

Intermediate Bible Class +

For Teens Ages 12 Through 14



SUMMER
2025

June
July
August

Intermediate Bible Class⁺

SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2025

How to Use *Intermediate Bible Class** 2

CHRISTLIKE LIVING

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Dear students,

Welcome to *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 Christian adults in your life.

LEARN FROM BAD EXAMPLES

Lesson 2
June 8, 2025

Lesson Text: 1 Corinthians 9:24–10:33

"Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Corinthians 10:11).

BIG IDEA: From ungodly examples in the Bible, we can learn what kinds of things to avoid in our lives.

1 COR. 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run it, but one receiveth the prize. So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that achieveth the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beatech the air;

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrowen in the wilderness.

6 Now these things were our examples, so the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people saw down them to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

BIBLE LESSON

Many Olympic athletes train at least six or seven hours a day, six days a week. Those athletes have their eyes on the prize. They want to win a gold medal. Paul's audience in Corinth was familiar with a competition similar to today's Olympics. Paul talked about athletes to make his point. We always want to be single-minded in our faith, keeping our eyes on the prize, looking to Jesus.

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WHAT IF?

All your friends are going to a party. You know there will be alcohol and probably all other things going on. Everyone is going. You don't want your friends to talk bad about you for not going, but you don't think going would be a good idea. Your best friend, who is a Christian, tries to convince you by saying, "You're strong in your faith. You can say no to anything you don't want to do." How do you handle the party?

WHAT DOES FREEDOM IN CHRIST REALLY MEAN?

Many kids dream that when they become adults and are free to do whatever they want, they will eat ice cream for every meal. But as they grow up, they usually learn that using freedom that way just leads to a stomachache. Freedom doesn't always mean doing whatever sounds good at the time; sometimes it's the freedom to choose what is better. We are free to Jesus. This wisdom means we inherit 10:23 that while we're free to do many things, not everything is good for us. The Holy Spirit gives us freedom as well as wisdom. This wisdom means we look to God's Word and to examples—both good and bad—around us to see the best way we should act in difficult situations. Then we are free to choose the way God has for us.

NEXT STEPS

Do you have someone you can go to for godly advice? This week, identify a mentor and ask him or her two questions. What are you most glad you did when you were my age? What's a decision you made at my age that you regret or would avoid?

PRAYER POINT

CHRIST FOCUS

Being like Jesus is our goal. He is our example of how to avoid sin in our lives.

TALK ABOUT IT

Ask a trusted Christian adult about how it would be helpful for us today to read in the Bible about those who failed.

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When it came to his faith, Paul didn't want to train in vain. Paul was not talking about losing God's love, favor, or grace. Nothing can separate us from God's love! Paul was concerned that his friends might take their eyes off that goal. He was very making a point about pagan festivals that were popular in Corinth at the time. Some believers who felt strong in their faith argued they could attend the festivals no problems. They reasoned that they didn't have to participate in any sinful acts.

you think of things today that aren't necessarily wrong but could tempt you?

Paul didn't deny that. He simply asked his friends to look at their spiritual ancestors. He pointed to the Israelites who had experienced amazing salvation through the Red Sea and brought them out of Egypt. But instead of thanking Him, they complained. Instead of realizing that they needed Him and depending on Him, they worshipped idols and turned their backs on Him. Instead of seeking holiness, they were often sexually immoral. As a result of their sin, God's chosen nation wandered in the desert for forty years.

Paul said that just like Israel, the Corinthians had experienced amazing salvation from God. They had been forgiven of their sins and given a new life. Would they sin? Or would they refuse to take the grace of God for granted, rely on Him, walk with Him, and live a life of holiness?

Paul summed it up by saying that those who thought they were strong and stable should be especially aware so that they wouldn't fall. He was not trying to make his friends insecure. He wanted to warn against self-reliance. God's grace is not something we ever "get past." We never stop needing Him. We should be most vigilant when we are completely helpless without God's grace.

Paul says that the stories from Israel's history are examples for us so that we don't have to repeat their mistakes. We can choose to never turn away from God's grace from anything that involves complaining, pride, idolatry, and sexual sin.

What does it mean to depend on God's strength? How do we do that?

