

JUNIOR BIBLE TEACHER **+**

For Teachers of Children
Ages 9 through 11



WINTER | December
2026-27 | January
February

Junior Bible Teacher⁺

WINTER QUARTER

December 2026, January, February 2027

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THE LOVE OF GOD

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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.
- **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



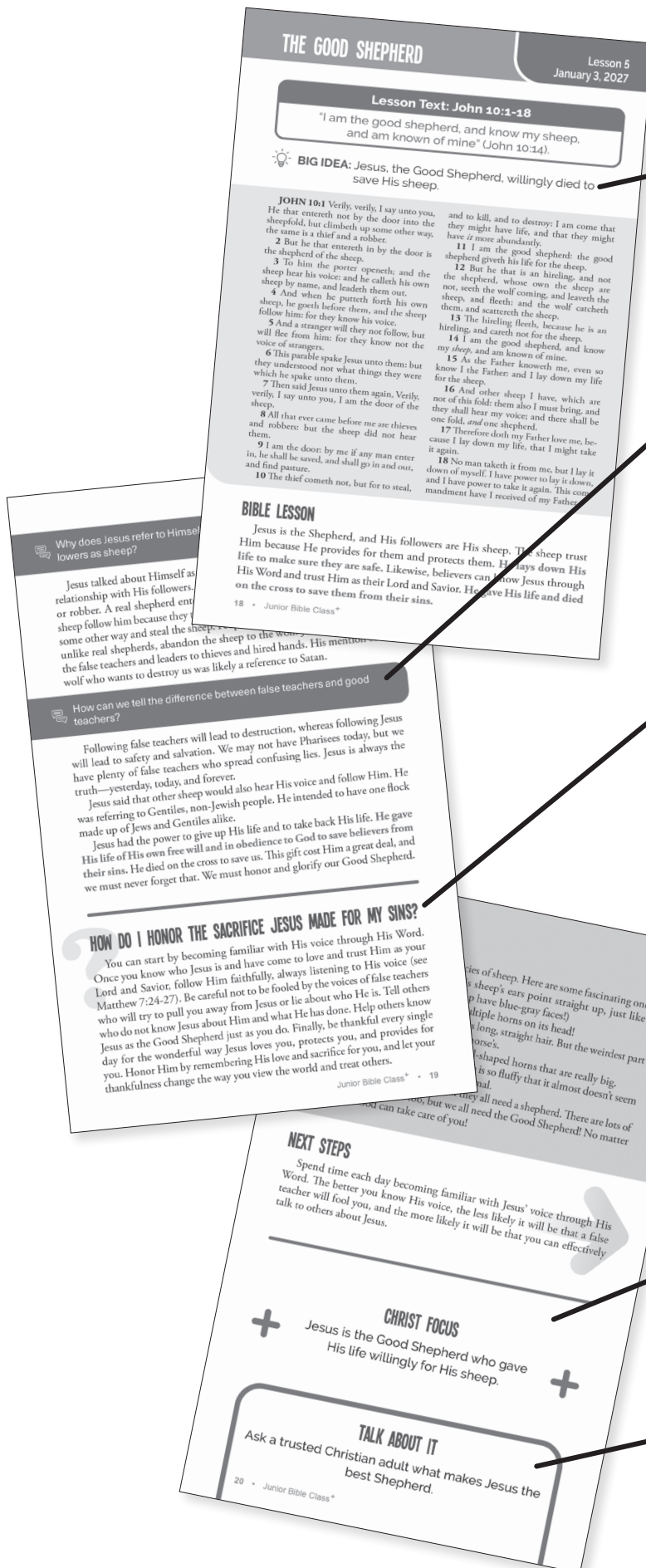
Actions



Discussion Questions



Here's a peek at the features of *Junior 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.

- The **Big Question** addresses common doubts or fears junior students might have about God and His Word from a biblical worldview.

- 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 Love

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 Again

Love may be a confusing concept for juniors. Some may have very loving families, and others may experience a lack of love at home or at the hands of bullies. In either case, even in the best of situations, we cannot fully comprehend God's perfect love. After all, as humans, we can imitate only a fraction of God's unconditional love. It's good to walk your junior students through just how wide, long, deep, and high the Father's love for us is. He was willing to give us His only Son—Jesus—to live an uncomfortable life on earth and die a very painful death. Why? Because He loves us that much.



The Lord's Love

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

Lesson 1

December 6, 2026



[God's] compassions fail not. They are new every morning:
great is thy faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23).



Big Idea: Even during times of great trouble, God was kind and good to His people.

LAMENTATIONS 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

Jeremiah wrote the book of Lamentations to express his grief after Jerusalem fell. Read Jeremiah 20:1-6 for background. It may be helpful to also read Lamentations 1 and 2 to learn the specifics of the Israelites' sin and reason for captivity. Prior to this passage, Jeremiah had been beaten and placed in the stocks for prophesying that Jerusalem would be destroyed and the people of Judah taken captive by Babylon.



Supplies

- picture of a sad face
- strips of paper
- pen
- whiteboard and markers
- basket or bag

Prepare Your Heart

When bad things happen in our lives, it can be easy to question God's goodness. Sometimes suffering is a punishment for our sins, and sometimes it is the result of living in a fallen world. No matter the case, God is still in control. He allows both good and bad into our lives for a reason. As you prepare for this lesson, pray for the students to understand that God loves them even though they or someone they know may be suffering.

