

HYMNS, OUR CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

LESSON 16 Upper Level – Give Me the Bible

PACING: 1 day

ESSENTIAL QUESTION, BIG IDEA, and STANDARDS: See Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.

CONCEPT: Christian hymns are a cherished and valuable legacy, expressing the emotions and experiences of God's people through many centuries.

OBJECTIVES: Learn the text and tune of an important hymn of faith. Interpret the spiritual meaning of the hymn. Understand and communicate important facts about the life of the author of the words and/or the composer of the music.

VOCABULARY: hymn, hymn writer, hymnal, text, tune, composer, verse, stanza

RESOURCES: Links to performances of the hymn "Give Me the Bible"

- ✓ Church group, *a cappella*, simple four-part arrangement from hymnal (1:53), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mr6lVHzq0q0>
 - ✓ Piano only, simple, lyrics included (2:50), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0-m5Q5CDrk>
 - ✓ Fountainview Academy, three teen girls singing, piano accompaniment, outdoor scene (2:43), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7sxEy9zQ7A0>
 - ✓ Fountainview Academy, mixed teen choir, outdoor scene (3:12), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXtkd5RZ9ck>
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ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Either give each student a printed copy of the hymn, display the hymn for the class electronically or have the students find the hymn "Give Me the Bible" (#272) in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*.
- ✓ Read the words through together. Discuss what the words mean. Review the meaning of specific words and phrases to clarify the students' understanding: *star of gladness gleaming, holy message shining, narrow way, precept, promise, law and love combining, faith's lamp, realms below, lamp of safety, path of peace*.
- ✓ Play a recording of the hymn for the students. (See links above)
- ✓ Use discussion questions found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ Sing the hymn together. Discuss its form, melody and rhythm. Note how many *verses* or *stanzas* it has. Does it have a Refrain?
- ✓ Read or tell the story of Priscilla Jane Owens who wrote the words of this hymn, using the biographical sketch found in this lesson.
- ✓ We don't know very much about the lady who wrote this hymn. So why would we take the time to learn this hymn if it doesn't have a "story"? What value do hymns—or any religious songs—have to our everyday life? What are some of the ways that a simple hymn can affect us? (A research project into "music" in the Ellen White writings may be done at this time.)
- ✓ Research what was going on in the United States during the lifetime of Priscilla Owen. What major events did she live through? Although she lived in Baltimore, Maryland, her whole life, do you think these events affected her?
- ✓ Do you know anyone who has lived in the same city or town and worked at the same job for nearly 50 years? If there is opportunity, ask that person if they would have liked to have traveled or lived in another place. Why didn't they? What are the advantages of living in the same place your whole life? What are the disadvantages?
- ✓ Review the story by completing the Lesson 16 Review.
- ✓ Sing the hymn, focusing on its expressive qualities and memorization of at least the first stanza.

- ✓ Choose a venue to perform the hymn. If no opportunity is found for a performance at the school, church or other community event, consider videotaping a performance for future use.
- ✓ Create posters for a bulletin board display featuring aspects of the hymn story or the words of the hymn in a calligraphic style with hand-drawn illustrations.
- ✓ Use activities found in the Introduction to *Hymns, Our Christian Heritage*.
- ✓ EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:
 - Create a choral reading of the hymn.
 - Create a special arrangement of the hymn, utilizing vocal or instrumental solos or ensembles, etc.
 - Create a skit telling the story of the hymn writer or the circumstances under which the hymn was written. This may be presented to the younger students in a worship or at Sabbath School or church.

ASSESSMENT:

There is a Lesson 16 UL Review included. Also, any of the following assessments may be used: teacher observation, discussion, performance, teacher-created worksheets.

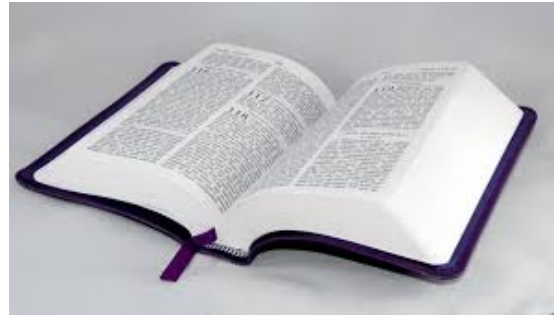
ANSWER KEY: (6 points) "Give Me the Bible"

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. False

Give Me the Bible

Priscilla Jane Owens (1829-1907)

We have no picture of Priscilla Jane Owens, a woman of Scotch and Welsh descent, who grew up during the pre-Civil War Era. She lived in Baltimore, Maryland, her whole life and was a member of the Union Square Methodist Church.



Priscilla taught in public school and Sunday School for nearly 50 years. Knowing those two important details about her life can give us a peek into what she may have been like.

1. She must have enjoyed teaching and been very dedicated to her students to teach for that many years!
2. Her long teaching career not only involved teaching her students the three R's: Readin', 'Ritin', and 'Rithmetic, but also about Jesus and the Bible.

What other things might we “learn” about her from those few facts we are given? Do you think she was a patient person? Do you think she had a good sense of humor?

Throughout her life, Priscilla Owens wrote stories and poems for the children she worked with and for various religious publications. Besides “Give Me the Bible” (#272) she is also known for her hymns “Jesus Saves” (#340) and “Will Your Anchor Hold?” (#534) Why not try singing all three of her hymns right now!

Student Name:

Hymns, Our Christian Heritage Lesson 16 UL - Review

Score:

6

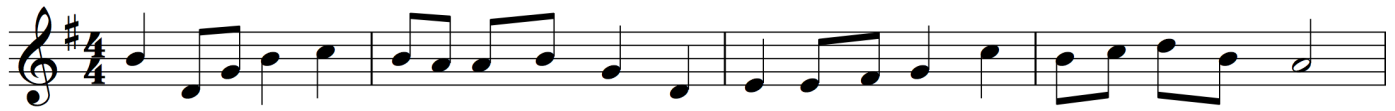
“Give Me the Bible” Priscilla Owens

1. What was going on in the United States when Priscilla Owens was a young woman?
 - a. The Revolutionary War
 - b. The War Between the States
 - c. The Korean War
2. In what city did Priscilla spend her whole life?
 - a. Philadelphia
 - b. Washington, D. C.
 - c. Baltimore
3. What church did she belong to?
 - a. Methodist
 - b. Seventh-day Adventist
 - c. Baptist
4. What was the focus of her life for nearly 50 years?
 - a. Nursing
 - b. Teaching
 - c. Writing
5. Who did Priscilla Owens write for?
 - a. The children she taught
 - b. Foreign missionaries
 - c. Local newspapers
6. True or False. Priscilla Owens is known for only one hymn, “Give Me the Bible.”

Give Me the Bible

Priscilla Jane Owens

E. S. Lorenz



Give me the Bi - ble, star of glad-ness gleam-ing, To cheer the wan-derer lone and tem-pest tossed,



No storm can hide that peace-ful ra-diance beam-ing, Since Je-sus came to seek and save the lost.



Give me the Bi - ble, ho-ly mes-sage shin-ing, Thy light shall guide me in the nar-row way.



Pre-cept and prom-ise, law and love com-bin-ing, 'Till night shall van-ish in e-ter-nal day.

2. Give me the Bible when my heart is broken,
When sin and grief have filled my soul with fear;
Give me the precious words by Jesus spoken,
Hold up faith's lamp to show my Savior near.
REFRAIN

3. Give me the Bible, all my steps enlighten,
Teach me the danger of these realms below;
That lamp of safety, o'er the gloom shall brighten.
That light alone the path of peace can show.
REFRAIN