

Intermediate Bible Teacher +

For Teachers of Teens Ages 12
Through 14



June
July
August

SUMMER
2023

Intermediate Bible Teacher⁺

SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2023

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CHRIST PROCLAIMS THE KINGDOM

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Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

Dear Intermediate Teacher,

Welcome to *Intermediate 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.

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 Preparing to Teach the Lesson).
- The **Conversation Starter** helps you kick off your class and get your students invested in the lesson (replacing Presenting the Lesson).
- **Discussion Questions** help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally throughout the lesson (replacing Research and Discussion). These questions appear in both the class and teacher books.

Please note: In an effort to provide more flexible material and encourage teachers to model Bible reading for their students, we have chosen to leave the Scripture block out of these lessons.

Purpose



Big Idea: God wants us to remember His blessings.

PREPARING TO TEACH THE LESSON



Prepare Your Mind

Prepare Your Heart

Presenting the Lesson



Conversation Starter

RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION



Discussion Questions

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.
- **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 listed 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.
- **What If?** helps intermediates imagine how the Bible lesson might be applied to a hypothetical scenario that could occur in their everyday lives.
- **Explaining the Memory Verse** explains the Scripture in language familiar to intermediates
- The **Activity** helps students get their energy out while thinking about the lesson.
- The **Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears intermediate 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 for ways 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

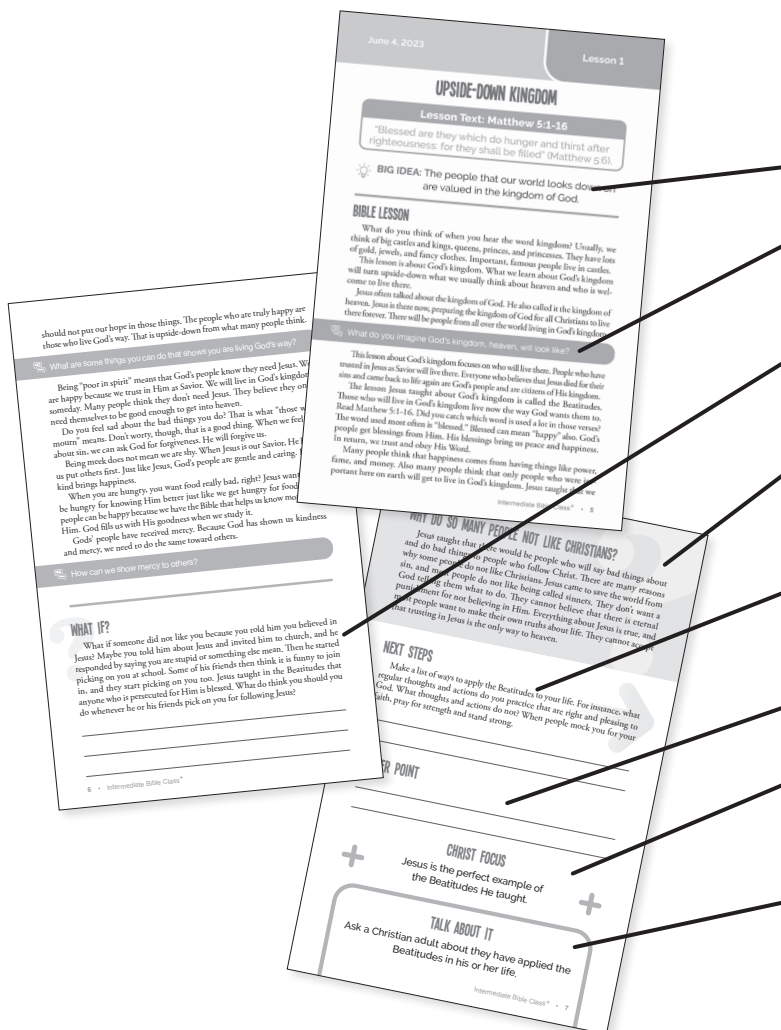


Discussion Questions



Here's a peek at the new *Intermediate Bible Class*⁺:

- 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.
- **What If?** helps intermediates imagine how the Bible lesson might be applied to a hypothetical scenario that could occur in their everyday lives.
- The **Big Question** addresses common concerns, doubts, or fears intermediate students might have about God and His Word from a biblical worldview.
- **Next Steps** helps your students apply the lesson to their lives with room to make notes for an action plan.
- The **Prayer Point** encourages commitment to pray for something in the coming week.
- 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:

Understanding God's Kingdom

Lesson 1: Matthew 5:1-16

Upside-Down Kingdom

Lesson 2:

