

# JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS +

For Children Ages 9 Through 11



FALL  
2023

September  
October  
November

# Junior Bible Class<sup>+</sup>

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2023

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**Dear Juniors,**

**Welcome to our new *Junior Bible Class*<sup>+</sup>! 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 interjected within the lesson to help you interact with the topic.
- The main ideas are **bold** in the lesson to help you see them at a glance.
- 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.
- **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.

## 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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Jesus was crucified between two criminals who made fun of Him. It's easy to go along with a group that's doing something bad. You can show true courage by taking a stand to do what pleases God. The Lord is with you to help exactly how it feels to do what pleases God and to be made fun of for doing it.

What are some examples of when you might need to make a tough decision that will honor God?

For the last three hours of Jesus' crucifixion, darkness covered the land. Then Jesus' suffering reached its worst point. He cried out, asking why God punished Him for all our sins. He went through the suffering of being left alone by God so that He could save us and always be with us. When His suffering was complete, Jesus offered His life to God the Father and died. A few very strange things then happened. There was a powerful earthquake, and the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. The people, because of what Jesus did, we can be reconnected into a loving relationship with God.

Later when Jesus rose from the dead, more miraculous things happened. Others who had faith in the Lord were also raised and went to Jerusalem. All who have trusted Jesus as Savior will one day rise to be with Him and will never have to face suffering or death 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 evil deeds. It just doesn't seem fair to get away with what they've done. But there is something that punishment for all your sins. And yet, that's what He was willing to do for the worst of sinners. The apostle Paul considered himself to be just that their lives transformed by trusting Jesus because He died and overcame sin and death for them (verse 16).

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### + FULL PAYMENT

How would you like to owe someone a gazillion dollars? Even if you could pay billions back, you would still be in deep debt. You would really need someone with wealth that's out of this world to come to your rescue. When Jesus died on the cross, He offered His life to God the Father as payment for all our sins. Before dying, He said, "It is finished" (John 19:30), meaning that He had made the full payment for our sins. Isn't it great that you are forgiven all of your sins by trusting in Jesus and believing that He died and rose again for you? That's a great reason to do your best to please God in all that you do!

### NEXT STEPS

If someone does something to upset you this week, remember that He loves that person just as much as you. You can follow in Jesus' ways by being forgiving to others.

### 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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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 thousands upon thousands 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 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 about the 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 wonderful words of encouragement for Joshua.

God told Joshua not once, not twice, but three times all in one conversation that he needed to “be strong and courageous.”



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. It was a promise.

**Just as God promised to be with Joshua all those years ago, He also promises to be with you and me today.** He is with us right this minute, this week, when we're hanging out with friends, at school, at home, or playing sports. **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 God would keep His promise.** Therefore, he put his faith into actions. He raised his sword and led the people into battle and into the Promised Land, knowing they could defeat their enemies because God was with them.

And, of course, the story tells us God kept His promise to Joshua. We read in our memory verse that Joshua captured all the Promised Land for the

Israelite people. He really trusted in the Lord, didn't he? 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 little bit of our lives—the things that scare us, worry us, interest us, and bring us joy.

## 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?



## BREAK THE JOSHUA CODE

Be careful; this is tricky. In each sentence, each letter in the first word stands for the letter directly before it (D = C; A = Z). With each following word, the target letter moves back another letter (second word: D = B; A = Y; third word: D = A; A = X, and so on). The first word is done for you.

1. HPE VQNF MRVKXD, “FI XYWTSL GTJ VM I LXDAJPN”  
(TYCREK 1:6).

God \_\_\_\_\_

2. KPTIVB VQQM WKH ALSPI QFSI, PAYZ HZ OWL QJM  
ZBYWSCON.

## 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!

## 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.