

Intermediate Bible Teacher ✕

For Teachers of Teens
Ages 12 through 14



WINTER
2026-27

December
January
February

Intermediate Bible Teacher⁺

WINTER QUARTER

December 2026, January, February 2027

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**Managing Editors:**

Michelle Birtasevic
James Frohlich, Ph.D.

Writers:

Jody Stinson, Laura Thomas,
Union Gospel Press Editorial Staff

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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 6
January 10, 2027

A NEW COMMANDMENT

Lesson Text: John 13:31-38

"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another: as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34).

BIG IDEA: Jesus wants His followers to love people as He does.

JOHN 13:31 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him. 33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me, and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another: as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. 36 Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me; now, but thou shalt follow me afterwards. 37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why canst thou not I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. 38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

BIBLE LESSON

Jesus is the greatest example of how to love others. He showed us how much He loves us by dying on the cross for us. But the evening before His crucifixion, He had an important conversation with His friends, Jesus and His disciples gathered in a room, where He surprised them by washing their feet. Imagine their filthy feet that had walked on dirty, dusty roads in sandals. But Jesus gave them an example of something they could remember when He gave them a new commandment. The disciples then sat around a table with Jesus, their feet nice and clean, with no new commandment. The disciples then sat around a table with Jesus, their feet nice and clean, with no new commandment. The disciples then sat around a table with Jesus, their feet nice and clean, with no new commandment.

How do you think Jesus felt, knowing exactly what Judas was about to do?

That's where our lesson starts today in John 13:31-38. Jesus' closest friends were spending time with Him. They were unaware that He was about to be arrested and then executed the following day. But Jesus knew that their time together was ending, and He had something important to tell them.

What If? helps intermediates imagine how the Bible lesson might be applied to a hypothetical scenario that could occur in their everyday lives.

Why do you think it is important for Christians to love?

Verses 35 makes it clear why Christians should love one another as Jesus loves. Doing that will show everyone who the followers of Jesus are. Christians are supposed to show that there is something wonderfully different about them. Jesus' love should pour out from Christians into the lives of those around them. To follow Jesus is to love other people as Jesus loves them. Going out of your way to be kind and generous, making time to listen and care, finding ways to help and serve—these things show the world who Jesus is.

WHAT IF? You are having problems with someone in your class at school. He's mean to almost everyone, picks on you, has a bad attitude—and he goes to your church! You try to be friends with him, but you can barely say hello without him responding rudely. How are you supposed to show love to someone like that? You have learned that Jesus commanded all Christians to love one another. What can you do to fulfill His commandment to love this person as Jesus loves him?

HOW DO I SHOW LOVE TO SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT WANT TO BE LOVED?

Dealing with some people can be difficult, especially when they are mean or make it clear that they don't want your help. Jesus still commands you to love others, so you need to rely on Him for guidance and patience. In Luke 6:32, Jesus says that it's easy to love those who love you—anyone can do that. To love someone who is unlovely, difficult, or mean—that takes Jesus' love. With the help of the Holy Spirit and a whole lot of prayer, you can see that person through Jesus' eyes and with a compassionate heart. Ask God for help and find creative ways to show Him love to others. Remember that He can soften the hardest heart, and we should trust Him and be willing to obey His commandment to love other people the way He has loved us.

NEXT STEPS Ask Jesus how you can put love into action this week. Think of a practical way you can show His love to one specific person. As a gift, bake something, send a card, offer to do a chore, babysit, visit, or do something else that shows love.

PRAYER POINT

CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus is the perfect example of how to love others.

TALK ABOUT IT

Ask a trusted Christian adult about ways to show love to others.

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:

Love Sends a Savior

Lesson 1: Lamentations 3:1-3, 19-39

The Lord's Compassion

Lesson 2: Isaiah 62:1-12

Salvation for Zion

Lesson 3: John 1:1-14

Light of the World (Christmas)

Lesson 4: John 3:1-21

Born of the Spirit

The world has rather messed-up ideas about love. Even the young adult novels your students may be reading include selfish relationships involving characters who couldn't care less about what happens to others. But God's love is the opposite. He loves us so deeply that He sent His Son. Jesus took on human flesh and lived on the earth. His life included discomfort, pain, and loss. Crucially, He died a horrendous death. Why? Because of His deep love for us. In a world full of unhealthy relationships, we have a beautiful model to follow.



