

29th March

Memory verse:

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:

I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalm 32:8.

Younger ones can learn the words in bold. Very tiny ones could learn “I will guide thee” and understand that God is speaking, and that “thee” is like “you”.

Something to read aloud

This is such a long lesson that it will carry over to another day!¹ Tomorrow we will carry on with the tale!

Peter Heywood was sixteen years old, a **midshipman** on HMS *Bounty*. On **March 29th** 1789, the ship was in Matarai Bay, Tahiti, in the South Seas, and Peter was busy with the rest of the crew loading her up with a cargo of young bread-fruit trees.

For five months the *Bounty* had been at anchor in this beautiful island but now the time had come to leave. When all the plants had been safely stowed and after the friendly island people had piled her decks with presents of coconuts and fruits, the ship's commander, Lieutenant William Bligh gave the order to set sail.



A stern and ill-tempered man, Captain Bligh was hated by the men and by several of his officers, and when the ship was 300 miles out of Tahiti, **mutiny** broke out.

Led by Fletcher Christian, the officer of the watch, the mutineers seized and bound the captain. With eighteen officers and men who remained loyal he was set adrift in the ship's launch. After a terrible voyage of over 3,000 miles, during which they nearly all died of hunger and thirst, Bligh brought the launch to Timor in the Dutch East Indies.

When the mutiny occurred, Peter Heywood was asleep below deck. In a letter to his mother he wrote:

“The morning the ship was taken, it being my **watch** below, happening to awake just after daylight, and looking out of my hammock, I saw a man sitting upon the arms chest in the main **hatchway** with a drawn **cutlass** in his hand, the reason for which I could not divine [understand]. He told me that Mr Christian, assisted by some of the ship's company, had taken the command of the ship and meant to carry Bligh home a prisoner, in order to try him by **court martial**, for his long tyrannical and oppressive conduct to his people.”

However, when Peter enquired further he heard that the captain was to be put in the ship's boat and set adrift. Young and inexperienced as he was, Peter did not know what to do for the best. He had almost decided to stay on board when another midshipman told him that such an action would label him a mutineer.

Together, they were preparing to leave and join their captain, when the mutineers placed them under close arrest, holding them prisoners until the launch was far **astern**.

The *Bounty* returned to Tahiti where Peter and fourteen other members of her crew stayed, living with the people of the island. When another British ship arrived after nearly two years, Peter was arrested and taken back to England to be tried as a mutineer.

¹ See the lesson for March 30th.

He was sentenced to death but later gained a free pardon and after thirty years in the Royal Navy he reached the rank of senior captain before he retired.

Something to do

I have highlighted all the difficult nautical words for you to find out the meanings. Did you know that “Lieutenant” is pronounced “left tenant”?

Something to think about

Poor Peter! What do you think he should have done when he “did not know what to do for the best”?

In the Bible we read a promise that God gives to his people: *I will guide thee with mine eye.* Psalm 32:8. If we are God's children we can rely on this promise. If we pray to Him and read His word when we “do not know what to do for the best” he will guide us.

Why did Captain Bligh want baby breadfruit trees? I'm afraid the answer is not a very pleasant one. Breadfruit had only recently been discovered. The tree produce lots of very nutritious (but, I'm told, not very tasty) fruit. The idea was to take the plants to the West Indies where they would be used as a cheap source of food – for the slaves who worked on the sugar plantations.



Something to do for younger ones

Sailing toy boats in a bowl of water is good fun. If you have a garden you can do this in a bowl outside. If you don't you will have to use the kitchen sink or the bath and be careful not to make too much mess! You can make paper boats if you do not have any toy boats of your own.² If you have a big enough bowl you can *gently* blow your boats about – maybe even have a race. If you make paper boats they will float but you have to be careful that they don't get waterlogged!

Something to do for older ones

The Optional Resources today has a picture which can be printed out if you have access to a printer and instructions for colouring with water colour paints. Any child's box of paints will do although a good brush is handy if you have one. If you can't print the picture but would like to draw your own boat or copy the picture freehand you can still follow the instructions for water colouring.

Map Work

Find **Tahiti** on a map or globe. Find **Timor**. Now you can see how far the Captain and his men had to sail in their open boat. Find the **West Indies**. How far are they from Tahiti?

Next Week...

You know what happened to Peter. You know what happened to Captain Bligh. What about Fletcher Christian and the mutineers? We will find out what happened to *them* in the lesson for 30th March!

A picture to look at

On the next page is a picture that is famous all over Norway. Look at it closely. Can you guess what is going on? What type of people can you see in the picture? Look carefully at their expressions and attitudes.

² If you are not sure how to make paper boats instructions are here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wu5oKy4m5s>



On **29th March** 1824 friends gathered by the bedside of a dying man. “O Thou eternal, loving God!” they heard him say as he passed into eternal light. The man was Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771 – 1824) and it is he that you see in the picture standing on an old table preaching.

Hauge came from a poor farming family. As a young man he became dissatisfied with the lifeless Christianity that he saw around him. He read Christian books but they only made him fearful of hell for he knew that he did not really know the Saviour. In his despair he knelt down in the fields near his farm to cry out to God and his prayer was answered. Assurance of his salvation came to him in the words of a Norwegian hymn “Jesus, I Long for Thy Blessed Communion.”

Nothing else mattered to Hauge now except his dear Saviour and soon he began to preach the gospel high and low to the peasants around him, as you see him doing in the picture. The Lutheran church of Norway was at a very low ebb and little if any gospel teaching was to be found there. People stopped going to church as a result. But they listened to Hauge and God made him the means of a great revival all over Norway. However, what he was doing was against the law. The Norwegian Conventicle Act made it an offence to hold meetings without an ordained minister present. Hauge was tried and imprisoned. As soon as he was released he started preaching again. Of course he was sent to prison again and again. Once he spent ten years locked up.

As a preacher he travelled thousands of miles. He earned his own living by knitting mittens and socks to pay for board and lodging. He gave the new converts help and advice that enabled them to prosper better too by working hard in industry and business. The women he also commended, understanding that their role as housekeepers and home makers was essential to family prosperity. In fact, it is no exaggeration that the gospel he preached had a transforming effect on Norwegian society.

When Hauge died his bodily health had been broken by long imprisonment. But his Saviour had been with him through it all and as he died his face was shining.