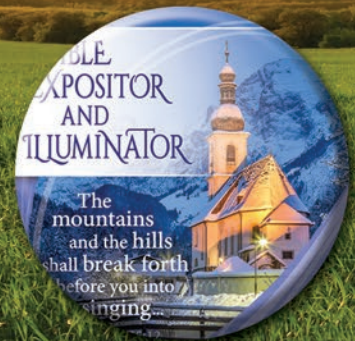
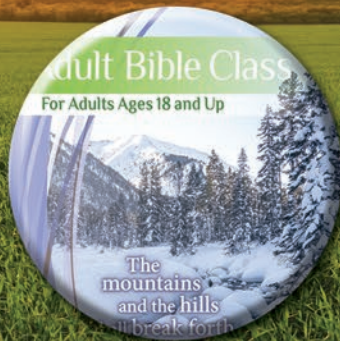
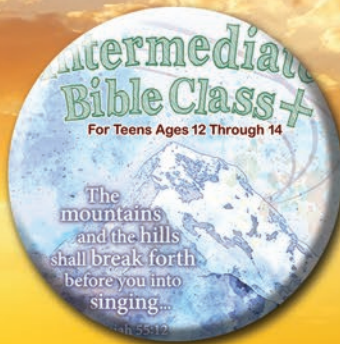
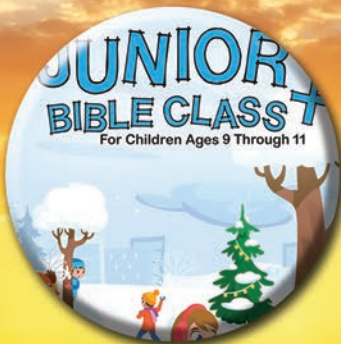
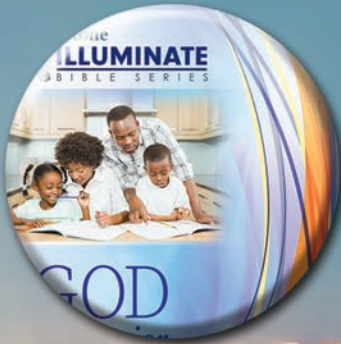


Lifestone

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES



Product Catalog

About LifeStone

LifeStone Ministries is the rebranding of the historic brand Gospel Worker Society. For almost 125 years, we have provided biblically sound nondenominational, fundamental Christian literature for all ages. The first seed of this endeavor was planted in 1895 under the direction of the Reverend William Brunner Musselman, a Mennonite preacher from Pennsylvania. After the founding of the Gospel Worker Society, a twofold missionary initiative was launched to reach people who were not reached by the churches in their communities and to encourage people to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. The purpose of this ministry was accomplished through missionary meetings, daily distribution of religious tracts and literature, tent meetings, and saloon work. Missions were set up in gospel-neglected towns, and their number increased as the ministry grew. In 1922, after much expansion and several name changes, what had begun as the Herald Publishing House came to be known as Union Gospel Press. Since its founding, Union Gospel Press has been a beacon of faith, outreach, and hope. The work begun by Reverend Musselman continues to grow under the ownership and steadfast direction of our newly renamed LifeStone Ministries.



Our Mission

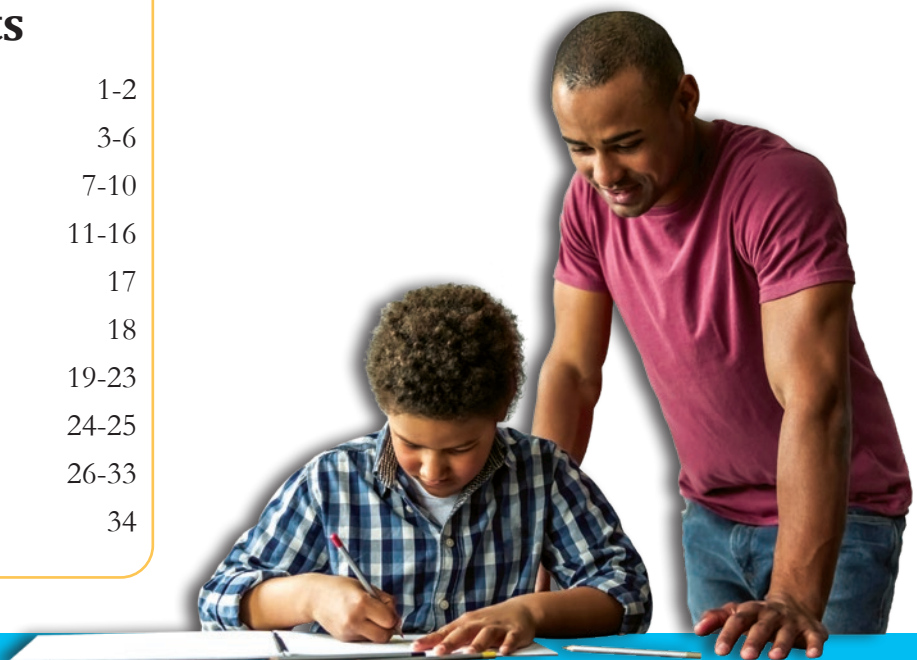
Empowering Christian disciples to make disciples!

Our Vision

We seek to glorify God by building Christian leaders' conviction and confidence to help transform people into the image of Christ through biblical resources and real-life application training.

Catalog Contents

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- Nondenominational
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- Theologically conservative

Honey found in King Tut's tomb is said to still be edible after more than three thousand years. Honey apparently has an extremely long shelf life! The Word of God is much like honey. The ancient words of Scripture have been preserved for us and will never spoil or lose their sweetness. The psalmist declared, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Ps. 119:103).

Union Gospel Press has been dispensing the sweet nectar of God's eternal Word for over one hundred twenty years. Bible exposition has always been our focus, with solid Scripture-based teaching for all ages.

A steadfast commitment to the unchanging truth of Scripture is the foundation of our ministry. By God's grace, we have successfully resisted many dubious

trends and popular digressions within American Christianity. And our long history shows that we uphold uncompromising biblical, doctrinal, and ethical standards.

With over twenty-five publications, graded and correlated to every age group, Union Gospel Press is a major resource for trustworthy and meaningful Bible-teaching materials. This has been true since 1902, and with the Lord's help we intend to always maintain that distinction.

It is exciting for us to press forward into our newest endeavor: a five-day Bible curriculum that can be used by homeschoolers, Christian schools, and families who want their children to have a thorough understanding of God's Holy Word. We encourage you to explore the Bible-learning opportunities this outstanding set of publications has for you.

