

Intermediate Bible Teacher ✕

For Teachers of Teens
Ages 12 Through 14



WINTER | December
2023-24 | January
February

Intermediate Bible Teacher +

WINTER QUARTER

December 2023, January, February 2024

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ISBN 978-1-64495-474-4

Price: \$4.89 per quarter*

**shipping and handling extra*

Edited and published quarterly by
THE INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF THE GOSPEL WORKER SOCIETY
UNION GOSPEL PRESS DIVISION
 Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

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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 reimagined:

- 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: After prayer and careful consideration, we are reinstating the Scripture Lesson Text blocks in the following publications beginning with Summer Quarter 2024: *Beginner Bible Teacher+*, *Primary Bible Teacher+*, *Junior Bible Teacher+*, *Junior Bible Class+*, *Intermediate Bible Teacher+*, and *Intermediate Bible Class+*. Our customers' satisfaction is very important to us. If you would like a supplement of the Scripture blocks for the above publications for Summer Quarter 2023 through Spring Quarter 2024, you can download them from our website at www.uniongospelpress.com, email customerservice@uniongospelpress.com, or call 1-800-638-9988.

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** helps 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

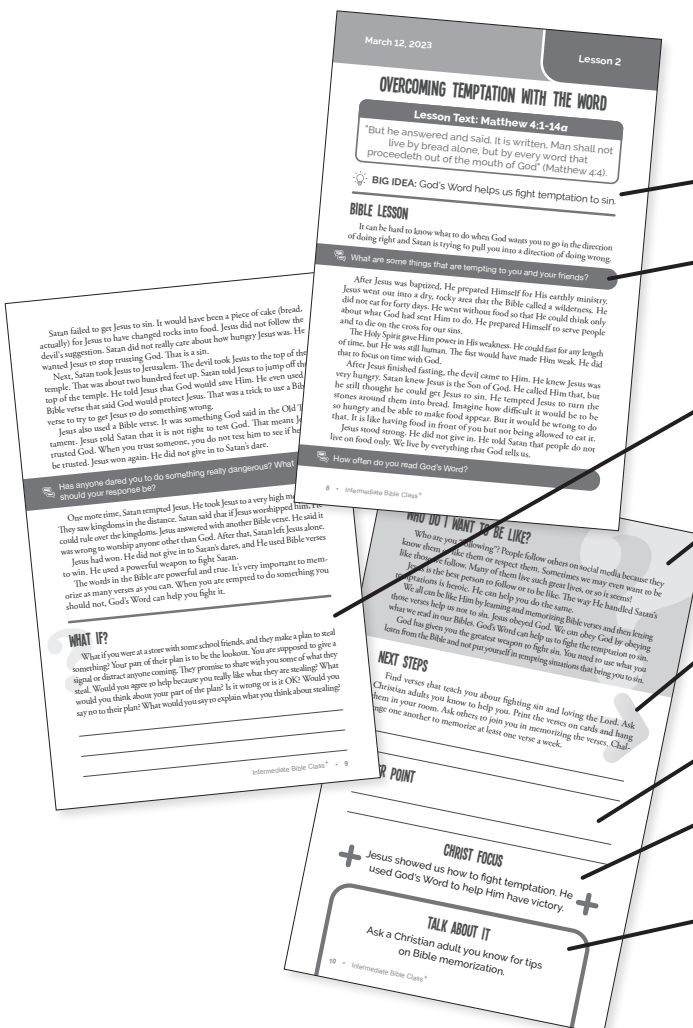


Discussion Questions



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** helps your students apply the lesson to their lives with room to make notes for an action plan.
- The **Prayer Point** encourages students to commit 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 life in conversation about God's Word.



