JUNIOR BIBLETEACHER

For Teachers of Children Ages 9 Through 11

July

June SUMMER August 2025

Vol. 3 No. 3

Junior Bible Teacher⁺

SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2025

ISBN 978-1-64495-727-1

Price: \$5.09 per quarter*

*shipping and handling extra

How to Use <i>Junior Bible Teacher</i> +	2
TIOW to use juillor bible reactier	۷
CHRISTLIKE LIVING	
UNIT I: Biblical Thinking June 1 — Learn from Good Examples—Heb. 11:1-2, 4-13 June 8 — Learn from Bad Examples—1 Cor. 9:24—10:13 June 15 — Seek Godly Wisdom—Prov. 4:10-15, 20-27 June 22 — Hang On to the Truth About Jesus—Gal. 2:15—3:5	5 8 11 14
UNIT II: Biblical Feeling June 29 — Show God's Love to Others—1 John 4:7-21 July 6 — Serve Others with Love—Phil. 2:1-13 July 13 — Grow in Love for Jesus—Col. 3:1-17. July 20 — Choose to Be Humble—Jas. 4:1-10, 13-17.	18 21 24 27
UNIT III: Biblical Doing July 27 — Obey God's Teachings—Jas. 1:19-27 Aug. 3 — Pray for All People—1 Tim. 2:1-8. Aug. 10 — Be Kind to Unbelievers—Col. 4:1-6. Aug. 17 — Trust the Lord—Prov. 3:1-12. Aug. 24 — Be Ready to Tell Others About Jesus—1 Pet. 2:11-12; 3:13-17; 4:7-11; 5:8-10. Aug. 31 — Be Ready for Jesus' Return—1 Thess. 5:1-11.	31 34 37 40 43 46





Editor in Chief:

James M. Leonard, Ph.D.

Managing Editor:

Michelle Birtasevic

Writers: Miriam Bartlett, Susan Birdseye Rodenberg, Jody Stinson, Union Gospel Press Editorial Staff

Edited and published quarterly by

LIFESTONE MINISTRIES | UNION GOSPEL PRESS

Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

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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 robust Bible lessons and background information that have been clearly crafted to help you excite your students to learn God's Word.

Junior Bible Teacher* features:

- **Introductory pages** for each unit will connect the units to one another and point toward the quarter's major themes.
- The **Big Idea** is the main point of the lesson. This helps you focus your lesson on the one thing you want your students to take away about God and His Word.
- **Prepare Your Mind** and **Prepare Your Heart** will ready you to teach with background information and a short devotional.
- **Supplies** and **Prepare the Room** give you all the practical information you need to prepare for class time.
- The **Conversation Starter** is an interesting question or object lesson that helps you kick off your class and get your students invested in the lesson. It will always tie in with the first part of the Bible Lesson.
- **Teacher Tips** in the lesson will give you quick tips 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.
- **Discussion Questions** help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally throughout the lesson. These questions appear in both the class and teacher books.
- 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.
- Explaining the Memory Verse explains the Scripture in language familiar to juniors.
- **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.

KEY:

Teacher Tips



Just Curious



Prop Prompts

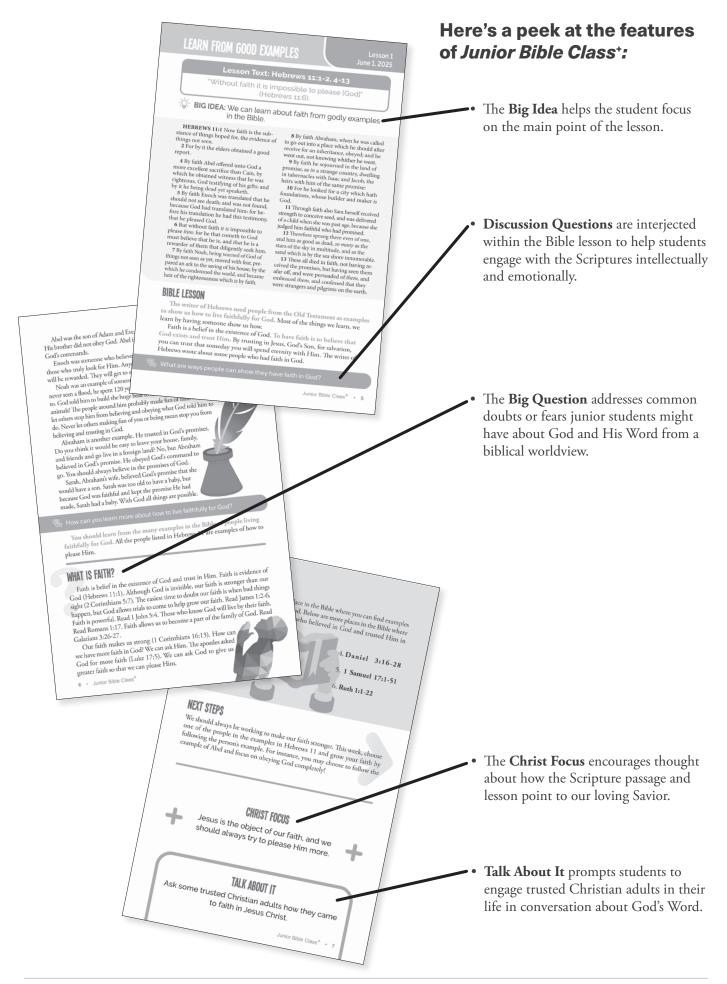


Actions



Discussion Questions





UNIT I: Biblical Thinking

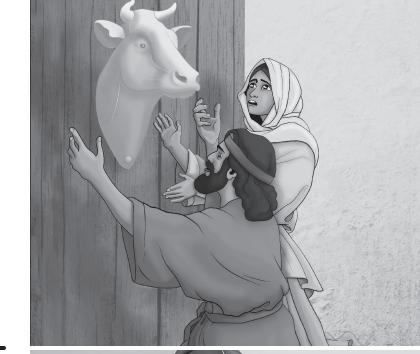
Leason 1: Hebrews 11:1-2, 4-13 Learn from Good Examples

Leason 2: 1 Corinthians 9:24—10:13 Learn from Bad Examples

Lesson 3: Proverbs 4:10-15, 20-27Seek Godly Wisdom

Lesson 4: Galatians 2:15—3:5Hang On to the Truth About Jesus

God cares about our thinking, feeling, and doing. In this first unit, we look at biblical thinking. Simply listing rules or abstract ideas would not engage students' imaginations or be memorable. Thankfully, God provides us with good examples to imitate and bad examples to learn from. The biblical accounts are memorable and helpful. God urges us to seek His wisdom and cling to the good news that we are saved by grace through faith in Christ, not by our works. There are things your students may not understand, but make sure they understand the gospel!







Learn from Good Examples

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



Without faith it is impossible to please [God] (Hebrews 11:6).





Big Idea: We can learn about faith from godly examples in the Bible.

HEBREWS 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.

Prepare Your Mind

The book of Hebrews helps believers understand a connection between the Old and New Testaments. A culmination of the connection between the Old and New Testament is Hebrews 11, where the faith of the Old Testament believers is commended for looking forward to what was promised. The focus of the book is to point Hebrew believers to faith in Christ and the importance of the new covenant established by Christ's blood. Both Old Testament believers and New Testament believers are saved through the blood of the same Savior and hope in the same promise.

Supplies

- knife
- sweet pickles
- spoons
- brown gravy or baby food
- · small paper cups
- · note cards
- marker

Prepare Your Heart

We can learn from the godly examples in Hebrews 11, but we should focus more on God, who gave the faith to those people, than on the people themselves. When we focus on individuals, we may either flatter ourselves that we have a superior faith or criticize ourselves that we could never do the amazing things that they did. However, all believers serve the same God, no matter the time period. The believers listed in Hebrews 11 lived their own faith journeys. Believers do not know exactly where their faith will take them, but one day faith will lead all believers home to spend eternity praising God together!



Prepare the Room

Check for food allergies. **Cut pickles** into small pieces. **Place** pickle pieces and **brown food** separately into **small paper cups**.



Conversation Starter

I'm sure you have seen many ads.
Where are some places where ads are found?
(TV, online, billboards, stores, and many more!)

Bible Lesson © 10-15 min

Why do companies use ads? They do it to provide an example of what they're selling. Maybe you've seen a toy ad, and you've thought the toy looks fun, and you'd like to have one. Maybe you've tried a sample of food in a store and thought, I'd like to have more of this.

Let's try an experiment. (Show samples.) Which tastes sweet, and which tastes salty? (Hand out pickle and brown food samples, and let students try.) The taste probably isn't what you expected. What looked like chocolate pudding is salty, and the pickles are sweet! Samples revealed more about the food.