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Dedicated writers from around the country use their knowledge and study to mine the valuable wisdom and insight in each Bible passage. These writers are typically pastors and Bible teachers who have practical experience in communicating biblical truth.

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Conservative theology ensures that our material uncompromisingly champions such bedrock realities as the verbal inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the virgin birth, Christ's substitutionary atonement, and His bodily resurrection. All our writers and editors are committed to doctrinal purity.

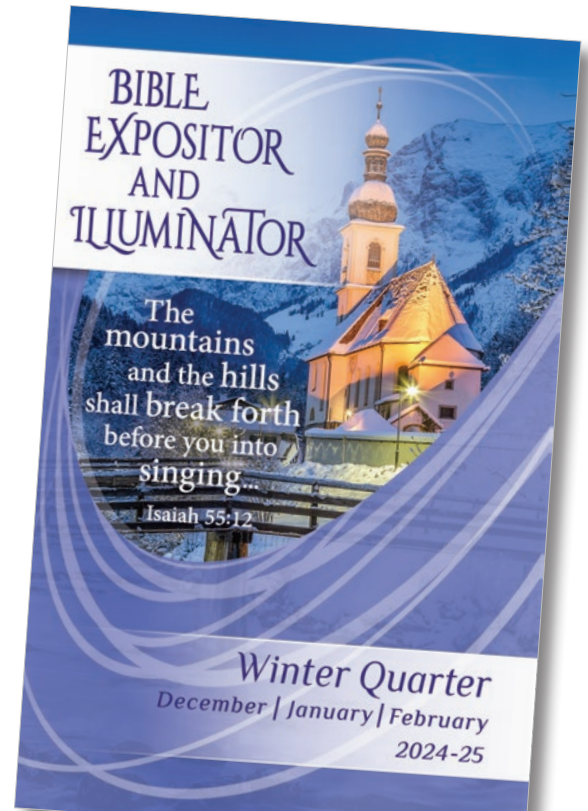
Bible Expositor and Illuminator

For Adults Ages 18 & Up

If you need an extensive teaching manual that contains anything you could ever need to enrich your weekly lesson, look no further. As our anchor publication, the *Bible Expositor and Illuminator* contains a variety of features to help you share the rich truths of Scripture.

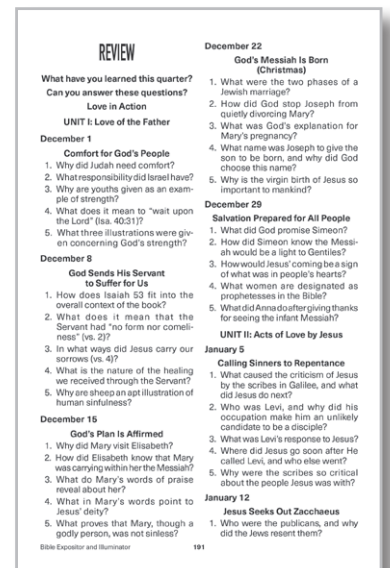
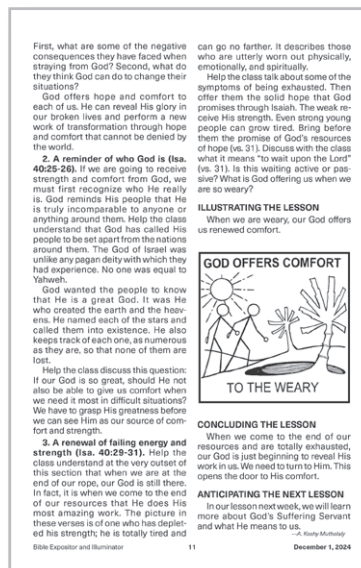
This comprehensive teaching manual is written by outstanding Christian workers, seminary-trained writers, and dedicated Bible scholars. It contains an abundance of teaching methods, explanatory materials, and practical applications that the teacher should study before each Sunday's lesson. Each fourteen-page lesson has a detailed, verse-by-verse exposition, a section of guidance for the superintendent, questions and topics for study and discussion, helps on how to prepare and teach the lesson, an illustration for the board, an article that relates the lesson to world missions, an in-depth study on the golden text, a feature that discusses the lesson in light of Jewish history, a detailed discussion of the lesson's high points, and practical anecdotes that supplement the Bible study. In every issue there are stimulating editorials, questions for quarterly review, daily Bible readings, and a list of the topics for the next quarter. Teachers will want to share the rich truths of the Scriptures with their students through the excellent Bible study resources in this publication.

The *Bible Expositor and Illuminator* is available in a large-print edition and is also available in an e-book editions on these sites: Amazon, iTunes, and Kobo.



192 pages, published quarterly

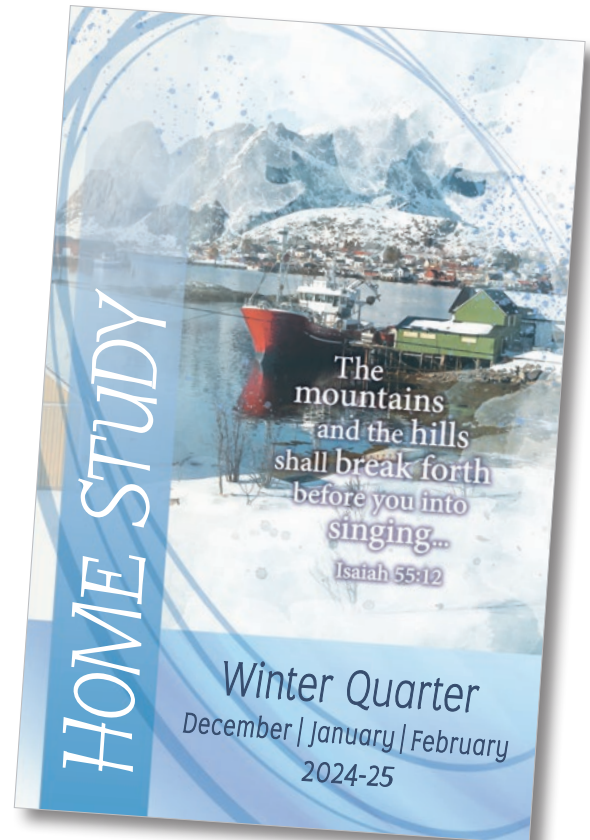
Sample Pages



Home Study is perfect for those who are unable to attend class or a Bible study regularly, including shut-ins, firemen, nurses, and police. Lesson exposition, practical points, daily meditations, inspirational articles, and poems help draw readers into fellowship with God in the comfort of their own home.

