



Intermediate Bible Teacher ✕

For Teachers of Teens Ages
12 through 14

March
April
May

SPRING
2026

Intermediate Bible Teacher⁺

SPRING QUARTER

March, April, May 2026

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GOD'S WRATH SATISFIED IN CHRIST

UNIT 1: God's Wrath on Sin

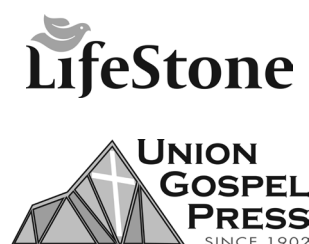
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Dear Intermediate Teacher,

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

Intermediate 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.
- **Action** symbols help you see opportunities to invite your class to take part in the lesson.
- **Discussion Questions** help students engage with the Scriptures intellectually and emotionally throughout the lesson. These questions appear in both the class and teacher books.
- **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 intermediates 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.

KEY:

Teacher Tips



Just Curious



Prop Prompts



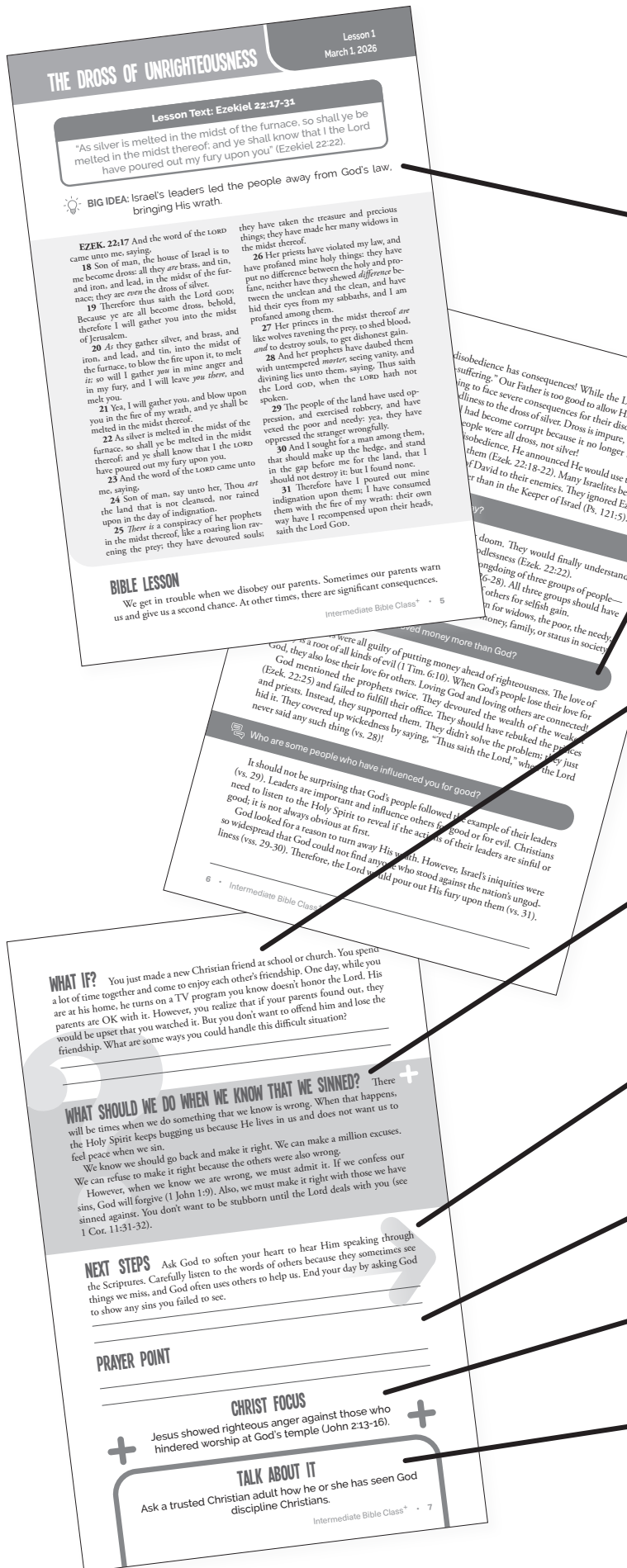
Actions



Discussion Questions



Here's a peek at the features of *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 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 with room to make notes for an action plan.
- The **Prayer Point** encourages committing 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 trusted Christian adults in their life in conversation about God's Word.

