

Intermediate Bible Class +

For Teens Ages 12 Through 14



December
January
February

WINTER

2023-24

Intermediate Bible Class⁺

WINTER QUARTER

December 2023, January, February 2024

How to Use *Intermediate Bible Class** 2

LIVING IN CHRIST

UNIT I: New Life in Christ

Dec. 3	— To Live Is Christ—Phil. 1:12-26.....	5
Dec. 10	— Counting All Things Loss—Phil. 3:7-21.....	8
Dec. 17	— Learning Contentment—Phil. 4:4-18.....	11
Dec. 24	— The Light of Christmas (Christmas)—John 1:1-5; Eph. 5:1-2, 6-14 ..	14

UNIT II: Transformed Lives in Christ

Dec. 31	— Chosen in Christ—Eph. 1:3-14.....	18
Jan. 7	— God's Workmanship—Eph. 2:1-10.....	21
Jan. 14	— The Household of God—Eph. 2:11-22.....	24
Jan. 21	— A High Calling—Eph. 4:1-16.....	27
Jan. 28	— God-Honoring Families—Eph. 5:21—6:4.....	30

UNIT III: Lives Worthy of Christ

Feb. 4	— Spiritual Armor—Eph. 6:10-24.....	34
Feb. 11	— The Supremacy of Christ—Col. 1:15-28.....	37
Feb. 18	— Complete in Christ—Col. 2:6-19.....	40
Feb. 25	— A Plea for Christlike Forgiveness—Phm. 1:4-21.....	43

Bonus Activities 46



Union
Gospel
Press

Editor in Chief:

Kenneth Sponsler

Writers:

Union Gospel Press

Editorial Staff

ISBN 978-1-64495-436-2

Price: \$3.59 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

This material is part of the "Christian Life Series," copyright © 2023 by Union Gospel Press. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without written permission from Union Gospel Press, except as permitted by United States copyright law. Edited and published quarterly by The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press Division. Mailing address: P.O. Box 301055, Cleveland, Ohio 44130-0915. Phone: 216-749-2100. www.uniongospelpress.com

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.

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.

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.

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 had to 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 be 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.

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. He told Jesus that God would save Him. He even used the verse that said God would protect Jesus. That was a trick to use a Bible verse to get Jesus to do something wrong.

Jesus told Satan that it is not right to test God. That meant Jesus would not give in to Satan's dare. He did not test Him to see if He could. Jesus won again. He did not give in to Satan's dare.

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 that if Jesus worshipped him, 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 living 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 just 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 them in your room. Ask others to join you in memorizing the verses. Lense 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:
New Life in Christ



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.

BIBLE LESSON

Can you think of anything good about being a prisoner and being chained to a guard? That’s the situation the apostle Paul found himself in. You might expect he would be in a bad mood and doing a lot of complaining. But Paul actually had a positive attitude. He understood that God wanted to use his negative situation to add to the number of people who were hearing the good news about Jesus.

The Jewish religious leaders wanted to get Paul in trouble for spreading the good news about Jesus dying for our sins and coming back to life. So they lied about Paul, saying that he was causing riots and was disrespecting the temple in Jerusalem.



Why is continuing to trust God when people tell lies about you important?

Paul was arrested in Jerusalem and later taken to Rome. His opponents thought that having him arrested would stop him from telling people about Jesus. However, they didn’t get what they were expecting. Instead of being stopped, the gospel started spreading throughout the prison.

Other Christians were encouraged by Paul’s example. They saw that he was willing to be imprisoned and mistreated for telling others about Jesus. They were willing to suffer just as Paul was. Some people who didn’t like Paul also