Home Study is especially for members who are temporarily away from their classrooms to keep up with the material that is studied each week by their class friends, but it is also an excellent source to use for personal Bible study at home. Each lesson contains an exposition of the Scripture lesson, plus practical points that reinforce the lesson. The Scripture lesson text is in large print for those who may have difficulty reading smaller type. A daily meditation is provided for each day of the week. Inspirational articles, poems to draw the reader into close fellowship with God, and a section that discusses a few places and people mentioned in the lessons are included in each issue.

Home Study is available in a large-print edition and is also available in an e-book edition on these sites: Amazon, iTunes, and Kobo.



64 pages, published quarterly

Sample Pages

Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos

Lesson Text: Acts 18:1-4, 18-21, 24-28

Related Scriptures: Acts 18:5-17; Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 3:1-10

TIME: A.D. 50

PLACES: Corinth; Ephesus

GOLDEN TEXT—“Because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers” (Acts 18:3).

Lesson Exposition

The text for this lesson discusses Paul's second missionary journey. Paul's missionary work in Corinth was central (Acts 18:1-17). Afterward, the chapter follows Paul's return to Antioch, stopping by Ephesus on the way (vs. 18-23). The chapter concludes with a description of Apollos's effectiveness.

PAUL IN CORINTH—Acts 18:1-4

Friendship (Acts 18:1-3). In 27 A.D., Corinth became the capital of the province of Achaia. As such, it was the commercial hub of the region. As great crowds of travelers moved through the area, they brought various cultural and moral influences to the city. Corinth was especially known for its immorality.

In Corinth, Paul met a Jew named Aquila (cf. Rom. 16:3; 1 Cor. 16:19; 1 Tim. 4:10). Aquila was from Pontus. He and his wife, Priscilla, had come to Corinth from Italy.

In A.D. 49, the Emperor Claudius had given a command for all Jews to leave Rome (Acts 18:2). Historical documents are not conclusive regarding

the emperor's motivation behind this action. One ancient writer seemed to indicate there was strife among the Jews themselves, perhaps because some believed in Christ. This confrontation could have brought action from Claudius.

Paul stayed with Aquila and Priscilla while in Corinth (vs. 3). Paul worked the same trade as the couple, so he felt comfortable with them.

Ministry (Acts 18:4). Although he made a living by making tents, Paul never forgot the spiritual purpose for his presence in Corinth. Every Sabbath, Paul was in the synagogue seeking to convince both Jews and Greeks that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

RETURN TO ANTIOCH—Acts 18:18-21

The trip (Acts 18:18). Paul remained in Corinth for some time. Eventually, he said good-bye to the community there and sailed toward Syria. Aquila and Priscilla also sailed with Paul.

Before sailing for Syria, Paul had his head shaved (vs. 18). He did this in

FOR DAILY MEDITATION

MONDAY, Feb. 17, Acts 18:12-17.

Paul on Trial in Corinth. Gallio refused to hear the Jews' case against Paul. If it had been a criminal charge, he would have heard them, but he was not going to make a judgment on Jewish religious practices. This set a very early precedent that holding Christian beliefs was not inherently against Roman law, although state persecution did arise later.

TUESDAY, Feb. 18, Rom. 16:3-5.

Paul's Helpers. Paul greets over twenty people in the last chapter of Romans. It is striking that he greets both women (starting with Phoebe in verse 1) and men. There are both Jewish and Gentile names. Some names were common for slaves, while others may indicate nobility. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not for just one particular group but is good news for all humanity.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 19, Titus 3:12-15.

Help for Apollos in His Ministry. Paul urged Titus and the believers at Crete to help Zenas and Apollos on their way, which would assist them in spreading the gospel. This may not have seemed glamorous or particularly sanctified, but Jesus taught that there is a reward for helping the righteous (cf. Matt. 10:40-42). Let us also seek to do good works and generously support those in ministry.

THURSDAY, Feb. 20, 1 Cor. 1:10-15.

Divisions Condemned. The church is a part of belongs to a denomination. Yours may as well. While denominations are not inherently bad, whenever we let secondary things (denominations, leaders, political parties, or social causes) become more

important to our identity than “follower of Jesus,” we have made a mistake. Ask God to reveal to you if you have made a good secondary thing more important than it should be.

FRIDAY, Feb. 21, 1 Cor. 3:1-10.

Paul's Fellow Laborer. Paul and Apollos both accomplished important tasks. However, God ultimately gives growth, and so the division in Corinth was petty and worldly. It is natural to have favorite pastors and leaders. However, Jesus made it clear that those who are not against us are for us (Mark 9:38-41). We should noticker and fight with one another but work together for the gospel.

SATURDAY, Feb. 22, 1 Cor. 16:12-23.

Paul Shares News and Greetings. The Corinthians were divided into factions of Paul and Apollos, but Paul and Apollos were on speaking terms! Let us not waste our energy fighting each other but devote ourselves to service in humility. Pray for humble unity and an increasing love for the Lord, for such love is central to our faith (vs. 22).

SUNDAY, Feb. 23, Acts 18:1-4, 18-21, 24-28.

Priscilla and Aquila Help Apollos. All of God's children are filled with His Spirit, and we can learn from both our brothers and our sisters. After Apollos displayed humility and willingness to learn, he went on to teach the Corinthian church much. Pray for a humble and teachable attitude.

—Dale Greiner

FOR COMFORT AND CHALLENGE

Heaven Poured Out

Down from the sky
Came One to die
For ev'ry sinner on earth.
Heaven contained
Love unrestrained—
Calvary showed us its worth.

If we believe
We may receive
Into our famished soul
Heaven's sweet Gift.
And He will lift
Us from the devil's control.

Some blessed day
Up then away
Into His glories above
We shall ascend
Ever to spend
Aeons with Him in His love.
—Mabel Glenn Haldeman

God Is Love

God is love the Bible says.
Why then be afraid
Any time to ask of Him
For His loving aid?

He delights to help his own,
Any time they pray.
He will hear and answer them
Noon or night or day.