The Lord's Compassion

Lesson Text: Lamentations 3:1-3, 19-39

Lesson 1

December 6, 2026

“ It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23). ”



Big Idea: Even in times of great tribulation, God was compassionate and faithful to His people Israel.

LAM. 3:1 I *am* the man *that* hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath.

2 He hath led me, and brought *me into* darkness, but not *into* light.

3 Surely against me is he turned; he turneth his hand *against me* all the day;

19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the worm-wood and the gall.

20 My soul hath *them* still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

22 *It is of the* LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 *They are* new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

24 The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

25 The LORD *is* good unto them that wait for him, to the soul *that* seeketh him.

26 *It is* good that *a man* should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

27 *It is* good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

28 He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne *it* upon him.

29 He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope.

30 He giveth *his* cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach.

31 For the LORD will not cast off for ever:

32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

34 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth,

35 To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High,

36 To subvert a man in his cause, the LORD approveth not.

37 Who *is* he *that* saith, and it cometh to pass, *when* the LORD commandeth *it* not?

38 Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?

39 Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?

Prepare Your Mind

In Lamentations we see the devastating fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC at the hand of the Babylonians. In their state of grief and suffering, the people of Israel acknowledged their sins and cried out to God for restoration and repentance.

Like a beacon of light amidst a sea of darkness, in the center of the book in 3:22-25, the laments take a back seat as the focus is shifted to the hope found in God's love, faithfulness, and salvation (vs. 26).



Supplies

- paper
- pens or pencils

Prepare Your Heart

The Bible does not shy away from hard issues. It doesn't pretend life is peachy once we become followers of Christ. The truth is that everyone experiences highs and lows, gains and losses, celebration and mourning, joy and pain. The difference for Christians is that they get to do all this with Jesus. They get to walk in His love and strength, knowing that the God of the universe is in complete control and that He is utterly faithful!

Lamentations 3:21 reminds us that we can call to mind God's faithfulness demonstrated throughout history in the pages of Scripture—and in our own past experiences—in order to give us hope. As His beloved children, we remember that He is good, loving, compassionate, rich in mercy, and always faithful.



Conversation Starter

Here is a riddle! If you cut me with a knife, I won't cry, but you will! What am I?

An onion!

What are some things that can make people cry? (Discuss.)

Bible Lesson 🕒 10-15 min

Today we're looking at what some people call the weepiest book in the Bible: Lamentations. "Lament" means "to weep, mourn, or grieve." When the book was written, the people of Israel had a lot to cry about.

Although the author of Lamentations is technically anonymous, most scholars believe the prophet Jeremiah wrote it. In any case, whoever wrote it was smart! The first four chapters were originally written as acrostic poems. ?

There is a whole lot of sadness in Lamentations, but suddenly, right in the middle, the writer created some of the most beautiful, powerful words of hope you can imagine!

Lamentations was written by an eyewitness of something terrible that happened to God's people. The Israelites in Jerusalem had been living in disobedience toward God. They chose to ignore the prophets He had sent to them. The prophets warned the people about what would happen if they didn't change their ways. Then war began. A strong people called the Babylonians invaded. The city was destroyed in 586 BC. The Babylonians took many captives. The Israelites were in despair.

You can probably think of popular sad songs, movies, or books, for people can relate to them. Everyone understands sadness or suffering on some level. So it makes sense that God would include this "book of sorrows" in His Word for us to read.



What is an acrostic

poem? In an acrostic poem, the first letter of each line follows the alphabet or spells out a word, name, or phrase when read vertically.



What advice do people usually give to sad people?

The writer of Lamentations taught a helpful lesson—it is OK to be sad sometimes. We live in a sinful world, where pain, fear, war, suffering, and loss are common. It's good to grieve over sin and to feel sorry when we've messed up. It reminds us that we all need to ask God for forgiveness.

