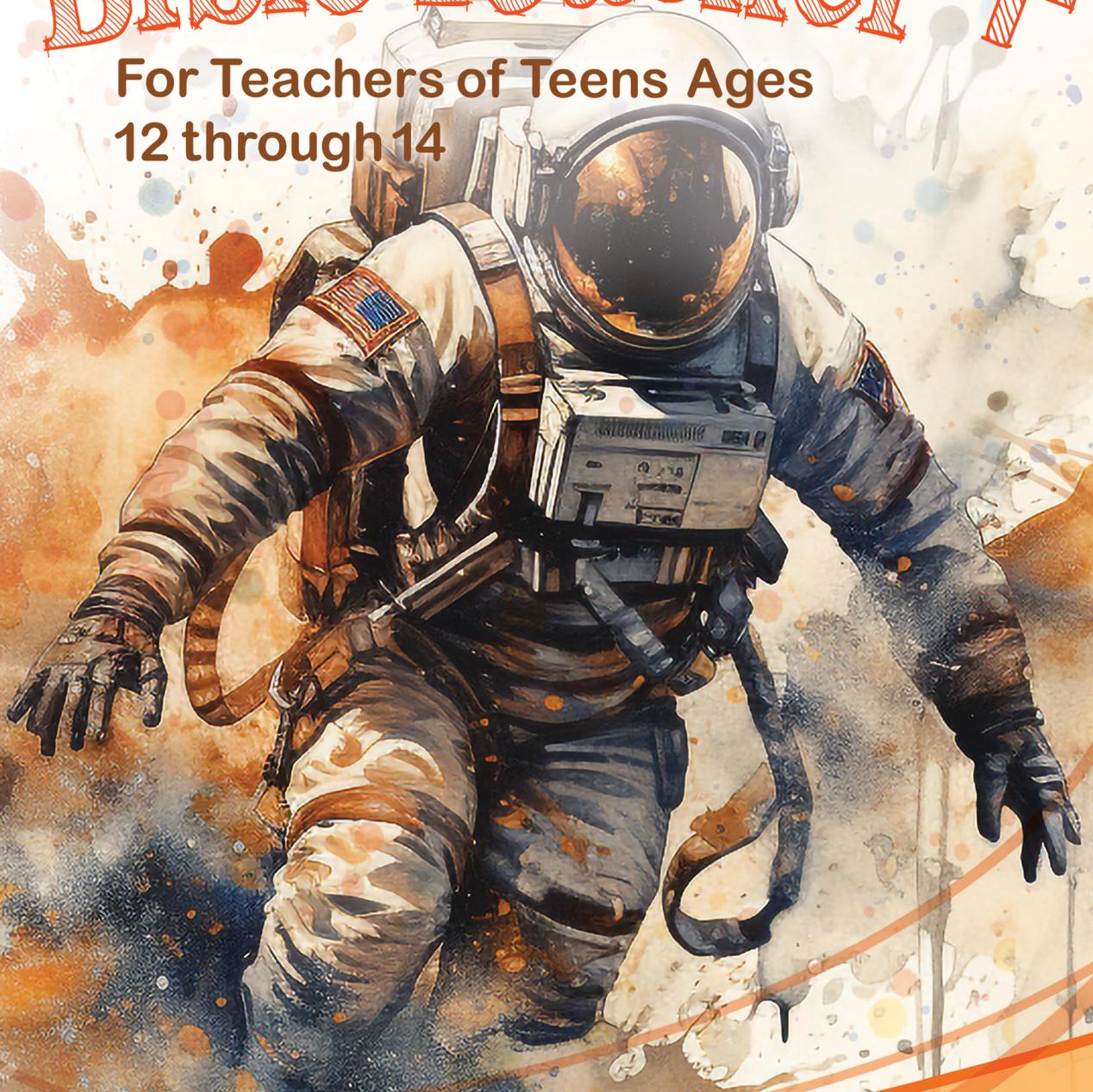


Intermediate Bible Teacher ✕

For Teachers of Teens Ages
12 through 14



June
July
August

SUMMER
2026

Intermediate Bible Teacher⁺

SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2026

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THE LORD’S PATIENCE WITH HIS PEOPLE

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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.
- **Bonus pages** for you and 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 features of *Intermediate Bible Class*®:

LESSON 3
June 21, 2025

GOD'S MERCY IN HISTORY

Lesson Text: Joshua 24:2-13

"And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them: of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat" (Joshua 24:13).