“God is love” in all He does,
And in all His ways:
Let us then with all our hearts
Give Him thankful praise.
—Mabel Glenn Haldeman

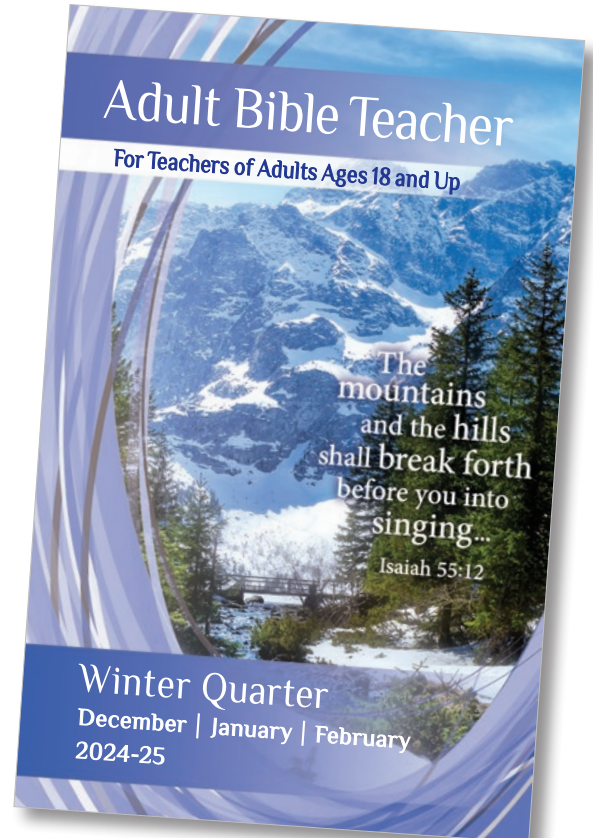
Adult Bible Teacher

For Teachers of Adults Ages 18 & Up

With a verse-by-verse exposition, challenging questions, discussion topics, practical points, and more, *Adult Bible Teacher* is designed to give quick, practical help to busy teachers. It has the same quality content as our anchor publication, the *Bible Expositor and Illuminator*, but it is the abridged version.

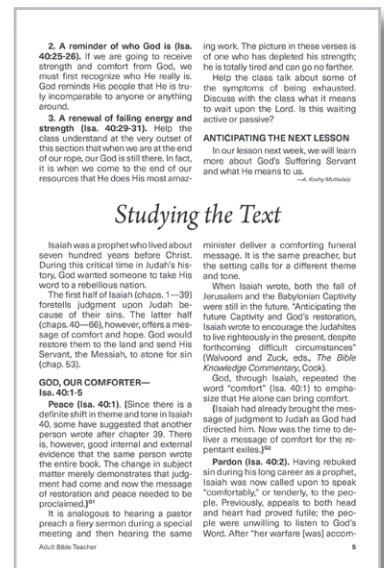
An in-depth, verse-by-verse exposition lays bare the main truths of each lesson. The Scripture lesson text is in large print for ease in reading. There also are lesson-related questions, subjects for research and discussion, practical points, daily Bible readings, illustrated high points, and methods for preparing a stimulating lesson each week. This publication helps teachers get the most from the lesson and impart these truths to their students, making the lessons applicable to their lives.

Adult Bible Teacher is available in a large-print edition and is also available in an e-book edition on these sites: Amazon, iTunes, and Kobo.



80 pages, published quarterly

Sample Pages



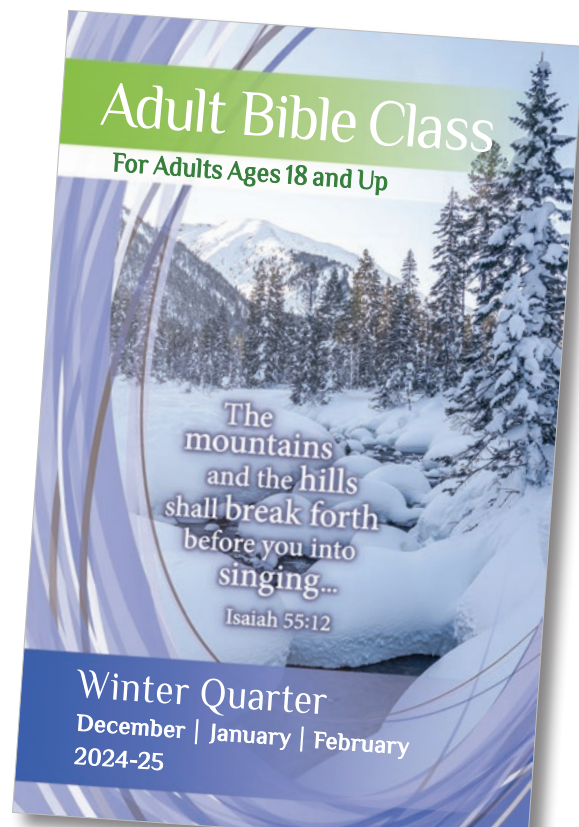
Adult Bible Class

For Adults Ages 18 & Up

With detailed lesson exposition, practical points, discussion questions, and a golden-text study, *Adult Bible Class* challenges adult students to gain deeper knowledge of Bible truths. It has the same quality content as our anchor publication, the *Bible Expositor and Illuminator*, but it is the abridged version.

This publication leads the adult student to a deeper knowledge of Bible truths through a detailed lesson exposition. Each lesson also features sections dealing with practical points, research and discussion questions, and a study of the week's golden text. This inspirational class quarterly encourages Scripture study and involvement in the lesson.

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64 pages, published quarterly

Sample Pages

EDITORIAL

God's Love Unleashed

BY GLENN WEAVER

Ever since the Fall in Genesis 3, humanity has been a wreck. Too often we experience loneliness, neglect, hurt, and isolation. Fortunately for us, God knows our sorrows. He wants to show us His love.

We begin our investigation of God's love revealed to humanity with the story of Israel, God's chosen people. They sinned against God, resulting in their conquest and captivity by the Babylonians.

But God didn't forget them. Isaiah delivered God's message of comfort to His estranged people (Isa. 40). If they would trust in His goodness, He would redeem them from their troubles.

God's promised redemption is not only from captivity in a foreign land, Israel was a little nation compared to the mighty Babylonian Empire. But sin was their problem, not geopolitics. God provided the solution for their sin problem. He promised to send His Son (Isa. 53:4-6, 10-12).