Today's lesson is about the Lord's compassion. His love never ends. The Israelites messed up royally and decided their way was better than God's. He told them what would happen if they ignored Him. It was only when God followed through on His warnings and their beloved city was ruined that they turned back to God and repented of their sinful ways.

The writer, however, believed things about God that everyone needs to. God has certain characteristics that can give us hope during even the worst times. Lamentations may be sad in many places, but it is actually a book about *hope*.



What do you know about God that can help you during bad days?

God doesn't want us to be stuck in our sorrows forever, feeling alone, confused, or frustrated. He didn't want that for the Israelites long ago, and He doesn't want that for you and me now. Lamentations 3:21 reminds us to remember His love, mercy, and faithfulness that carry us through our trials and tribulations!



How can remembering God's character help us during tough times?

Throughout life, we will face challenges and struggles with emotional highs and lows. The best way to thrive during any difficulties that bring darkness is to lift our eyes and focus on Jesus.

Lamentations gives us a helpful way to work through pain while holding on to hope and faith in God. Focus on His light, knowing that God's amazing love for us caused Him to send His Son to die as the penalty for our sins so that we can be restored to a relationship with Him.

Today there are many people, ideas, places, and products that attract too much of our attention. Those things promise hope that they cannot deliver. When life gets tough and things aren't going our way, having hope in Jesus and trusting Him with it all will help.

People who trust in Jesus as Savior have a special hope that only He can give. If you have not trusted in Jesus as your Savior, you can today. Choose to live a life fully devoted to Him, knowing He is with you in times of joy and sorrow. The Lord is always faithful!

What If?

What if your friend doesn't think there are consequences for his sin because he became a Christian when he was five years old? He's happy to keep hanging out with a bad crowd at school and has started drinking with them, yet says he'll just pray afterward and be fine because God is compassionate and forgiving. You know that Christians receive God's grace, but you also know that grace must not be abused. Who can you talk to about guiding your friend to do what is right, and what could you say to him?

Explaining the Memory Verse

The "Lord's mercies" refers to God's kindness and forgiveness. We all sin, but when we ask Him for forgiveness and for help not to do the same sinful things again, He will answer our prayers. "We are not consumed" means we will not be destroyed, for He is kind. His love for us is so deep that it will never end. His love and kindness last all day, every day.



Activity: Acrostic Challenge ⌚ 5–10 min

Separate the class into teams. Remind the students that the first four chapters of the book of Lamentations were originally written as acrostic poems. Give all team members **paper** and **pens or pencils**. Challenge each team to list the letters of the alphabet. Next to each letter, have them write a word that describes God (for example, A= Almighty). Each team should compose an acrostic poem about God! Set a timer for an amount of time suitable for your class. Say "Go!" At the end, have each team read their poem to the others.

SUPPLIES:

- paper
- pens or pencils

PREP: Clear a space for the students to gather in teams and make their lists.

Big Question: Why does God allow tough times for His followers?

It's hard for us to understand God's ways because we are limited by our human perspective. We must remember that He is the King of kings and Creator of the universe. He sees and knows all and is completely holy, just, and good—we are not! Hebrews 12:10 tells us that He disciplines those He loves for their good so that they can share in His holiness. A

"bad thing" that happens to us might seem unfair at the time, but God knows that sometimes we need to go through tough times to make us stronger in our faith and more reliant on Him. God can use hardships for our good (Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 4:17). We can trust that He is always faithful and compassionate toward His children and is with them in every way.

Next Steps

The memory verses for this week's lesson are truly worth memorizing! Commit to learning Lamentations 3:22-23 this week. Those powerful words of comfort can stay with you and be a source of encouragement.

Prayer Points

- Praise God for His unfailing love and never-ending faithfulness. •
- Ask God to guide your students when they navigate challenging situations. •
- Pray that your students will be overwhelmed with God's love, rather than overwhelmed by life. •

Christ Focus

Jesus' death on the cross showed the depths of God's mercy for sinners.