Matthew 5:17-18, 21-22, 27-28, 38-39, 43-44

A Perfect Kingdom

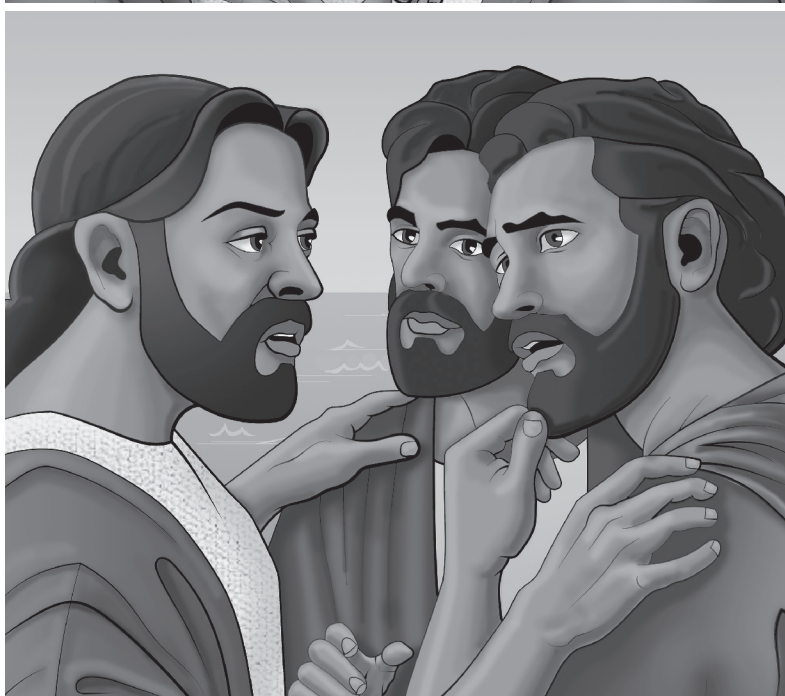
Mark 3:13-19; 6:6b-13

A Victorious Kingdom

Lesson 4: Matthew 13:24-33

Growing God's Kingdom

Young people who are teens (or almost teens) are going through many emotions almost daily. They need to know there is stability, safety, and hope somewhere, and they need to know that there is a sure hope when it comes to the kingdom of God. This quarter, they can learn that His kingdom is not only a physical place, but it is also something they can have inside when they make Jesus Lord of their lives. You will journey with them through the Beatitudes, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and His parables as you help them understand how God's kingdom started and what it means to be part of it!



Upside-Down Kingdom

Lesson Text: Matthew 5:1-16



Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled (Matthew 5:6).



Big Idea: The people our world looks down on are valued in the kingdom of God.

Prepare Your Mind

Matthew 5 is part of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus gave this sermon on a hillside near Capernaum. In the sermon, Jesus taught about what is important in the kingdom of God, or kingdom of heaven. Many of the things that matter to people here on earth are not essential to God's kingdom. The Sermon on the Mount turned upside down the thinking of the proud and legalistic leaders who ruled in Israel. As Jesus often taught, pleasing God is a matter of the heart, not the legalistic observance of the law.

The Sermon on the Mount was obviously directed to His disciples, but they are for believers today. One more point that is upside down—the characteristics of the true citizens of heaven about which Jesus taught cannot be achieved in our own power. They are only accomplished with the power of Holy Spirit in our lives.

Prepare Your Heart

The Beatitudes describe what we should be like as Christ's followers and citizens of heaven. Each one teaches us how to be blessed, or happy. That does not mean we will be laughing all the time and enjoying earthly prosperity and pleasure. Jesus turns upside down the world's idea of happiness. We can only find true hope and joy by serving and obeying God. We must not expect fame and fortune during our earthly lives, although some believers may achieve those things. Instead, we can expect troubles in this life; however, Jesus assures His followers that they will be rewarded, if not in this life, definitely in His kingdom to come.

Live out before your students the attitudes that Christ laid out in the Beatitudes. Be a beacon of truth to those around you. Shine as an example to others. It will make you a better teacher.



Supplies

- paper
- pencils
- chalkboard with chalk or whiteboard with markers

- pictures of castles (interior and exterior)
- Bibles for students who do not have their own
- plastic cups
- stopwatch or timer



Conversation Starter

Can you answer these riddles? I get wet when I dry. What am I? (a towel)
What is as light as a feather, but no one can hold for long? long? (breath)

Bible Lesson 🕒 10-15 min



(Divide the class into two groups. Give each group **paper** and a **pencil**. Have each group choose a scribe. Without the other group hearing, give one group the task of coming up with ten ways to become rich and famous. Give the other group the task of coming up with ten ways to live for God. Give time for making lists. When they are done, **copy** the lists on opposite sides of the **board**. Do not divulge the topics. When done, see if they can name the topics of each list. Discuss differences. Point out one list is selfish and the other is selfless.)

Today's lesson is about a kingdom. When we think of kingdoms, what usually comes to mind? (Allow responses.) We think of kings, queens, princes, and princesses. (👉 Show **pictures of castles**.) We think of big castles and rich people. They have lots of gold, jewels, and fancy clothes. In a kingdom, all the important, famous people live in castles.

This lesson is about God's kingdom. What we learn about God's kingdom will turn upside down what we usually think about heaven and who is welcome to live there.

Jesus often talked about the kingdom of God. He also called it the kingdom of heaven. Jesus is there now, preparing the kingdom of God for all Christians to live there forever. There will be people from all over the world living in God's kingdom.

💬 What do you imagine God's kingdom, heaven, will look like?