When the time was right, God revealed His plan to a young Jewish girl, Mary, who would give birth to the Messiah through a miraculous conception (Luke 1:38-45). Her joy that overflowed in words of praise is an inspiration to all who call upon the Lord. But poor, righteous Joseph! He expected to be married and live happily ever after, but then he found out that Mary was pregnant. God relieved Joseph's mind, explaining to him through an angel that Mary was bearing God's Son (Matt. 1:18-25). This Son, Jesus,

would be the long-awaited fulfillment of the coming Messiah, who provides forgiveness for sin. After Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph brought Him to the temple (Luke 2:25-38). There, two faithful servants of God, Simeon and Anna, received a blessing from God when He rewarded their faithfulness by granting them the privilege of seeing the Messiah. Simeon and Anna were advanced in years, and their joy was to see God's plan revealed in the person of the Messiah. Their words of gratitude and praise reveal the profound importance of this Child to all humanity.

When Jesus began His ministry, He called specific individuals to be His disciples. One such individual, Levi, was a tax collector. To the Pharisees, he was no better than the wicked sinners who violated the law. But Jesus saw Levi differently. He showed compassion to Levi, inviting the ostracized man to follow Him as His disciple (Mark 2:13-17). Jesus did not condemn the outcasts of society. Instead of the contempt shown to Levi by the Jewish leaders, Jesus offered love.

Jesus met another tax collector during His travels through Jericho (Luke 19:1-10). This tax collector, Zacchaeus, wanted to see Jesus and climbed a tree to see over the crowd because he was so short. When Jesus saw him, he came down from the tree, and he followed Jesus. He looked up at Zacchaeus and told him to come down because He wanted to stay at his house.

Jesus' willingness to associate with Zacchaeus had a profound impact

This is significant because demons inspired worship of the pagan idols. Isaiah preached against (Isa. 10:20-21). While idols were mere human creations, God created all things (Isa. 40:26). This passage asserts that, far from being deities in their own right, the heavenly bodies have simply been created by the one Creator-God, who is also Israel's "Holy One." He orders their pattern, knows each in its distinctiveness, and upholds them in all their being" (Barker and Kohlenberger).

GOD, OUR CONFIDENCE—Isa. 40:29-31

Man's strength (Isa. 40:29-30). Besides being our Creator, God is also our confidence. His knowledge is unsearchable and His strength undiminishable (vs. 28). When we are faint, He renews our strength. Those who have no strength can find strength in Him.

As we grow older, we become keenly aware of our diminishing physical strength. In contrast to this is the seemingly endless energy of young people. But even children and young adults have limits to what they can endure physically. Rest can renew the physically weary, but there are other forms of strength we need—strength that only God can supply.

God's strength (Isa. 40:31). To "wait upon the Lord" is to trust Him and be patient concerning His plans (Ps. 27:14; 37:7; 130:5).

For those who wait on the Lord, God promises the renewal of strength.

Isaiah gave three illustrations concerning the renewing strength God promised to His people.

The first example is the eagle. Eagles are large, strong birds used in both ancient and modern times as a symbol of strength. To soar like an eagle is to possess strength, power, and agility.

Second, Isaiah pictures the runner. Unless a person is in good physical

condition, running will deplete his physical resources very quickly. The strength of the Lord is likened to those who run and are not weary. Third, while many people do a considerable amount of walking in an average day, we do not walk nearly as much as people did in ancient times (or even in many parts of the world today). With cars, public transportation, and elevators, many keep walking to a minimum. When we do have to walk farther than we are used to, it can lead to weariness. The point of these illustrations is that God will enable those who trust Him to endure trying circumstances, whether in the present or in the future.

—John Allen Oates

QUESTIONS

1. Why do some suggest two authors for the book of Isaiah? What is a better explanation?
2. Why did Isaiah need to hear a message of comfort?
3. What responsibility did Israel have as a chosen nation?
4. Who does the "voice" in the wilderness refer to (Isa. 40:3)?
5. How did this person help prepare the way for the Lord?
6. What are some differences between the idols worshipped by so many and the God of the Bible?
7. Why are youths given as an example of strength?
8. What does it mean to "wait upon the Lord" (Isa. 40:31)?
9. What three illustrations were given by Isaiah concerning God's strength?
10. What are some examples of waiting on God today?

—John Allen Oates

Daily Bible Readings for Home Study and Worship

(Readings are for the week previous to the lesson topics.)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. December 1. Comfort for God's People
M—Praise the Way for the Lord, Matt. 21:4.
T—The Lord's Return to Zion, Isa. 62:7-9.
W—The Lord's Return to Zion, Isa. 62:7-9.
Th—The Lord's Return to Zion, Isa. 62:7-9.
F—The Lord's Return to Zion, Isa. 62:7-9.
S—The Lord's Return to Zion, Isa. 62:7-9. | 8. December 8. God Sends His Servant to Suffer for Us
M—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
T—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
W—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
Th—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
F—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
S—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12. | 15. December 15. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. |
| 2. December 2. God Sends His Servant to Suffer for Us
M—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
T—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
W—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
Th—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
F—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
S—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12. | 9. December 9. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. | 16. December 16. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. |
| 3. December 3. God Sends His Servant to Suffer for Us
M—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
T—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
W—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
Th—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
F—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
S—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12. | 10. December 10. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. | 17. December 17. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. |
| 4. December 4. God Sends His Servant to Suffer for Us
M—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
T—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
W—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
Th—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
F—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
S—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12. | 11. December 11. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. | 18. December 18. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. |
| 5. December 5. God Sends His Servant to Suffer for Us
M—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
T—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
W—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
Th—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
F—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
S—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12. | 12. December 12. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. | 19. December 19. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. |
| 6. December 6. God Sends His Servant to Suffer for Us
M—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
T—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
W—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
Th—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
F—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
S—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12. | 13. December 13. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. | 20. December 20. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. |
| 7. December 7. God Sends His Servant to Suffer for Us
M—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
T—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
W—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
Th—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
F—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12.
S—The Suffering Servant, Isa. 53:1-12. | 14. December 14. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. | 21. December 21. Healing the Man Born Blind
M—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
T—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
W—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
Th—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
F—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41.
S—The Man Born Blind, John 9:1-41. |

Senior High Bible Teacher

For Teachers of Teens Ages 15-17

With inspirational articles, daily Bible readings, lesson-planning aids, thorough lesson expositions, and up-to-date lesson applications, *Senior High Bible Teacher* is designed to help teachers captivate their senior-high teens and help them navigate in today's changing world. They are sure to enjoy learning what the Bible teaches.

