

Intermediate Bible Teacher ✝

For Teachers of Teens
Ages 12 Through 14



September
October
November

FALL
2023

Intermediate Bible Teacher⁺

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2023

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Dear Intermediate Teacher,

Welcome to *Intermediate Bible Teacher*⁺! As witnesses for Christ in a changing world, we have to think creatively about how we minister, while still holding firmly to the Word of Truth. Our Plus Series contains the same robust Bible lessons and background information that you love, but they have been carefully crafted to help you excite your students to learn God's Word.

Here are a few old favorites reimaged:

- The **Big Idea** is the main point of the lesson (replacing the Purpose).
 - **Prepare Your Mind** and **Prepare Your Heart** will prepare you to teach with background information and a short devotional (replacing Preparing to Teach the Lesson).
 - The **Conversation Starter** helps you kick off your class and get your students invested in the lesson (replacing Presenting the Lesson).
 - **Discussion Questions** help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally throughout the lesson (replacing Research and Discussion). These questions appear in both the class and teacher books.
-

Purpose



Big Idea: God wants us to remember His blessings.

PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON



Prepare Your Mind

Prepare Your Heart

Presenting the Lesson



Conversation Starter

RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION



Discussion Questions

Please note: In an effort to provide more flexible material and encourage teachers to model Bible reading for their students, we have chosen to leave the Scripture block out of these lessons.

Here are some new features:

- **Introductory pages** for each unit will point toward the quarter's major themes.
- **Supplies and Prepare the Room** give teachers all the practical information they need to prepare for class time.
- **Teacher Tips** in the lesson will give you quick tips on how to involve your students or deal with difficult subject matter.
- **Just Curious** prepares you to respond to questions students might ask about the lesson.
- **Prop Prompt** symbols notify you when to use a prop listed in the supply list at the beginning of the lesson. All props and supplies are in **bold** the first time they appear.
- **Action** symbols help you see opportunities to invite your class to take part in the lesson.
- **What If?** helps intermediates imagine how the Bible lesson might be applied to a hypothetical scenario that could occur in their everyday lives.
- **Explaining the memory Verse** explains the Scripture in language familiar to intermediates.
- The **Activity** helps juniors get their energy out while thinking about the lesson.
- **The Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears intermediate students might have about God and His Word from a biblical worldview.
- **Next Steps** help your students apply the lesson to their lives.
- **Prayer Points** give teachers some prompts for ways to pray for the students.
- The **Christ Focus** encourages thought about how the Scripture passage and lesson point to our loving Savior.
- **Bonus activity pages** for your students will be included each quarter as supplements in the back of this book.

KEY:

Teacher Tips



Just Curious



Prop Prompts



Actions

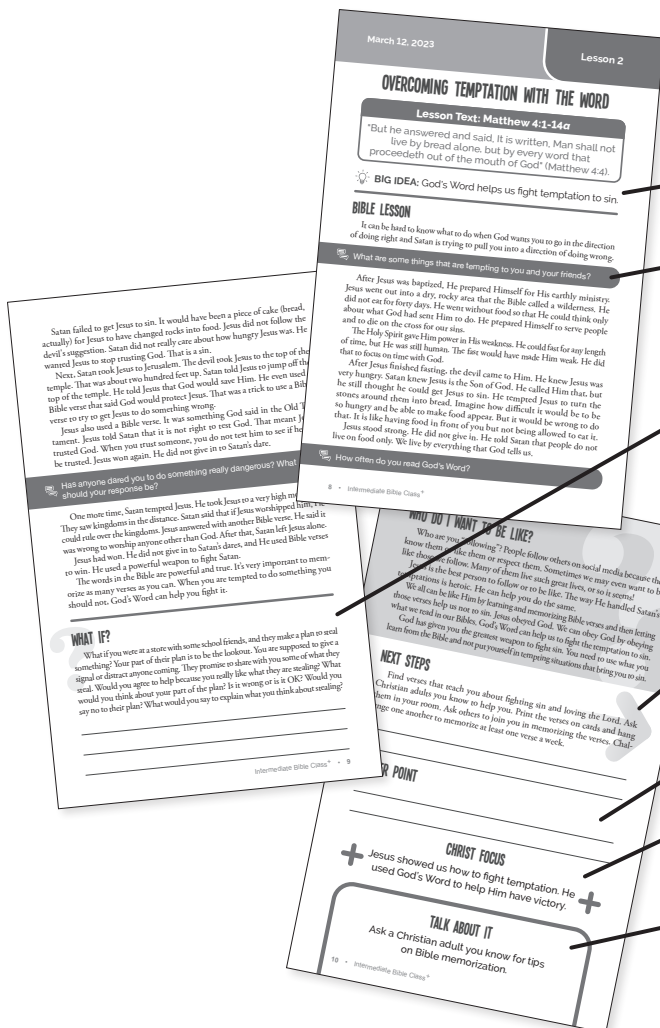


Discussion Questions



Here's a peek at the new *Intermediate Bible Class*™:

- The **Big Idea** helps the student focus on the main point of the lesson.
- **Discussion Questions** are interjected within the Bible lesson to help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally.
- **What If?** helps intermediates imagine how the Bible lesson might be applied to a hypothetical scenario that could occur in their everyday lives.
- The **Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears intermediate students might have about God and His Word from a biblical worldview.
- **Next Steps** help your students apply the lesson to their lives with room to make notes for an action plan.
- The **Prayer Point** encourages committing to pray for something in the coming week.
- The **Christ Focus** encourages thought about how the Scripture passage and lesson point to our loving Savior.
- **Talk About It** prompts students to engage Christian adults in their lives in conversation about God's Word.



UNIT I:

Obedience and Success

Lesson 1: Joshua 1:1-6; 11:16-19, 21-23

Be Strong and Courageous

Lesson 2: Joshua 2:3-9, 15-16, 22-24

Rahab and the Spies

Lesson 3: Joshua 6:2-4, 12-20a

The Fall of Jericho

Lesson 4: Judges 3:15-25, 29-30

Ehud Frees Israel

James 1:22 says to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only.” Intermediates may not fully grasp the importance of obedience to God and His Word. Help them see that God wants to bless them by giving salvation, watching over them, and taking care of their needs. This unit, they will learn how Joshua obeyed God by following Moses in leadership, how Rahab was willing to hide spies sent by Joshua (God uses those who are obedient, no matter what they have done in the past), and how Ehud and Gideon were used to free Israel from their enemies. Obedience brings success!



Be Strong and Courageous

Lesson Text: Joshua 1:1-6; 11:16-19, 21-23

“Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses (Joshua 11:23).”



Big Idea: God is with us and gives us courage when we trust Him to keep His promises.

Prepare Your Mind

The phrase “be strong and courageous” is mentioned three times by God to Joshua—all in the space of one chapter. But Joshua was no coward. Previously, he was one of the spies sent into Canaan to scout the land for Moses, and his report was filled with optimism and bravado. He was then mentored under Moses’ leadership for decades, so he was no slouch.

Yet the task set before him in leading the Israelites into Canaan was so monumental, so terrifying, that God told him over and over that he needed strength and courage to succeed. Joshua wasn’t expected to muster such bravery in his own strength, of course; he was to lean into God. “I will never leave you nor forsake you” is His glorious promise that we cling to even today. And then, Joshua’s great victory was the result of his obedience to the Lord (Josh. 11:23).



Supplies

- dark sunglasses
- hat
- overcoat
- wig (optional)
- fake mustache (optional)

Prepare Your Heart

Under the leadership of Joshua and his obedience to God, the promise made to Moses came into fruition when they entered Canaan. The Israelite people were able to see God’s power, presence, and provision at work. Obedience to God is an important aspect of our faith whether we are children or adults! It challenges us in our daily decisions and causes us to consider how being obedient to God and His Word requires the bravery and courage only He can give. The story of Joshua may be familiar to some children in your class, but bear in mind it could be completely new to others. They will need a little background—some context to help them make sense of this particular segment of the story. And then they can dig into the beautiful truths of God’s promises to us, knowing we can be strong and courageous because He is with us always.



Prepare the Room

Put on **wig, mustache, hat, sunglasses, and overcoat** to greet students in disguise. Ensure there is adequate space to play Mimic or Miss My Moves later on.



Conversation Starter

Have you ever dreamed of being a spy?
In many stories, spies have been smart, brave characters and *really, really cool!*
Can you name any famous spies?

Bible Lesson 🕒 10-15 min



Spying might seem cool, but it's also dangerous, taking a great deal of courage. In today's lesson, we are learning about Joshua, who had been chosen by Moses to be an actual spy. He was sent to scout out a new land that God had promised to His people, the Israelites. Moses needed to know what to expect there, and he trusted Joshua and a few others to take on this risky task without getting caught. Joshua was a brave guy—he did the job, and he came back with good reports about the land. (👉 Take off spy disguise.)

Now we pick up the story after Moses died. Joshua was chosen by God to be the new leader of the Israelite people. Because of his spying mission years before, we know he was courageous, and we know that God had a plan for his life. The plan now was to lead the Israelite people into the Promised Land, called Canaan, and to defeat all their enemies in the process.

It was a huge mission. But with God, it was not impossible—because nothing is impossible for our God! However, there was one thing that was hugely important. Joshua had to *obey* God—not just a little bit but completely.