Samples and examples allow us to understand more about something. By trying a bite, you knew more about what the brown food and pickles tasted like and whether you would like to eat

That was an example of a sample! That's funny to say, but the world is full of samples and examples that help us understand things better.

Chapter 11 in Hebrews gives good examples of people living their faith. The writer of Hebrews used many people from the Old Testament as examples of how to live faithfully for God. Most of the things we learn, such as tying our shoes or throwing a ball, we learn by having someone show us how.

But the examples in Hebrews 11 are about something more important than tying our shoes. The examples in this chapter are about how to live faithfully for God. Faith is a strong belief in the existence of God. To have faith is to believe that God exists and trust Him. By trusting in Jesus, God's Son, for salvation, you can trust that someday you will spend eternity with Him. The writer of Hebrews wrote about some other people who had faith in God.



What are ways people can show they have faith in God?

Abel was the son of Adam and Eve. Abel did what was right and obeyed God. His brother did not obey God. Abel is an example of how important it is to obey God's commands. One example of obeying God completely speaking the truth with others. Is it OK to tell a so-called "white lie"? No. Lying is a sin, and we shouldn't lie. What are other examples of obeying God completely? (M Have students raise hands, stand, and share.)

Enoch was someone who pleased God. He believed God exists, and he believed that God rewards those who truly look for Him. It is true that anyone who believes in God and truly seeks Him will be rewarded. They will get to spend eternity in heaven with Him.

Noah was an example of someone who trusted what God told him. Noah had never seen a flood, but he spent 120 years building an ark because God told him to. God told him to build the ark to save himself, his family, and animals! The ark was a huge boat! Do you think the people around him made fun of him? Yes, they probably did. Noah did not let the words of others stop him from believing and obeying what God told him to do. Never let others making fun of you or being mean stop you from believing and trusting in God.

Abraham is another example. He trusted in God's promises. Do you think it would be easy to leave your house, family, and friends and go live in tents in a foreign land? No, but Abraham believed in God's promise. He obeyed God's command to go. You should always believe in the promises of God.

Sarah was Abraham's wife. She believed in God's promise that she would have a son. Sarah was too old to have a baby, but she knew that God was faithful and able to keep the promise He had made. Later Sarah gave birth to a baby. With God, all things are possible.



How can you learn more about how to live faithfully for God?

You should learn from the many examples in the Bible of people living faithfully for God. All the people listed in Hebrews 11 are examples to us about how to live faithfully for God.



You may need to alter what you choose, but remember to choose baby food, gravy, etc., that resembles chocolate pudding.

Explaining the Memory Verse

Many people believe that they can earn salvation by doing good things. They don't have faith in God. However, God told us that without having belief and trust in Him, it is impossible to please Him. Only with true faith can we please God.



Activity: Wacky Charades 5-10 min

Divide the students into teams. Mix the "good" and "bad" cards. Call up one student from each team. Hand each of them one of the cards and instruct them to keep it a secret. Now pick a charade card and show both students. The student with "good" must act out the card as written. The student with "bad" must act out the opposite of the card. The guessing students do not know who is acting out the true card and who is acting out the opposite. The teams should take turns figuring it out and guessing. Allow each student to take a turn.

SUPPLIES:

- note cards
- marker

PREP: Print "good," "bad," and charade actions on note cards.

Big Question: What is faith?

Faith is belief in the existence of God and trust in Him. Faith is evidence of God (Heb. 11:1). Although God is invisible, we live by faith, not sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). The easiest time to doubt our faith is when bad things happen, but God allows trials to come to help grow our faith. Read James 1:2-6. Faith is powerful. Read 1 John 5:4. Those who know God will live

by their faith. Read Romans 1:17. Faith allows us to become a part of the family of God. Read Galatians 3:26-27.

Our faith makes us strong (1 Cor. 16:13). How can we have more faith in God? We can ask Him. The apostles asked God for more faith (Luke 17:5). We can ask God to give us greater faith so that we can please Him.

Next Steps

We should always be working to make our faith stronger. This week, choose one of the people in the examples in Hebrews 11 and grow your faith by following the person's example. For instance, you may choose to follow the example of Abel and focus on obeying God completely!

Prayer Points

- Thank God that He offers faith as a gift. •
- Ask God to help your students grow in faith by learning from the examples of godly people.
 - Praise God that He has promised to grow our faith when we ask. •

Christ Focus

Jesus is the object of our faith, and we should always try to please Him more.