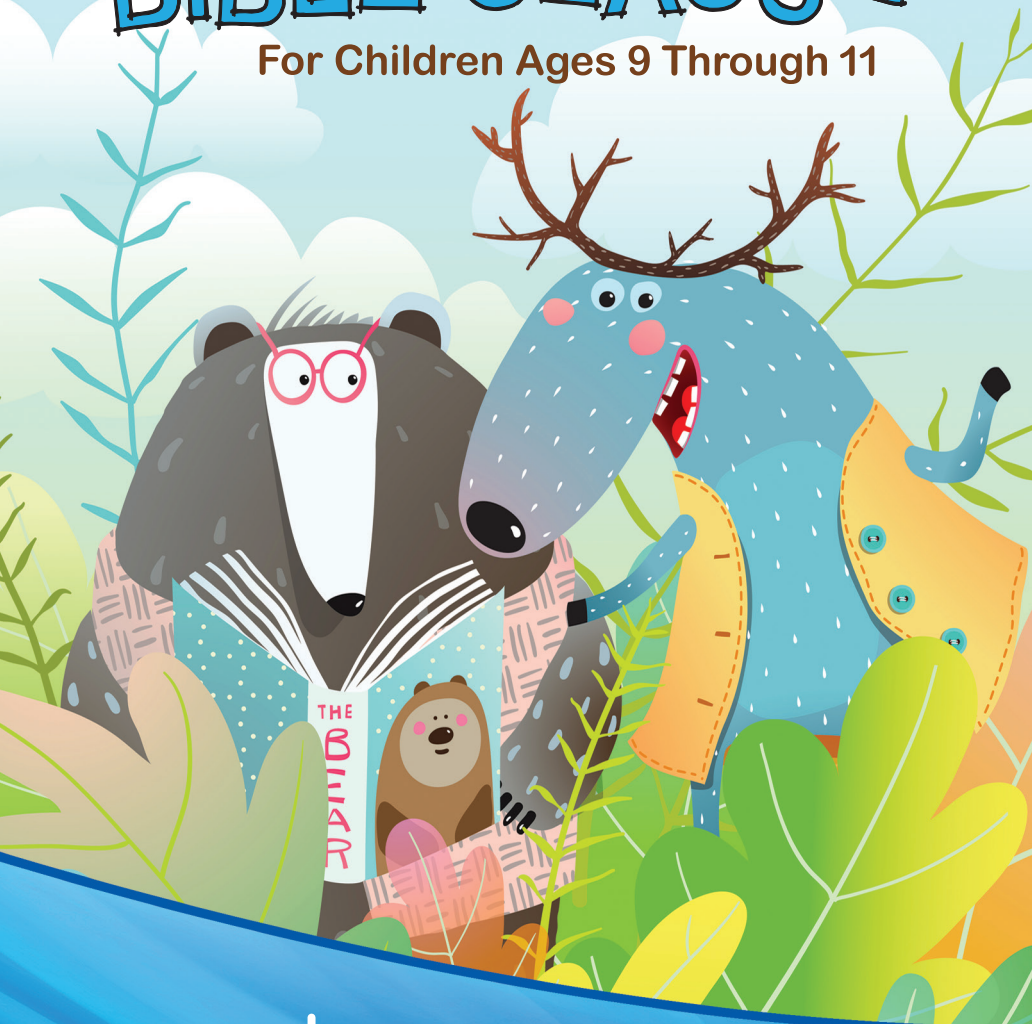


# JUNIOR BIBLE CLASS **+**

For Children Ages 9 Through 11



December  
January  
February

WINTER  
2023-24

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

WINTER QUARTER

December 2023, January, February 2024

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**Union  
Gospel  
Press**

#### Editor in Chief:

Kenneth Sponsler

#### Writers:

Union Gospel Press

Editorial Staff

**ISBN 978-1-64495-478-2**

**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

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). Some 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 had left Him to suffer this way. The answer is that Jesus was taking the punishment 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, 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 for them to 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 *your* sins. And yet, that's what He was willing to do for the worst of sinners. And resurrection to life was enough to save even (1 Timothy 1:15). The worst of sinners can be forgiven by God and have 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 a deep debt. You would really need someone with wealth that's out of this world to come to your rescue. The life of Jesus has a value that goes on forever and cannot be measured. 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 for all 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 you loved you enough to give His life for you. He loves that person just as much. 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:  
**New Life in Christ**



# 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.

## BIBLE LESSON

Paul was arrested when he was in Jerusalem. Roman guards placed him in prison and later took him to Rome. Why was Paul arrested? Some of the Jewish religious leaders wanted to stop him from spreading the good news about Jesus. So they told lies about Paul starting riots and disrespecting the Jewish temple (Acts 24:5-6). Although the charges were false, Paul was imprisoned.



What would you do if you got in big trouble because someone told lies about you?

Paul’s opponents got the opposite of what they wanted. They thought that after Paul was imprisoned, he would *stop* telling people about Jesus. But instead, he started *spreading* the good news about Jesus throughout the prison. Paul was in chains, but the message about Jesus being raised from the dead couldn’t be held back. Even the palace guards and eventually the Roman emperor heard about it.



How would you react if you knew that you would be put in prison for telling people about Jesus?

Paul wrote a letter to the Christians living in a city called Philippi. He told them about his imprisonment. Even though Paul was in prison, God was with him.

In his letter, Paul told his Philippian friends about how his bad situation was being used by God in a good way. Other Christians were receiving cour-