Each lesson of this quarterly fortifies the teacher with a wealth of spiritual knowledge designed to whet the appetites of new students and to maintain high interest in regular class members. *Senior High Bible Teacher* will help the teacher effectively communicate the Bible truths of each week's lesson.

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EDITORIAL

Imitating the Love of the Trinity

Most people today would agree that loving one another should be a priority. People have different reasons for that conviction and different definitions of love. But few would disagree with the Golden Rule: do to others as you would have them do to you. For this reason, some have argued that there is no meaningful difference between world religions, only different ways of expressing the same fundamental principle of love.

So what's different about the Christian call to love one another? Is Jesus just another voice adding to the general agreement that love is a good thing? Not at all. One of the key differences between Jesus and everyone else is that Jesus connects His command to love one another to the love of His Father and to His own love.

In John 13:34, Jesus taught His disciples, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Then, in His High Priestly Prayer in John 17, Jesus asked His Father to bless the church with the same kind of unity enjoyed by the Trinity. The basis for Christian unity is the Father's love for the Son, and His love is in us (vs. 20-26).

This connection to the love of the Father and the Son changes everything. It means that Christians have an example of love that cannot be found anywhere else. Even more important, it means that He enables us to love one another! The kind of love commanded in the Bible cannot be lived out unless

the Trinitarian God Himself is dwelling in us. That is why the lessons for this quarter begin with the love of the Father and the love of Jesus before turning to the love we are to show one another.

One of the most popular arguments against the Bible is that the God of the Old Testament seems to be angry, erratic, and selfish. In reality, however, the love of God the Father is on display throughout the pages of the Old Testament, often in surprising contexts.

Critics often point out God's seemingly harsh punishments of both Israel and the surrounding nations in the Old Testament. Some of the most difficult descriptions of these punishments come in the prophetic books, which often describe God's coming judgment in detail. Yet affirmations of God's everlasting love and compassion for His people punctuate those same books.

One of the most well known of these affirmations comes in Isaiah 40. After many chapters of warnings about Judah's coming exile, God proclaimed comfort and peace to His people. Before Judah's exile even began, the Father declared to the future exiles that their guilt would soon be pardoned (vs. 1-2).

How could such forgiveness be possible? Certainly not by the exiles' merit. The explanation comes in Isaiah 53. The Father would send His Servant to suffer in the place of sinners. He would be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. Because

Comfort for God's People

Lesson Text: Isaiah 40:1-5; 25-26; 29-31

Related Scriptures: Lamentations 26:40-45; 1 Chronicles 16:23-33; Lamentations 1:1-22; Matthew 3:1-8

TIME: about 700-605 B.C.

PLACE: Jerusalem

GOLDEN TEXT—"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength" (Isaiah 40:29).

Studying the Text

Our study of the love of God the Father begins in an unlikely circumstance. Judah's wicked rebellion against God had led Him to warn them through the prophet Isaiah that they would soon be sent into exile. In the midst of the darkness of judgment, however, the Father's loving compassion shone through.

In the second half of Isaiah (chapters 40 through 66), God allowed Isaiah to see beyond the Babylonian Exile to a day when the remnant of God's people would experience His blessing. Although the exile itself would not occur for more than a century after Isaiah's prophecies, the day of deliverance was so certain that it was as if it had already arrived. God mercifully spoke comfort to His people even before the time of judgment had begun.

THE GOOD NEWS OF DELIVERANCE—Isaiah 40:1-5

Offering consolation (Isa. 40:1). God's exhortations in verses 1 and 2 are plural in form, so God is speaking to a group here, not to the prophet Isaiah alone. It is not clear whether He is speaking to a host of angels, multiple prophets, or some other group, but

the task He assigns them is to announce the end of the Babylonian Exile. Also note that "comfort" is repeated twice for emphasis. Punishment would end, and a new day of freedom was coming.

The promise of a brighter future could be found only in the faithfulness of God. The goal of the second half of Isaiah was not only to convince God's people that the Lord would allow them to return home but to show that He desired they do so. This was necessary because some of God's people would be happy in Babylon. Many of them would assimilate into the Babylonian culture. The prospect of returning to a homeland in ruins would not be their idea of a bright future.

Ending the Captivity (Isa. 40:2). The Lord directed to speak comfort to Jerusalem, which here is personified as a woman and refers to the people of Judah.

God addressed His people as a mother would speak to her children. This was not the time for the inhabitants to hear harsh words of censure and condemnation. Instead, the prophetic message would assure the people

ple to their spiritual need and built up an expectancy for the Savior, who could meet it.

THE INCOMPARABLE LORD—Isa. 40:25-26, 29-31

God's absolute uniqueness (Isa. 40:25). Verses 18-20 reveal that God is infinitely greater than false gods and idols. The Jews in captivity may have needed assurance in this matter. Residing in Babylonian Exile for decades, they may have wrongly concluded that their God was no match for the gods of Mesopotamia.

Isaiah thus asked, "To whom then will ye liken God?" (vs. 18). Can the Lord be compared to an ornate idol decorated with gold and silver (vs. 19)? Can He be compared to a sturdy wooden idol (vs. 20)? Isaiah's questions contain irony; he knew that the Lord is the Creator of gold, silver, and wood. Any comparison of pagan deities with the true God is therefore a ridiculous and vain exercise.

Isaiah 40 reminds us that God is greater than false gods and idols. Of course, the people of Israel should have been aware of God's great power and sovereignty. After all, prophets throughout the nation's history had emphasized these themes time and again. Isaiah reminded his forgetful people that God sits enthroned above the "circle," or horizon, of the earth (vs. 22). From God's perspective, the people are so puny that they are like mere grasshoppers. Isaiah portrayed the heavens as a vast tent in which the Lord dwells—emphasizing His exaltation over people. Isaiah also said that God is sovereign over earth's rulers (vs. 23). This would have been quite meaningful to the exiles in bondage to Babylon's king. As easily and as quickly as a plant can die, God can remove rulers according to His sovereign choice (vs. 24).

In view of this, God asked whether

it was really possible to compare Him with any earthly power. The answer was no, for no one in all the universe was or is His "equal" (vs. 25). As the "Holy One," He is the sovereign Monarch who reigns over His chosen people and exercises the right to judge them.

God's infinite power (Isa. 40:26). This verse shifts our attention to the vast number of stars in the night sky. The Lord is the Creator of all these. These heavenly lights are comparable to an enormous army whose ranks God summons and leads out. He uses His infinite strength to ensure that no star is ever overlooked.