UNIT I:

New Life in Christ

Lesson 1: Philippians 1:12-26

To Live Is Christ

Lesson 2: Philippians 3:7-21

Counting All Things Loss

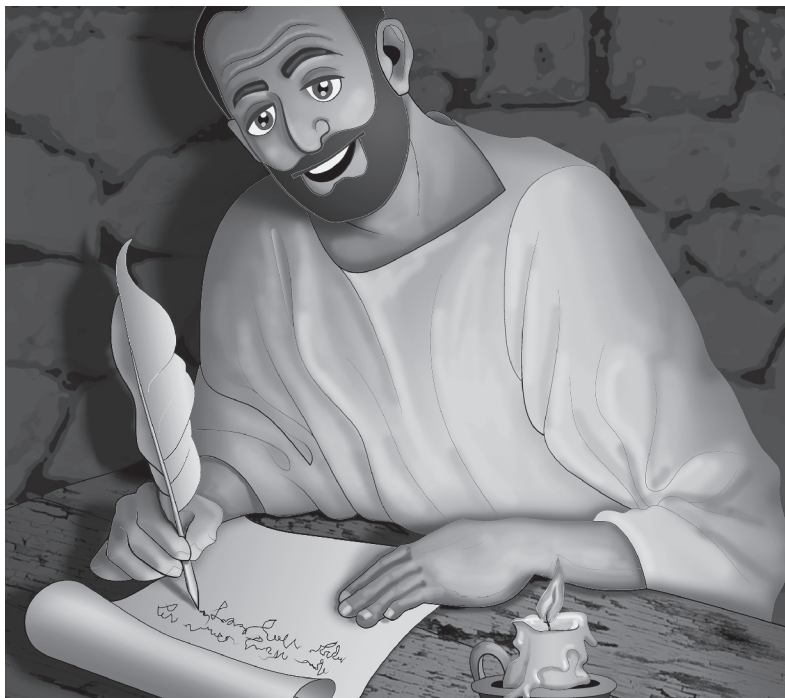
Lesson 3: Philippians 4:4-18

Learning Contentment

Lesson 4: John 1:1-5; Ephesians 5:1-2, 6-14

The Light of Christmas (Christmas)

When Christmas comes around, we tend to be more considerate, conscientious, and caring. Your students look forward to Christmas break to spend time with friends and family and away from the school books. Help your students focus on the reason Jesus came—to bring us new life. Take every opportunity to show them the light of Christ that was introduced to the world that day He was born to save us. Pray for your students to be responsive to the gospel. Creatively and clearly explain the whole gospel of Jesus. Show them how to know and live for Him.



To Live Is Christ

Lesson Text: Philippians 1:12-26

“In nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death (Philippians 1:20).”



Big Idea: Living for Jesus should be our number one aim our whole life.

Prepare Your Mind

Paul was imprisoned in Rome around A.D. 60-61. This would have placed him in Rome while Nero was emperor, and Nero was infamous for his persecution of Christians, especially after a terrible fire destroyed much of Rome in A.D. 64. Nero blamed the fire on Christians. However, Nero may have deliberately torched the city himself and simply used Christians as a scapegoat. Christian tradition holds that both Peter and Paul were killed after this fire. Many historians believe that Nero had Paul put to death a few years after Paul had written the epistle known as the book of Philippians. Early church tradition also holds that Nero crucified Peter upside down but beheaded Paul since he was a Roman citizen. God prepared Paul to die for the sake of Christ, which becomes evident in this week's lesson as Paul expressed his desire to be with Christ while also longing to continue in his ministry to God's people.

Prepare Your Heart

The circumstances in Paul's life were dire, but his attitude was filled with unbounding optimism. Some people were trying to stir up trouble for him while he was in chains, but Paul chose to look at the bigger picture. He saw that Christ was being preached even though some people had false motives. When faced with difficulties, you might ask yourself, "What good can come out of this painful situation?" Remember, God often turns problems into opportunities that can be used for His glory (Rom. 8:28). For example, our salvation was accomplished through Jesus' death on the cross. God used His Son's suffering to bring us the gift of eternal life. When faced with chains and an uncertain future, Paul chose to rejoice and trust in the Lord. His example in the face of hardship is an encouragement for us to continue rejoicing and to keep trusting the Lord through our struggles.

Supplies

- whiteboard or chalkboard
- dry erase markers or chalk



Conversation Starter

An endless supply of pizza or an endless supply of your favorite dessert— which would you choose?

Making a choice like that might seem difficult, but you would probably be happy with either one.