

Intermediate Bible Class +

For Teens Ages 12 Through 14



FALL
2023

September
October
November

Intermediate Bible Class⁺

FALL QUARTER

September , October , November 2023

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Dear students,

Welcome to our new *Intermediate Bible Class*⁺! We hope it helps you get excited about learning and applying God's Word!

Here are some of the new features:

- The **Big Idea** highlights the main point of the lesson.
- **Discussion Questions** are within the lesson to help you interact with the topic.
- **What If?** helps you imagine how the Bible lesson might be applied to a hypothetical scenario that could occur in your everyday life.
- The **Big Question** addresses some doubts, fears, or concerns you may have about God, His Word, or life in general.
- **Next Steps** give you ways to be doing what the lesson is teaching throughout the week.
- The **Prayer Point** encourages you to commit to praying for something in the coming week.
- **Christ Focus** shows how every lesson points to Jesus.
- **Talk About It** gives you ideas on things to discuss with trusted adult Christians in your life.

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION WITH THE WORD

Lesson Text: Matthew 4:1-14a

"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

BIG IDEA: God's Word helps us fight temptation to sin.

BIBLE LESSON

It can be hard to know what to do when God wants you to go in the direction of doing right and Satan is trying to pull you into a direction of doing wrong.

Q What are some things that are tempting to you and your friends?

After Jesus was baptized, He prepared Himself for His earthly ministry. Jesus went out into a dry, rocky area that the Bible called a wilderness. He did not eat for forty days. He went without food so that He could think only about what God had sent Him to do. He prepared Himself to serve people and to die on the cross for our sins.

The Holy Spirit gave Him power in His weakness. He could fast for any length of time, but He was still human. The fast would have made Him weak. He did not focus on time with God.

After Jesus finished fasting, the devil came to Him. He knew Jesus was very hungry. Satan knew Jesus is the Son of God. He called Him that, but he still thought he could get Jesus to sin. He tempted Jesus to turn the stones around them into bread. Imagine how difficult it would be to do so hungry and be able to make food appear. But it would be wrong to do that. It is like having food in front of you but not being allowed to eat it. Jesus stood strong. He did not give in. He told Satan that people do not live on food only. We live by everything that God tells us.

Q How often do you read God's Word?

Satan failed to get Jesus to sin. It would have been a piece of cake (bread, actually) for Jesus to have changed rocks into food. Jesus did not follow the devil's suggestion. Satan did not really care about how hungry Jesus was. He tried Jesus to stop trusting God. That is a sin.

Next, Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem. The devil took Jesus to the top of the temple. That was about two hundred feet up. Satan told Jesus to jump off the temple. He told Jesus that God would save Him. He even used a verse that said God would protect Jesus. That was a trick to use a Bible to try to get Jesus to do something wrong.

Jesus told Satan that it was something God said in the Old Testament. When you trust someone, you do not test him to see if he can be trusted. Jesus won again. He did not give in to Satan's dare.

Q Has anyone dared you to do something really dangerous? What should your response be?

One more time, Satan tempted Jesus. He took Jesus to a very high mountain. They saw kingdoms in the distance. Satan said that if Jesus worshipped him, He could rule over the kingdoms. Jesus answered with another Bible verse. He was wrong to worship anyone other than God. After that, Satan left Jesus alone. Jesus had won. He did not give in to Satan's dare, and He used Bible verses to win. He used a powerful weapon to fight Satan.

The words in the Bible are powerful and true. It's very important to memorize as many verses as you can. When you are tempted to do something you should not, God's Word can help you fight it.

WHAT IF?

What if you were at a store with some school friends, and they make a plan to steal something? Your part of their plan is to be the lookout. You are supposed to give a signal or distract anyone coming. They promise to share with you some of what they steal. Would you agree to help because you really like what they are stealing? What would you think about your part of the plan? Is it wrong or is it OK? Would you say no to their plan? What would you say to explain what you think about stealing?

WHO DO I WANT TO BE LIKE?

Who are you "following"? People follow others on social media because they know them or like them or respect them. Sometimes we may even want to be like those we follow. Many of them live such great lives, or so it seems! Jesus is the best person to follow or to be like. The way He handled Satan's temptations is heroic. He can help you do the same.

We all can be like Him by learning and memorizing Bible verses and then letting those verses help us not to sin. Jesus obeyed God. We can obey God by obeying what we read in our Bibles. God's Word can help us to fight the temptation to sin.

God has given you the greatest weapon to fight sin. You need to use what you learn from the Bible and not put yourself in tempting situations that bring you to sin.

NEXT STEPS

Find verses that teach you about fighting sin and loving the Lord. Christian adults you know to help you. Print the verses on cards and read them in your room. Ask others to join you in memorizing the verses. Challenge one another to memorize at least one verse a week.

PRAYER POINT

CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus showed us how to fight temptation. He used God's Word to help Him have victory.

TALK ABOUT IT

Ask a Christian adult you know for tips on Bible memorization.



UNIT I:

Obedience and 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.

BIBLE LESSON

Moses died, and 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 was to lead the of 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 very 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 about this huge mission and would like a little 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 words of encouragement for Joshua.

God told Joshua that he needed to “be strong and courageous.” The wording varies slightly, but you can find God's encouragement in Joshua 1:6-9.



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.

Just as God promised to be with Joshua all those years ago, He also promises to be with you and me today. This week, when we're hanging

out with friends, attending school, 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. He raised his sword and led the people into battle and into the Promised Land, knowing they could defeat their enemies with God's help.

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 Josh. 11:16-17). It was not quick and easy. Verse 18 tells us it was a long war, requiring a lot of perseverance. But 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 the Anakim ("sons of Anak") 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 by saying that Joshua captured all the Promised Land for the Israelite people. He trusted and obeyed the Lord.

Jesus talked about obedience. 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.

WHAT IF?

What if you sense that God is asking you to share the gospel with someone who is known for causing trouble at your school? Your problem is that you tried that before, and 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, and you sense God saying, "I will be with you." What will you do?



WHY DOES GOD ASK US TO DO BRAVE THINGS?

Wouldn't it be easier if we never had to be courageous? 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 always. Jesus also tells us in Matthew 28:20 that He is with us always. Today our world needs more courageous followers of Jesus. Are we ready to be courageous for Him?

NEXT STEPS

God keeps all His promises. 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. Be strong and courageous. God is with you!

PRAYER POINT

CHRIST FOCUS



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



TALK ABOUT IT

Ask a Christian adult about some memorable promises he or she saw God keep.