UNIT 1:

God's Wrath on Sin

Lesson 1: Ezekiel 22:17-31

The Dross of Unrighteousness

Lesson 2: Ezekiel 33:12-20

The Way of the Lord Is Just

Lesson 3: Romans 1:18-23

God's Wrath Revealed

God is love. He is also holy. In His holiness, His love includes a response to sin that many are uncomfortable with—His wrath. Yet for God to be a truly good Father, correction must come to His children. Many times, the biblical writers proclaim that God is “slow to anger.” Yet, once the time for correction has come, we often cry “not fair!” As you teach the lessons in this unit, emphasize to your students how long God waited for His people to turn from their sin. He also is patient with us to turn from sin.



The Dross of Unrighteousness

Lesson Text: Ezekiel 22:17-31

Lesson 1
March 1, 2026

“As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the Lord have poured out my fury upon you (Ezekiel 22:22).”



Big Idea: Israel's leaders led the people away from God's law, bringing His wrath.

EZEKIEL 22:17 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

18 Son of man, the house of Israel is to me become dross: all they *are* brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace; they are *even* the dross of silver.

19 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye are all become dross, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem.

20 *As* they gather silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace, to blow the fire upon it, to melt *it*; so will I gather *you* in mine anger and in my fury, and I will leave *you there*, and melt you.

21 Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in the fire of my wrath, and ye shall be melted in the midst thereof.

22 As silver is melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.

23 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

24 Son of man, say unto her, Thou *art* the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation.

25 *There is* a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravaging the prey; they have devoured souls;

they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

26 Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

27 Her princes in the midst thereof *are* like wolves ravaging the prey, to shed blood, *and* to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain.

28 And her prophets have daubed them with untempered *mortar*; seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

29 The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.

30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

Prepare Your Mind

Throughout the Bible, God's judgment is depicted as a fire (see Zech. 13:9). God declared the nation of Israel was dross, the base metal separated from silver in the furnace (Ezek. 22:18-19, 30). When God judged Israel, they would flee into His wrath (vss. 19-22).



Supplies

- desks and chairs
- blindfold

Prepare Your Heart

We need to remember that our Heavenly Father is not aloof or disinterested in the behavior of His children. When we fail to respond, He lovingly chastens us (see Heb. 12:5-11). God can take what we think is safe and use it to correct us. In this passage, it was the elevated and walled city of Jerusalem. In Jonah's case, it was a ship on its way to Tarshish (Jonah 1:3).

We will never outsmart the Lord. We may run, but we cannot hide from His chastening (see Prov. 19:21).

It is always best to judge ourselves rather than resist and have the Lord judge us. God will do whatever it takes to move His people to repentance (see 1 Cor. 11:29-31).



Conversation Starter

When your parents or teachers ask you to do something you do not want to do, what excuses might go through your mind to avoid doing it?

Bible Lesson 🕒 10-15 min



Sometimes we get into trouble because we disobey our parents. Maybe you were told to clean your room or finish your homework before playing video games. But you didn't do it. Sometimes our parents warn us and give us a second chance. At other times, there are significant consequences.

The Bible teaches that disobedience may have terrible consequences! While the Lord is very long-suffering, He is not “forever-suffering.” Our Father is too good and just to allow His people to continue in sin. Israel was going to face some severe consequences for their disobedience.

God compared Israel's ungodliness to the dross of silver. Dross is unwanted material that is mixed in with silver. It is impure and worthless. Israel had become corrupt and worthless because it no longer reflected God's shining greatness and glory. The people were all dross, not silver!

The Lord had enough of their disobedience. He announced the coming consequences of Israel's ungodliness with frightening words—anger, indignation, wrath, and fury. He also announced that He would use the city of Jerusalem as the furnace of His wrath to judge them (Ezek. 22:18-22). ❗

You might think Ezekiel's words would deter God's people from ever seeking safety inside Jerusalem. However, many Israelites believed God would never turn over the city of David to their wicked enemies. They ignored Ezekiel's words and continued to place their trust in a place rather than in the Keeper of Israel (Ps. 121:5).



You can read about Nebuchadnezzar's attack on Israel in 2 Kings 24 through 25.