BIG IDEA: Joshua recounted the ways God had shown mercy to Israel in the past.

JOSH. 24:2 And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Some fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Terah, the father of Abraham, and the father of Nachor: and they served other gods.

3 And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and resided at Hebron, and gave him Isaac.

4 And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Seir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.

5 I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I told among thee: and afterward I brought you out.

6 And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea, and the Egyptians pursued after your fathers with chariots and horses unto the Red sea.

7 And when they cried unto the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, and covered them: and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwell in the wilderness a long season.

8 And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land: and I despoiled them from before you.

9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Balaam the son of Beor to curse you.

10 But I would not hearken unto Balaam: therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand.

11 And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Gurgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I delivered them into your hand, and I delivered them into your hand, and I delivered them before you.

12 And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, even the two kings of the Amorites: but not with the sword, nor with the bow.

13 And I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them: of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat.

BIBLE LESSON
Joshua became the leader of Israel after Moses died. Throughout Israel's history, the Lord had shown them kindness and grace. Before Joshua died, he reminded God's people of all that God had done long before they possessed the Promised Land. Joshua helped lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. He didn't know when the day of his death would be, but he was old and wise enough to make sure

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... would once again challenge God's people to worship and...
... by going back through Israel's history. He reminded the...
... them mercy, grace, kindness, and patience way back...
... Abraham that He would give them a wonderful place to...
... had planned to give Israel great blessings long before...
... Joshua were born. His story returned back hundreds...
... to follow Him (vs. 2-3).

... God worked in your family before you were...

... did seemingly impossible situations that the...
... and Abraham's background. His family had...
... away from the worship of many gods to...

... ents would possess the land of Canaan...
... at nation. The son God promised to...
... ac's son, Jacob, had twelve sons. He...
... grew in number while they were in Egypt (Ex...
... delivered His mercy and greatness for hundreds of years!

... Joshua challenged those who saw God's miracles with their own eyes to remember...
... the destruction of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea and the incredible miracle in the...
... wilderness (Josh. 24:5-7). Joshua also described how God had given Israel victories...
... over their enemies in the land He was giving to them (vs. 8-12).

... What has God done in your life that you hope you never forget?

... Just before finishing his speech, Joshua talked about the people's current situa-
... tion. They were the generation that possessed the land that God had first promised...
... to Abraham long ago. They should have known that God keeps His promises. The...
... people had come to live in the Promised Land, and they did not have to build cities...
... or plant vineyards (vs. 13).

... Joshua pointed out that God had been good to the people of Israel. He wanted to...
... convince them to reject the false gods of the nations around them. He reviewed their...
... history so that they would come to the only sensible conclusion. The best choice the...
... people of Israel could make was to worship only God and do what is pleasing to Him.

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WHAT IF? Imagine that you had a friend since you were in kindergarten. You always looked out for your friend. For years, you have been helpful, kind, and giving to your friend. Anytime he needed something, you were there to see if you could lend a hand. Then your friend started to ignore you. He found other friends. They did not like that you believe in God. You seem to have lost your best friend. How do you think you would feel? What would you do if one day he wanted to be your friend again?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER GOD'S GOODNESS? You can probably remember times when God has answered your prayers. There have been blessings in your life that you know were from God. It is easy to forget the good things He does and let all the worries and troubles of this world bother you. That is why God wants you to remember His goodness (see Ps. 103:2, 78:7). When troubles and difficulties come, it helps to make a list of all the blessings you have. Perhaps some things are not so great for you, but do you have clothes, food, and warmth? Some people do not. Do you have people who love you? Some people do not. God shares His love with us, but some people do not know that God is good. Thank Him for the good He has done for you.

NEXT STEPS Take some steps to help you remember God's goodness. Start a small journal where you record the times when the Lord was gracious or examples of His special works of kindness. You could also begin collecting small items that remind you of God's goodness.

PRAYER POINT

CHRIST FOCUS
Jesus died for us to show God's mercy for our sins.