As you examine your heart, be aware of your own circumstances and choices. Are you speaking God's truth no matter the consequences, as Jeremiah did? Are you going through a difficult situation, or do you know someone who is? If so, are you leaning on the hope of God's faithfulness and love?



Conversation Starter

Think about a time when you were sad. Have you ever felt so sad that you wondered whether you would ever be happy again? ( Show **picture of sad face.**)

Bible Lesson 🕒 10-15 min



We all feel sad sometimes. There are many reasons for feeling down. We feel very sad when someone we love dies or when a classmate makes fun of us. We feel hurt when our brother or sister treats us unfairly or when our parents punish us for doing something wrong. We may feel sad because someone we know is sick or is hurting from an injury. Sometimes feeling sad can make us feel angry or lonely too. We may even feel angry with God.

In today's lesson, a man named Jeremiah probably felt all those things too.

Jeremiah was a prophet of God. A prophet is a person God uses to deliver messages to His people. God's people were the Israelites. The Israelites listened to false prophets and believed them instead of Jeremiah because the false prophets said things they wanted to hear. ❓ The people had stopped following God's commands.

God was angry at their sin and told Jeremiah to deliver a message. God was going to punish the people. Their punishment was tough. They would be taken captive by a country called Babylon. The Israelites were not happy to hear Jeremiah's words!

The false prophets of Israel treated Jeremiah badly. They hurt him. Jeremiah probably felt as if God were far away from him when this happened. He had followed God's instructions, but God allowed him to suffer too.

Later, Jeremiah was sad when enemies captured the city of Jerusalem. But Jeremiah did not stay sad! He remembered something important: God loves His people and keeps His promises!



What are false prophets? False prophets are people who lied about delivering God's messages. They sometimes lied to gain money or popularity.



How would you feel if you were Jeremiah?

Jeremiah had hope that things would get better because he knew that is how God does things. Things could have been better for his people, but Jeremiah knew God is merciful. "Merciful" means showing forgiveness or compassion. We can see God's mercies every day. God provides for our physical needs and gives us places to live. He forgives us for our sins!

Jeremiah knew that the people needed God, so he prayed and waited for God to rescue them from the foreign armies. Jeremiah needed strength to get through times of suffering, and God gave it to him. God showed His goodness to Jeremiah because he asked for help. Jeremiah knew God would always come through for him.



How does God use suffering?

God can use suffering to teach us to rely on Him. Relying on God makes us more like Jesus. Jesus suffered more than we ever will when He died on the cross. He even forgave the people who were hurting Him! Jesus accepted God's plan for His life even though it was unfair and hurt Him. God wants us to accept the troubles we go through too.

God allows discipline in our lives but promises that it is always for our good. God does not enjoy when His people are hurting. He allows good and bad things to happen to us nevertheless. God sees everything that goes on in the world, and He knows what is best for us. It may not feel that way when we are hurting, but we can remember that God knows what He is doing.



Why does God punish us sometimes but show us mercy at other times?

God loves His followers. If you trust in Jesus, you are His follower. God promised to be with His followers, even when they face trouble. Jeremiah faced many troubles in his life, but he still had hope. He knew God and depended on Him for help. Sometimes God allows us to suffer bad things so that we will learn to ask Him for help. If we could do everything on our own, we would not need God! Troubles will always exist on earth. God does not promise to take away all our troubles, but He promises to give us strength to get through them.

Explaining the Memory Verse

“Compassion” can mean “love.” God’s love will never change or run out. You cannot do anything to lose it. We see God’s love for us every day in many ways. God is faithful. He always does what He says He will do. We can trust Him even in hard times.



Activity: True or False ⌚ 5–10 min

Divide the class into two teams. Have a student from each team draw a strip of paper from the basket. As a team, the students should choose whether the statement on the strip is true or false. The child who drew the strip should show the team’s decision by standing in front of the word “true” or “false” on the whiteboard. Once each team has chosen an answer, have each child read his or her statement aloud and learn whether the team judged correctly.

SUPPLIES:

- strips of paper
- pen
- whiteboard and markers
- basket or bag

PREP: On each **strip of paper**, **print** a true or false statement from the lesson. On opposite sides of the **board**, print “TRUE” and “FALSE.” Place the strips in the **basket**. Clear space for the children to stand in two groups in front of the board.

Big Question: Why does God allow anyone to suffer?

God does not enjoy our suffering. He created a perfect world without suffering. Read Genesis 1 and 2 to learn about the world before sin changed everything. God can use the bad things that happen in your life to teach you to rely on Him for help. If you are a believer, He can also use them to make you more like Jesus. Sometimes we suffer because we have sinned, but not always. God has com-

passion on us when we are suffering. We may not always understand what God is doing, but we can trust who He is and what He says. He is good and kind. He has promised to always be with us.

To trust God, you must know about Him. God tells us who He is in the Bible. You can read the Bible for yourself to learn more about Him.

Next Steps

Are you going through a difficult time? Maybe you’re doing a new activity and you’re scared, or maybe you’re dealing with a bully. Ask God to help you through it. He will be with you no matter what’s happening. Read the Bible to learn who God is and how to trust Him.

Prayer Points

- Thank God for His faithful love and compassion, especially for those who follow Him. •
- Ask God to give your students strength during difficult times. •
- Thank God for loving us enough to discipline us, even though discipline is hard to endure. •

Christ Focus

Jesus’ love is faithful during good and bad times.