God knows all things—He even knows what we are thinking and what we are scared of. 🗨️ He knew Joshua would be nervous, needing reassurance that everything would be fine. Sometimes we all need a few words of encouragement, don't we? The Bible is full of encouragement for us, and God had some wonderful words of encouragement for Joshua.

God told Joshua that he needed to be strong and courageous. The wording varies slightly, but you can find this exhortation from God several times in Joshua 1:6-9.



There is a really neat word that describes God very well, and it means "all-knowing." The word is: "omniscient" (write on board) and sounds like this: "om-NISH-ent."

🗨️ Can you think of a time when you needed to be strong and courageous?

The good news for Joshua was that he didn't have to rely on his own strength and his own courage, because God was going to be with him. In fact, God came right out and promised, "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (vs. 5).

Just as God promised to be with Joshua all those years ago, He also promises to be with you and me today—right this minute. This week, when we're hanging out with friends, attending school, or playing sports, or sitting at home, He promises to never leave us—ever.

🗨️ Do you think God always keeps His promises? Why?

God is perfect and holy—He always keeps His word. Joshua trusted that God would keep His promise. And therefore, he put his faith into actions. He raised his sword and led the people into battle and into the Promised Land. Joshua knew they could defeat their enemies because God was with them.

The Bible tells us God kept His promise to Joshua. Joshua took all the land. The Bible gives an extensive summary of the regions that came under his control (see 11:16-17). It was not quick and easy. Verse 18 tells us it was a long war, requiring a lot of fighting and perseverance. Nevertheless, Joshua and his people prevailed because they trusted God's promise.

Verses 21 and 22 relate what happened to the Anakim who lived in the hills. After Joshua was through, none of them were left, except a few in the coastal plain cities of Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod. 🗨️ Why is this significant? In Numbers 13:33, we read that it was the Anakim ("sons of Anak") who had frightened the spies (except Joshua and Caleb) on the earlier mission because they were such fearsome giants. But they were no match for God.

Our memory verse wraps up with the statement that Joshua captured all the Promised Land for the Israelite people. He really trusted in the Lord. Joshua was obedient to God because God *always* keeps His promises.

Jesus talked about obedience too. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus told His disciples they were to teach people everywhere to obey His words. This applies to us today. He wants us to obey Him because He loves us and wants the very best for us. He longs for us to trust Him with every area of our lives—things that scare us, things that worry us, things that interest us, and things that bring us joy. 🗨️



The giant Goliath was from Gath (1 Sam. 17:4). So very likely he was one of the last surviving Anakim in the land.



Right after Jesus told His disciples to teach others to obey Him, He promised that He would be with them (and us) always—just as God told Joshua years before!

What If?

What if you sense that God is asking you to share the gospel with a certain person at your school who is known for causing trouble? Your problem is that you tried to do that a while back, and it did not go well. In fact, it was a total failure. So why would you want to try it again? How could it go any differently? Yet many Christians have testified that it was the faithful persistence of friends who helped bring them to faith. You sense God saying, “I will be with you.” What will you do?

Explaining the Memory Verse

Because Joshua was courageous and completely obedient to God, he was successful and victorious in his battles, and the people were able to enter the beautiful land that God had promised them.



Activity: Mimic or Miss My Moves ⌚ 5–10 min

To reinforce how Joshua was obedient to God, play the Mimic or Miss My Moves game. Break the class into groups of two. Choose one student to be the leader. Facing the class, the leader must carry out a sequence of various actions (the leader can pick silly actions or more serious ones) and see if each group can copy them all in the correct sequence. The leader should watch to see what group misses a move and then nominate someone from it to be the next leader. Encourage the class to have fun while mimicking actions!

Big Question: Why does God ask us to do brave things?

Wouldn't it be easier if life were simple and we never had to be courageous? Perhaps—although it would be rather boring! It would also mean that we would never get to rely on God and trust Him in big ways. God asks us to do brave things, just as He asked Joshua. But remember, God doesn't expect us to do brave things alone. He

promises to be with us and says He will never, ever leave us. Jesus also tells us in Matthew 28:20 that He is with us always. Today our world needs more strong and courageous followers of Jesus. Are we ready to be strong and courageous for Him?

Next Steps

God keeps all His promises because He is perfect and holy. He is God! Get together with a friend or grown-up, and find three promises that God makes in the Bible. You will see how He always keeps His promises. And then be strong and courageous, knowing God is with you!

Prayer Points

- Thank God that He will never leave us—He promises to be with us. •
 - Ask God to give us the strength and courage we need to follow Him daily. •
 - Ask Jesus to help us be obedient to what He wants us to do and say. •
-

Christ Focus

Jesus asks us to be obedient to Him because He loves us!