Our great desire is that each of you keep up your eagerness to the end, so that the things you hope for will come true. We do not want you to become lazy, but to be like those who believe and are patient, and so receive what God has promised. **Hebrews 6:10-12 GNT**

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." **1 Corinthians 15:58 KJV**

"After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." **Genesis 15:1 NKJV**

"The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. " **2 Samuel 22:21 NKJV**

"If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you." **Proverbs 25:21-22 RSV**

" I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." **2 Timothy 4:7-8 ESV**

"His Lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.' **Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)**



Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for blessing my life in all circumstances, I pray that You make me a good and faithful servant that my life will not remain the same. Transform me as I wait for the great reward that You will come with to pick your own. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour I pray. **Amen.**