

# JUNIOR BIBLE TEACHER **+**

For Teachers of Children  
Ages 9 Through 11



WINTER | December  
2023-24 | January  
February

# Junior Bible Teacher +

WINTER QUARTER

December 2023, January, February 2024

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Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

## Dear Junior Teacher,

Welcome to *Junior 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.

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### 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 Approaching the Lesson).
  - **Explaining the Memory Verse** explains the Scripture in language familiar to juniors (replacing Talking about the Golden Text).
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PURPOSE



**Big Idea:** God wants us to remember His blessings.

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APPROACHING THE LESSON



**Prepare Your Mind**

**Prepare Your Heart**

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TALKING ABOUT THE GOLDEN TEXT



**Explaining the Memory Verse**

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**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](http://www.uniongospelpress.com), email [customerservice@uniongospelpress.com](mailto: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.
- The **Conversation Starter** helps you kick off your class and get your students invested in the lesson.
- **Discussion Questions** help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally throughout the lesson. These questions appear in both the class and teacher books.
- **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 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.
- The **Activity** helps juniors get their energy out while thinking about the lesson.
- The **Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears junior 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 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



April 2, 2023 Lesson 5

### TAKING OUR PUNISHMENT

Lesson Text: Matthew 27:38-54

"The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world" (1 John 4:14).

**BIG IDEA:** Jesus suffered and died for our sins so that we can be forgiven by trusting Him as Savior.

**BIBLE LESSON**

Body builders flex their muscles, showing off how strong they are. Jesus wasn't a body builder, but He is all-powerful. He is the Son of God and holds all creation together with His might (Colossians 1:17). You might think that when people near the cross were making fun of Jesus, He should have put His power on display for all to see. Actually, He did. But the kind of power that Jesus showed is different from what you might have been looking for.

What are some things that you think are powerful and some other things that you think are weak?

At the cross, Jesus could have used His power to punish people and prove them wrong. But instead, He showed off His power to love and forgive. Jesus had already helped many people (Matthew 8:16-17; Luke 6:19). But now people were saying that He couldn't even help or save Himself. Some standing nearby told Jesus that coming down from the cross would prove that He is the Son of God. However, Jesus already knew exactly who He is. He didn't need to do something just because others were saying that He couldn't do it. Instead of saving Himself, Jesus stayed on the cross so that He could die for our sins and save us.

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**CHRIST FOCUS**

Instead of using His power to save Himself, Jesus used His power to die for our sins.

**TALK ABOUT IT**

We could never repay the Lord for saving us. Talk to someone who sets a good example of following Jesus about ways you can show your thankfulness to the Lord.

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...was crucified between two criminals who made fun of Him. It's easy to see why He was crucified with a group that's doing something bad. You can always make a choice to do what pleases God. The Father sent the Son to help you make choices that please Him. Never forget that Jesus knows how to do what pleases God and to be made fun of for doing it.

Some examples of when you might need to make a tough choice that will honor God?

During the three hours of Jesus' crucifixion, darkness covered the land. The suffering reached its worst point. He cried out, asking why God was letting Him suffer this way. The answer is that Jesus was taking the punishment for our sins. He went through the suffering of being left alone because He could save us and always be with us. The suffering was complete, Jesus offered His life to God. The Father answered the very strange things that happened. There was a powerful earthquake and the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. The Father was with Jesus. Jesus did, we can be transformed into a loving God.

Jesus rose from the dead, gave the miraculous things happened. Jesus, the Lord, was raised and went to Jerusalem. All of this as Savior, and one day rise to be with Him and will suffer on our behalf again.