Finally, Paul says that we can trust God and depend on Him as we face difficult tests and temptations. God always gives us a way to overcome these tests and temptations. This isn't a challenge to see how far we can go without sinning. It's a gift from God that He always provides a way out for us. It's an opportunity to move away from sin and temptation as soon as we see it.

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UNIT I:
Biblical Thinking



Lesson Text: Hebrews 11:1-2, 4-13

"Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).



BIG IDEA: From godly examples in the Bible, we can learn what faith is and how to live by it.

HEB. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, *so many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

BIBLE LESSON

Hebrews 11 is full of people who lived by faith in God, but they were real people with real flaws, virtues, sins, and personalities. We can learn from each of them, while also being comforted that none of them were perfect. God uses imperfect people like us. More than anything, may we be amazed by our faithful God!

Faith is essential to Christianity. As Christians, we hear from God, we follow His ways, and we believe we will live with Him one day, but we can't physically see Him.

We cannot see our eternal home—the new heaven and earth—that we are moving toward.

The people who have gone before us, both in our lives and in Scripture, are examples of living out that faith. We can see how they trusted God and lived out their faith.

Abel. Abel and his brother Cain both brought offerings to God, and Abel's was chosen as more acceptable. The Bible does not say how Abel knew what to present to God, except that he offered it by faith. Abel had faith to do what he knew God required. Abel was ultimately killed by his brother out of jealousy, but even in death, he is an example of obedience and offering our lives to God.

Enoch. We know very little about Enoch's life except that he pleased God. We sometimes overcomplicate the Christian life. Enoch shows us that what God requires is to please Him. We follow what we hear Him say; we trust Him and spend time with Him as our Friend. At the end of his life, Enoch didn't die. God took Him, and Enoch went to heaven to be with God.



What would pleasing God look like in your life?

Noah. Noah is an example to us of believing, trusting, and acting, even when things don't make sense. God spoke to him, warned him, and told him what to do, and Noah obeyed. Because of this, Noah and his family were saved. Noah had some failures, but God only uses imperfect people.

Abraham. Abraham is another imperfect person that God used. Abraham lied and failed to protect his wife the way he should have. But he heard the call of God and moved his family without knowing where he was going. He believed God's promises even if he could not see them with his own eyes. Abraham is an example of moving forward in faith even when we don't see the whole picture.

Sarah. Sarah doubted God when He told her that she would have a son, but she is still listed as an example of faith in Hebrews 11. It was not the strength of her faith, but the strength of the One she had faith in that mattered. She believed that the One who made the promise was faithful. Sarah is an example of putting trust in God and not in the strength of one's faith.



How much should Christians think about the strength of their faith?

Verse 13 says that all those men and women died without fully receiving what they were promised by God. They believed that what they didn't receive in this life, they would receive in the next. All the promises to them would be fulfilled in Jesus; they looked forward to Him in faith. We don't always see the full picture of what God is doing or where we are heading, but like those who have gone before us, we can trust that God is working for our good and His glory. You can read the rest of the chapter for more examples of faith!

WHAT IF?

You have a friend who doesn't believe in God. He says he only believes in things that can be proven by science. He thinks it is foolish to believe and follow a God you can't see or hear. You start to wonder whether you're being foolish. You start wondering whether your faith in God and His Word is just a waste of your time. How can you honestly explore your friend's questions without losing your faith in the process?

HOW CAN I HAVE FAITH IN GOD, EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SEE HIM?

We can't see God. He asks us to live by faith instead of proving Himself. We can only know Him and experience Him through faith. The more we have faith in Him, the more we know Him and experience Him.

We don't have "blind faith" that just hopes for the best—we have lots of evidence that God exists and that He is faithful. Hebrews 11 reminds us that we can look to those who have gone before us to help us have faith in God. When we are struggling or doubtful, it can be helpful to remember what God has done in the past. Our faith is weak sometimes, but we can look to those around us and those who have gone before us to remind us of what God is doing and what He has done. Faith and encouragement from others can help carry us through.

NEXT STEPS

Look at the people listed in Hebrews 11. Whose example of life and faith can you learn from? Choose one and write down the verse or verses in Hebrews 11 about the person. Think about that this week in moments when you feel doubtful.

PRAYER POINT

CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus made a way through His death for us to come to God in faith.

TALK ABOUT IT

Ask a few trusted Christian adults about any Old Testament figures who have encouraged them in their faith.