

Intermediate Bible Class +

For Teens Ages 12 through 14



December
January
February

WINTER
2026-27

Intermediate Bible Class⁺

WINTER QUARTER December 2026, January, February 2027

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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 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.

THE LORD'S COMPASSION

Lesson 1
December 6, 2026

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

"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 hath broken his hand against me all the day;

19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.
20 My soul hath stem all 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 a portion unto them that wait, 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 stretcheth alone, and keepeth silence, because he hath loved it upon him.

29 He purgeth 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: he will have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

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

33 To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth.

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 apprehendeth not.

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

38 One of the smooth of the most High prospecteth not evil and good?

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

BIBLE LESSON

Today we're looking at what some people might 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. They no longer lived in their homes in the Promised Land.

The first four chapters of Lamentations were originally written as an acrostic poem. There is a whole lot of sadness in Lamentations, but suddenly, right in the middle, the writer included some powerful words of hope!

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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 invaded them. The Babylonians invaded them. Jerusalem was destroyed in 586 BC. The Babylonians took many captives, and the Israelites were in despair.

You can probably think of popular sad songs or movies. Everyone understands sadness. So it makes sense that God would include this "book of sorrows" in His Word.

What advice do people usually give to sad people?

It's OK to be sad sometimes. We live in a sinful world, where pain, fear, war, suffering, and grief are common. It's good to grieve over sin and to feel sorry when we've messed up. But God's love never ends. The Israelites needed to turn to God for forgiveness.

Remember God's love. 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.

However, 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 also gives us a helpful way to work through pain while holding on to hope and faith in God. Focus on His light. That will give us the hope we need. Remember that God's amazing love for us caused Him to send His Son to die 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 the way we think they should, 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 that He is with you in times of joy and sorrow. The Lord is always faithful!

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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 grace must not be abused. What can you talk to about guiding your friend to do what is right, and what could you say to him?

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW TOUGH TIMES FOR HIS FOLLOWERS? It's not for us to understand God's ways because we are limited by our human perspective. We know 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 our 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 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. 1:3-4). We can trust that He is always faithful and compassionate toward His children in every way.

NEXT STEPS

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

PRAYER POINT

CHRIST FOCUS

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

TALK ABOUT IT

Ask a trusted Christian adult to talk about how God has shown His love during tough times.

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UNIT 1:

Love Sends a Savior



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

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