What do people trust in for safety today?

Israel's misplaced trust would spell their doom. Jerusalem would become the furnace of God's wrath. When that happened, they would finally understand that the Lord poured out His fury upon their godlessness (Ezek. 22:22). But then it would be too late.

The basis of the Lord's judgment was the wrongdoing of three groups of people—the priests, the princes, and the prophets (vss. 26-28). All three groups should have been serving Israel but instead took advantage of others for selfish gain.

They forgot that the Lord has a particular concern for widows, the poor, the needy, and strangers. They are easily abused because they lack money, family, or status in society. As Scripture often states, abusing and misusing someone of these groups captures God's attention and displeasure (see Deut. 24:19; Pss. 12:5; 146:9).



How would you know if you loved money more than God?

These leaders were all guilty of putting money ahead of righteousness. Jesus later rebuked the same money-loving spirit when He drove out the money changers in the temple, who made it hard for people to worship God (John 2:13-17). The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil (1 Tim. 6:10). When God's people lose their love for God, they also lose their love for others. Loving God and loving others are connected!

God mentioned the prophets twice. First, like the other leaders, they devoured the wealth of the weakest (Ezek. 22:25). Second, they failed to fulfill their office. They should have rebuked the ungodliness of the princes and priests. Instead, they supported them. They covered up their ungodly actions. They didn't solve the problem; they just hid it. They covered up wickedness by saying, “Thus saith the Lord,” when the Lord never said any such thing (vs. 28)!



Who are some people who have influenced you for good?

It should not be surprising that God's people followed the example of their leaders (vs. 29). Leaders are important and influence others for good or for evil. Christians need to listen to the Holy Spirit to reveal if the actions of their leaders are sinful or good; it is not always obvious at first.

Israel's iniquities were so widespread that God could not find anyone who stood against the nation's ungodliness (vss. 29-30). Therefore, the Lord would pour out His fury upon them (vs. 31).

What If?

You just made a new Christian friend at school or church. You spend a lot of time together and come to enjoy each other's friendship. One day, while you are at his home, he turns on a TV program you know doesn't honor the Lord. His parents are OK with it. However, you realize that if your parents found out, they would be upset that you watched it. But you don't want to offend him and lose the friendship. What are some ways you could handle this difficult situation?

Explaining the Memory Verse

Silver ore is placed into a furnace and heated to an extreme temperature. The intense heat melts the ore, and the unwanted material floats to the top, which can then be separated from the silver. The Lord used that process to describe the coming day of His wrath upon Israel. On that terrible day of God's fury, they would not doubt that the Lord brought this judgment upon them because of their iniquity.



Activity: Blind Leaders ⌚ 5–10 min

Form a line of students, each placing their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Have the lead student walk around the perimeter of the room. Select another leader and ask, "Do you think you could lead the students as well as the previous leader?" Ask that leader to weave in and out the rows of desks and chairs. Finally, select a third leader and ask the same question. Then **blindfold** that leader and have that person lead the line through the same course. Discuss what happens when blind religious leaders lead God's people.

SUPPLIES:

- desks and chairs
- blindfold

PREP: Arrange the **desks and chairs** to easily create a simple obstacle course.

Big Question: What should we do when we know that we sinned?

There will be times when we do something that we know is wrong. When that happens, the Holy Spirit keeps bugging us because He lives in us and does not want us to feel peace when we sin.

We know we should go back and make it right. We can make a million excuses to justify what we did. We might

refuse to make it right because the others were also wrong. However, when we know we are wrong, we must admit it. If we confess our sins, God will forgive (1 John 1:9). Also, we must make it right with those we have sinned against. You don't want to be stubborn until the Lord deals with you (see 1 Cor. 11:31-32).

Next Steps

Ask God to soften your heart to hear Him speaking through the Scriptures. Carefully listen to the words of others because they sometimes see things we miss, and God often uses others to help us. End your day by asking God to show any sins you failed to see.

Prayer Points

- Pray that each student will be sensitive to the Spirit's conviction. •
- Pray that the students will quickly confess and change directions after doing wrong. •
- Ask God to be continuously gracious and patient with us as we seek to live godly lives. •

Christ Focus

Jesus showed righteous anger against those who hindered worship at God's temple (John 2:13-16).