This point is significant because people in the Ancient Near East believed in astrology. Whereas the Babylonians had made a false religion out of the stars, Isaiah affirmed that God is the Creator of the cosmic hosts. Moreover, the same power that brought these celestial objects into existence would deliver the chosen people from exile. The reason Isaiah spoke so much about God's power is that the prophet knew it would strengthen the people's faith.

God's provision of strength (Isa. 40:29-31). The prophet noted that unlike humans, the all-powerful King never grows tired or becomes weary. Furthermore, there is no limit to His wisdom. His understanding is inscrutable (vs. 28). Rather than suffer doubt and discontent, the exiles were to affirm the Lord's infinite sovereignty, power, and prudence, especially in fulfilling His promise to deliver them from captivity.

When the righteous left Zion, they could look to God for strength (vs. 29). He would be their source of power whenever they felt weary. The sobering fact is that even the most vigorous of young people become exhausted. The strongest youths stumble and fall. In contrast, when God's spiritual children patiently wait for His help, their strength is renewed (vs. 31).

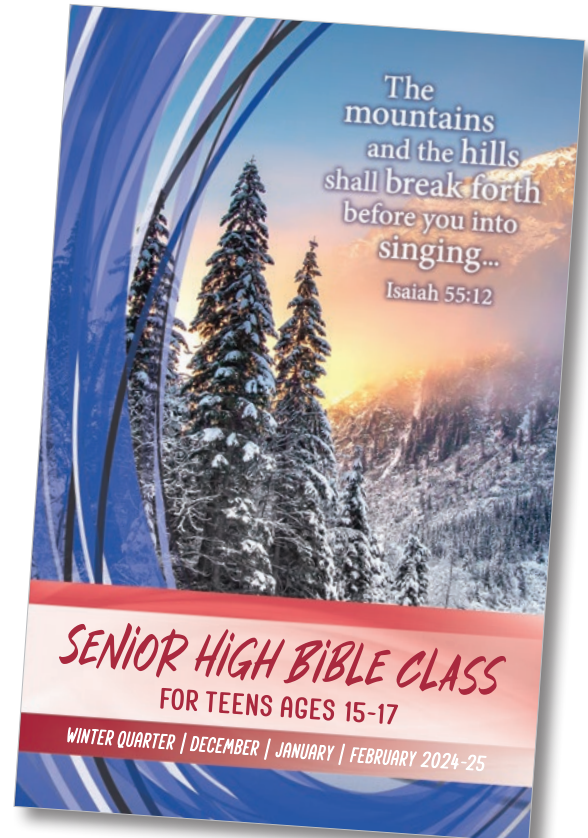
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LESSON 13 FEBRUARY 23, 2025

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

ACTS 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; **2** And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome) and came unto them. **3** And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. **4** And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. **18** And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchreae: for he had a vow. **19** And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. **20** When they desired him to tarry longer time with them, he consented not. **21** But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem; but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus. **24** And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. **25** This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. **26** And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. **27** And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace. **28** For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ. **ing, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.**

NOTES

Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos

Lesson Text: Acts 18:1-4, 18-21, 24-28

Related Scriptures: Acts 18:5-17; Romans 16:3-6; 1 Corinthians 3:1-10

TIME: A.D. 50 PLACES: Corinth; Ephesus

ANALYZING

We have already seen how Christians can show the love of Christ through generosity (Lesson 11), through sharing the gospel, and through hospitality (Lesson 12). This week we will see two other aspects of Christian love: partnering with other believers in ministry and correcting one another in love.

1. Joint ministry in Corinth (Acts 18:1-4). It was the middle of the first century A.D. when Paul, on his second missionary journey, traveled from Athens to Corinth. The latter was the commercial center and capital of the province of Achaia (roughly the southern half of ancient Greece). Paul had come to this wealthy, immoral city to preach the good news about Christ, and it was there that the apostle met Aquila and Priscilla. This godly couple had once lived in Rome, but Emperor Claudius ordered all the Jews living in Rome to leave around A.D. 50. Paul, who may have met Aquila and Priscilla in the local synagogue, joined them in their tentmaking business. The couple also shared their lodging with Paul. Their generosity enabled him to be more effective as he followed his usual pattern of bringing the gospel first to the Jews and then to the Greeks.

2. Joint ministry in Ephesus (Acts 18:18-21). After an extended time of ministry in Corinth, Paul said farewell to the believers there. Accompanied by Aquila and Priscilla, he sailed for Syria. Before getting on the boat, however, Paul had his hair cut off at Cenchreae (the eastern port of Corinth) because he had made a vow—most likely a Nazirite vow (cf. Num. 6:1-21).

3. Team ministry to Apollos (Acts 18:24-28). Paul eventually arrived safely at his home church in Antioch, bringing closure to his second missionary journey (vs. 22). After a while, the apostle began his third evangelistic tour (vs. 23).

In the meantime, a Jew named Apollos came to Ephesus. He was a native of Alexandria, the capital of Egypt and a center of Greek culture and learning. Apollos was an eloquent speaker and well versed in the Old Testament, but his understanding of the faith was incomplete. Apollos knew only "the baptism of John" (vs. 25). It is not clear exactly what this means, but Apollos apparently did not know the whole message about Christ.

When Aquila and Priscilla heard Apollos speaking in the synagogue, they realized something was wrong. Apollos was effectively teaching about Jesus, but there were some significant things missing from his instruction. The couple thus invited him to their home to teach him more about Jesus. It is notable that Apollos accepted the correction of Priscilla and Aquila so willingly. As a result, his ministry flourished even more than it had previously.

Aquila and Priscilla also helped Apollos put his new knowledge into practice. The couple apparently told Apollos about the church Paul had started in Corinth. Apollos had a desire to visit that church. The couple encouraged his desire and wrote a letter of introduction for him.

In Corinth, Apollos quickly became an asset to the church. With his great zeal and learning, he was particularly useful in disproving the arguments of non-Christian Jews. They could not get the best of Apollos when he showed from the Old Testament that Jesus is the Messiah.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

APPLYING

Despite their busy schedule, Priscilla and Aquila made themselves available for ministry. There are opportunities for ministry every day. The question is, are you willing to let those opportunities interrupt your own plans?

We can also learn from other believers, we should be willing to accept it readily. On the other hand, if we ever have to correct another believer, we should do it in a spirit of gentleness, guarding ourselves against pride and arrogance.