TALK ABOUT IT
Ask several trusted Christian adults about ways God has shown them mercy.

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- 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:

Slow to Anger

Lesson 1: Numbers 14:11-24

Moses Prays for Mercy

Lesson 2: Exodus 34:1-14

God Renews His Covenant

Lesson 3: Joshua 24:2-13

God's Mercy in History

Lesson 4: 1 Samuel 8:1-18

God Grants Israel a King

Anger does not usually come to mind when we think about God. He is full of grace, mercy, and love. God *does* get angry; however, He is slow to get angry. He is patient. We can see His patience in His dealing with Israel as Moses and Joshua led them to the Promised Land. The people later rejected God as their king and replaced Him with a sinful, fallible human king. Still, God was patient and slow to anger toward them. Encourage your students to take comfort in the fact that their Heavenly Father is patient and slow to anger with His people today too.



Moses Prays for Mercy

Lesson Text: Numbers 14:11-24

Lesson 1
June 7, 2026

“ Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now (Numbers 14:19). ”



Big Idea: Moses asked God to forgive the iniquity of Israel, and God did.

NUM. 14:11 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

13 And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear *it*, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

14 And they will tell *it* to the inhabitants of this land: *for* they have heard that thou LORD *art* among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and *that* thy cloud standeth over them, and *that* thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.

15 Now *if* thou shalt kill *all* this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,

16 Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.

17 And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,

18 The LORD *is* longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation*.

19 Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

20 And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

21 But *as truly as* I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Prepare Your Mind

Intercession means asking for something on behalf of another. Moses demonstrated powerful intercession when the Lord's wrath was set against Israel because they refused to go into the Promised Land (Num. 14:11). He argued for mercy based on who God was, what God had said, and God's reputation. The Lord wants us to intercede for others (see Num. 14:17-18; 1 Tim. 2:1-4).



Supplies

- paper
- pens
- balance scale
- weighted bag
- smooth white stones
- black marker

Prepare Your Heart

“Ten Said No, Two Said Go” (Evans) is a children's song summarizing the twelve spies' report. The ten spies' discouraging words created a sense of hopelessness among God's people.

The Lord did not reserve His judgment for the ten unbelieving spies who “discouraged the heart of the children of Israel” (Num. 32:9). All of God's unbelieving people faced His wrath, and they all lost out on experiencing God's Land of Promise (14:22-24). Only Joshua, Caleb, and the children would reach the Promised Land. Without Moses' selfless intercession, most of God's people would not have lived even to see their children grow up!

Godly leadership makes a difference. Ministry leaders have the responsibility of interceding for God's people, even when they foolishly make terrible decisions.



Conversation Starter

() As your students enter, hand each one a piece of **paper** and a **pen**. Have them write down a prayer request and return the papers and pens to you. Tell them you will intercede for them to God.)

Bible Lesson 🕒 10-15 min



Do you know what “intercede” means? It means I will “go between” you and God. I will talk to God and even plead with Him about your requests. God wants Christians to pray for one another and for other people. It is important for Christians to show how much they care about others. Prayer is one way to do that. Christians should pray for anyone that needs it, even those who upset them. Do you pray for people you don't like?

God had led the people of Israel from Egypt to the land He promised to give them. They often were not grateful to Him, but God was patient as He led them to the Promised Land. At one point, Israel sent twelve spies into the Promised Land to check it out. Ten spies gave a report that scared the people, and the people refused to enter the Promised Land.

Their lack of faith in God's power stirred up His wrath. The powerful miracles God had performed for His people demonstrated His greatness and glory (see Num. 14:21-22). Those signs provided proof that He would be with them as they entered the Promised Land. His many miracles should have given all of them the same courage Joshua and Caleb had (vs. 24). However, the report of the ten spies convinced everyone that they could not trust the Lord to fight for them (see 13:25—14:10).

 What would you and your family include in a list of things God has powerfully done?

The Lord told Moses that He was angry with the people of Israel. He told Moses that He would smite the people and start over with Moses' family (14:12).  Moses prayed and asked God not to do that. The Lord showed mercy instead.