**WHY CAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE REALLY BAD THINGS STILL BE FORGIVEN BY GOD?**

Throughout human history, some awful crimes have been committed. And even when watching movies and reading books, we usually like to see the bad guys getting punished for their crimes. It just doesn't seem fair when they get away with what they've done. But there is something that is much more unfair. It's simply not fair that Jesus would suffer the full punishment for all our sins. And yet, that's what He was willing to do for us. He died for our sins and resurrection to life was enough to do for us. The apostle Paul considered himself to be just that, a sinner (Romans 7:15). The worst of sinners can be forgiven by God and have their hearts transformed by trusting Jesus because He died and overcame sin for them (verse 16).

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## Here's a peek at the new Junior Bible Class<sup>+</sup>:

- 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.
- The **Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears junior students might have about God and His Word from a biblical worldview.
- 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

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### Lesson 1: Philippians 1:12-26

Live for Christ

### Lesson 2: Philippians 3:7-21

Knowing Jesus

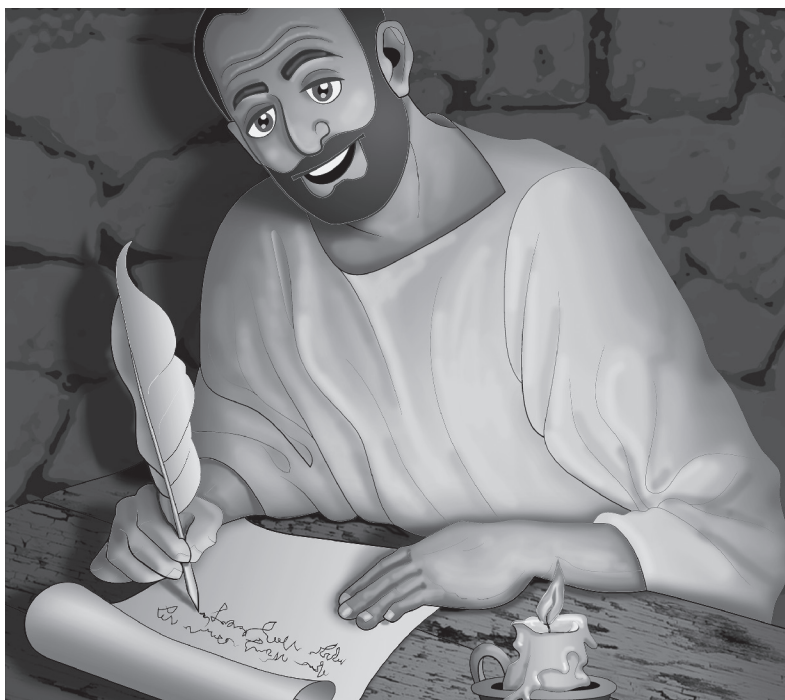
### Lesson 3: Philippians 4:4-18

I Can Do All Things

### 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 schoolbooks. 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.



# Live for Christ

Lesson Text: Philippians 1:12-26

“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 desire our whole life.

## Prepare Your Mind

Paul was imprisoned in Rome around A.D. 60-61. That would have placed him in Rome while Nero was emperor. Nero was infamous for persecuting Christians, especially after a fire destroyed much of Rome in A.D. 64. Nero blamed the Christians, but he may have torched the city himself and simply used Christians as a scapegoat. 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. Paul desired to be with Christ while also longing to keep ministering to God's people.

### Supplies

- grapes
- clear, carbonated drink, water
- two clear cups
- world map
- magnifying glasses
- coins

## Prepare Your Heart

Some people were trying to stir up trouble for Paul while he was in chains, but he 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, “What good can come of this painful situation?” Remember, God often turns problems into opportunities that can be used for His glory (Rom. 8:28). For example, salvation was accomplished through Jesus' death on the cross. God used Jesus' suffering to bring us 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 rejoice and trust the Lord through our struggles.

### Prepare the Room

Place **grapes**, a **cup** of **clear, carbonated drink**, and a cup of **water** on a table.



## Conversation Starter

What will happen if I drop grapes in water? ( Drop grapes in cup of water.)

What if I drop grapes in a carbonated drink?

( Drop grapes in a cup of carbonated drink.)