This lesson about God's kingdom focuses on who will live there. People who have trusted in Jesus as Savior will live there. Everyone who believes that Jesus died for their sins and came back to life again are God's people and are citizens of His kingdom.

The lesson Jesus taught about God's kingdom is called the Beatitudes. (📖) Those who will live in God's kingdom live now the way God wants them to. Let's read Matthew 5:1-16. (👉 Open **Bibles**. Have each student take a turn reading a verse.)

Did you catch which word is used a lot in those verses? (Allow responses.) The word used most often is "blessed." (❓) "Blessed" can mean "happy" also. God's people get blessings from Him. His blessings bring us peace and happiness. In return, we trust and obey His Word.

💬 What are some things you can do that shows you are living God's way?

Being "poor in spirit" means that God's people know they need Jesus. We are happy because we trust in Him as Savior. We will live in God's kingdom someday. Many people think they don't need Jesus. They believe they only need themselves to be good enough to get into heaven.

Do you feel sad about the bad things you do? That's what "those who mourn" means. Don't worry, though, that's a good thing. When we feel sad about sin, we can ask God for forgiveness. He will forgive us. Knowing we are forgiven helps us to do good things for Him.

Being meek doesn't mean we are shy. When Jesus is our Savior, He helps us put others first. Just like Jesus, God's people are gentle and caring. Being kind brings happiness.

When you are hungry, you want food really bad, right? Jesus wants us to be hungry for knowing Him better just like we get hungry for food. God's people can be happy because they have the Bible that helps them know more about Him. God fills us with His goodness when we study it.

God's people have received mercy. (📖) God showed us kindness and mercy, so we need to do the same for others.

💬 How can we show mercy to others?

Sometimes God's people get picked on because they believe in Him and serve Him. (📖) Jesus said that we can be happy despite that because we look forward to going to heaven someday.

Jesus then taught that God's people need to live in a way that helps others. That way, other people will know God loves them. God's people can work together to help God's kingdom grow. His kingdom grows when more people trust in Jesus as Savior.



"Beatitudes" means "the blessed." Explain that this Bible lesson will teach the Beatitudes and what it means to be blessed. They show us the attitudes that followers of Jesus should have.



What does "blessed" mean? It means we receive blessings from God. Blessings are gifts from God, even when we do not deserve them.



Explain that "mercy" means that we are not punished as we deserve to be. We are all sinners. Jesus took the punishment we deserve when He died for us.



Explain that persecution can make us happy because it is an honor to suffer for our Savior. Just like the heroes in the Bible, who suffered for Jesus, we can look forward to heaven.

What If?

What if someone did not like you because you told him you trust in Jesus? Maybe you told him about Jesus and invited him to church, and he responded by saying you are stupid or something else mean. Then he started picking on you at school. Some of his friends start to think it is funny to join in, and they start picking on you too. Jesus taught in the Beatitudes that anyone who is persecuted for Him is blessed. What do think you should you do whenever he or his friends pick on you for following Jesus?

Explaining the Memory Verse

Jesus wasn't talking about having a growling stomach or dry mouth. He was talking about people who want to know God more than anything else. They want to live for Him and do good things. Hungering and thirsting after righteousness means that they want to know God really bad. They want to have a relationship with God. The good news is that trusting in Jesus as Savior will take care of that hunger and thirst.



Activity: Right Side Up Upside-Down Cups ⌚ 5–10 min

Jesus turned upside down the world's thinking about the kingdom of God. Play this game to help your class remember that is what He did. Divide class into two teams. Have Team A stand at one side of the room and Team B at the other end. Set time limit. Shout, "Go!" Team A runs around the room and flips all the cups right side up. Team B runs around the room and turns the cups upside down. They cannot move the cups, just turn them over in the same spot. Yell, "Stop!" Players stop and raise hands over head and stay where they are. Each team gets a point for cups in their orientation. Play another round, switching teams.

SUPPLIES:

- plastic cups
- stopwatch or timer

PREP: Scatter the **cups** all over the room. Place half of them right side up and the other half upside down.

Big Question: Why do so many people not like Christians?

There are many reasons why some people do not like Christians. Jesus came to save the world from sin, and most people do not like being called sinners. They don't want God telling them what to do. They cannot believe that there is eternal punishment for not trusting in Him. Everything about Jesus is true, and most people want to

make their own truths about life. They cannot accept that trusting in Jesus is the only way to heaven.

As Christians, we believe that we are sinners and Jesus took our punishment. We believe the Bible is truth and want to obey it. Some people don't like it when we talk about those things. That is why so many people do not like us.

Next Steps

Make a list of ways to apply the Beatitudes to your life. For instance, what regular thoughts and actions do you practice that are right and pleasing to God? What thoughts and actions do not? When people mock you for your faith, pray for strength and stand strong.

Prayer Points

- Praise God that His kingdom is for all who trust in Christ as Savior. He doesn't play favorites.
- Pray that your students will trust in God's gift of salvation through Christ.
- Pray for your students to live out the Beatitudes.

Christ Focus

Jesus is the perfect example of the Beatitudes He taught.