The Lord showed mercy when Moses interceded for the people. God spared the people because He is a God of mercy. Moses often prayed on behalf of God's people (see Ex. 32:11-14; Num. 11:1-2; 12:13; 21:7). Moses knew the Lord forgave people for their sins (Num. 14:19).

The Lord loves it when His people pray. He wants them to pray for others. God answered Moses' prayer. God is in charge of all things, but He wants His people to love and obey Him and to show their love when they talk to Him.

Moses was also worried about what the people of other nations would say about God if He destroyed Israel. God already knew the thoughts of all people everywhere, but God liked that Moses cared about God's reputation.  Moses did not want the people of other countries to think badly about God. The surrounding nations had heard that Israel's God was guiding them (vss. 13-14).



What does “smite” mean? It means to strike something hard.



When “LORD” appears in small capital letters in our Bibles, it is the Hebrew word “Yawheh,” the proper name of God.

 How does what we say and do cause others to think better or worse about our Lord?

Moses was worried that the people of the other nations would say that God was not mighty enough to take the people of Israel into the Promised Land (vs. 16). They would say that God had no power. So Moses asked God to show how great He was by getting the people of Israel to land He had promised to give them as their new home (vss. 17-18).

Moses also told God that he knew the Lord was very merciful. He knew that God forgives those who call out to Him for forgiveness (see Ps. 86:5). Moses pointed out that God had forgiven His people in the past. Moses knew that God was full of love and goodness. He asked God to forgive His people again (Num. 14:18-19).

The Lord showed mercy by not destroying the people of Israel. Still, He was not happy with how the people disobeyed Him and doubted His power. God punished the people who said bad things about Him. Those people would not see the Promised Land. They would live just outside it (vss. 22-23).

God rewarded Caleb. He was one of the two spies who said they knew God could get the people to the Promised Land (vss. 6-10). Caleb and Joshua pleased God by trusting in His strength and faithfulness to His people. The Lord would bring them into the Promised Land.

What If?

You and your best friend are both on a sports team, and he is a starting player. He does not take his position seriously, however. He repeatedly fails to show up on time for practice. He does not work very hard during practices, and he needs to listen better to the coach's instructions. You overhear the coach saying that he is tired of this and is thinking about cutting him from the team rather than just benching him. What could you say to the coach to help your friend get a second chance?

Explaining the Memory Verse

Moses' prayer was not for himself but for God's people who refused to enter the land God had promised to give them. He interceded for the people, asking the Lord to forgive them. The Lord had already forgiven His people and shown great mercy many times. Moses talked with God about all the times that the Lord had forgiven His people's sins in the past.



Activity: Enough Is Enough ⌚ 5-10 min

Give each student one or more stones. Place the "God's Patience" bag on the scale. Ask students one at a time what the sin on their stone is. Have the student place the stone on the scale. The placement of the last stone should outweigh the bag of God's patience. Discuss the slowness of God's anger and the greatness of God's mercy and patience.

SUPPLIES:

- balance scale
- weighted bag
- smooth white stones
- black marker

PREP: Set up the **scale** in front of the room and **label** the **weighted bag** "God's Patience." Figure out how many stones it takes to lift the weighted bag. Print one of Israel's sins on each **stone**.

Big Question: What should I do when I know what I did or said is sinful?

There will be times when we do something that we know is wrong. When we do, the Holy Spirit helps us know the difference between right and wrong and to repent of sin.

If you are not a Christian, you first need to see that your sin separates you from God and that you need Jesus

as your Savior. Then for the rest of your life, when you know you are wrong, admit it to God. Confess your sins, and God will always forgive you (see 1 John 1:9). If you sin and hurt others, ask them for forgiveness. Don't wait to take care of sin in your life. You don't want to force the Lord to deal with you about it (see 1 Cor. 11:31-32).

Next Steps

This week, confess your sins to the Lord. If you know people who are not Christians, pray for them to come to know Jesus as Savior. If you know a Christian who is constantly disobeying God, pray that the Holy Spirit will convict that person to confess any sin to the Lord.

Prayer Points

- Pray that each of your students will come to know Jesus as Savior. •
- Ask God to guide them each day in their lives. •
- Praise God for being slow to anger and patient with us, time and time again. •

Christ Focus

Being patient with and forgiving others is the right response of Jesus' disciples (Matt. 18:21-35).