ASKING

- How did Paul bring together Paul and Aquila and Priscilla?
- How did Aquila and Priscilla help Paul conduct his ministry in Corinth?
- How did Paul's success in Corinth reflect the usual pattern of his ministry (cf. Acts 17:1-6; 18:6; Rom. 1:16)?
- How did Apollos demonstrate his effectiveness in ministry?

—Don Lutz

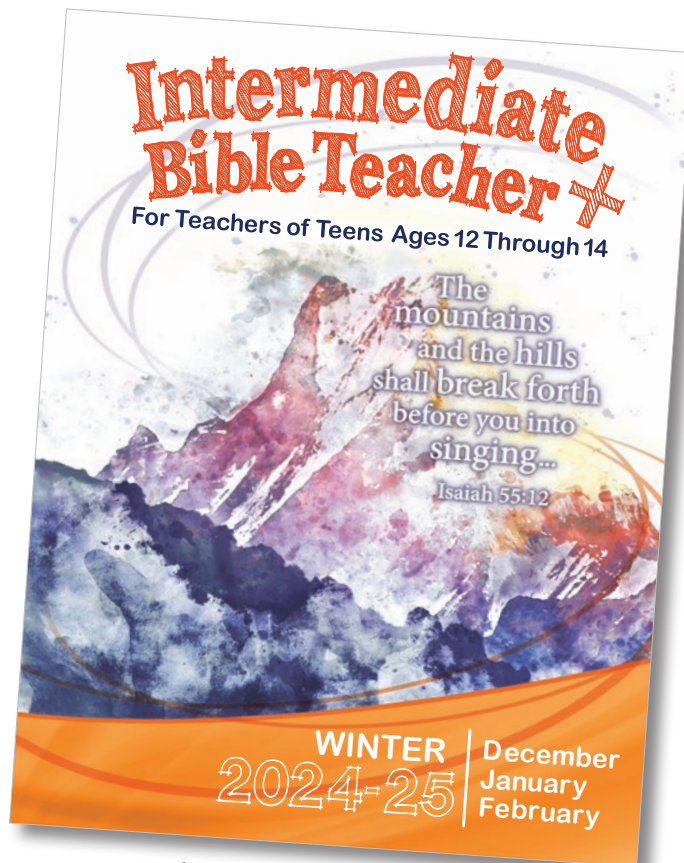
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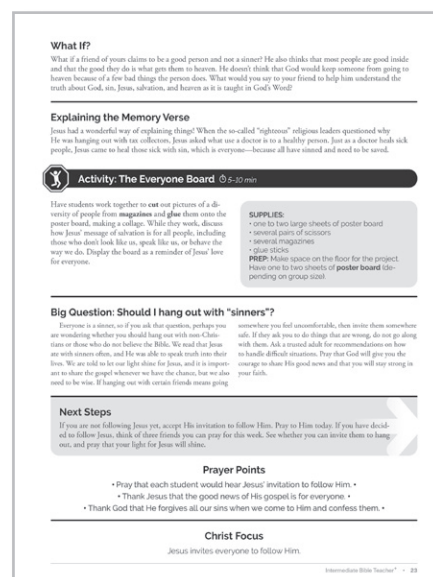
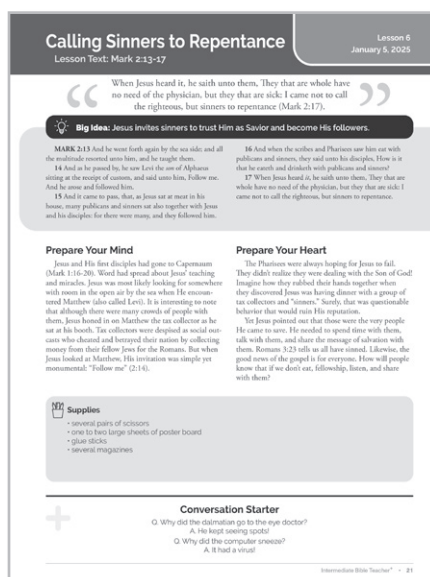
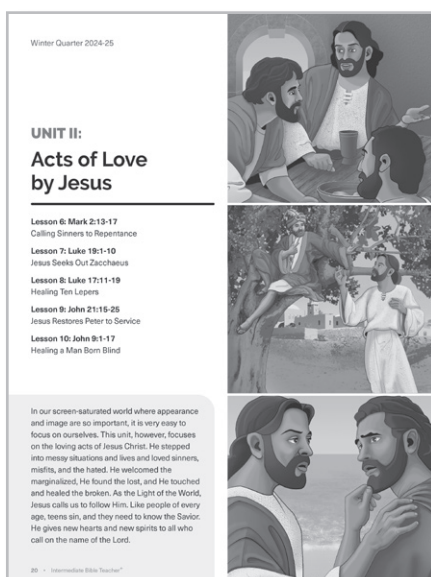
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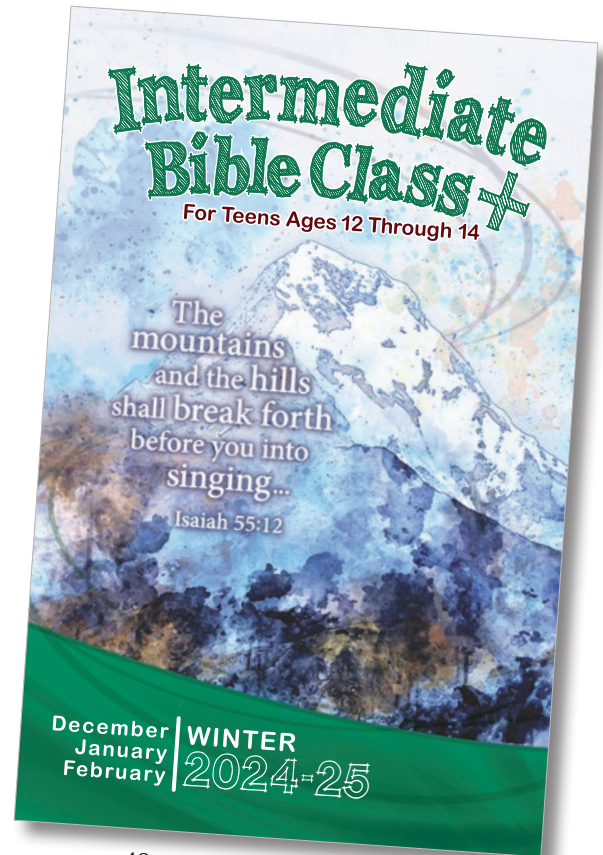
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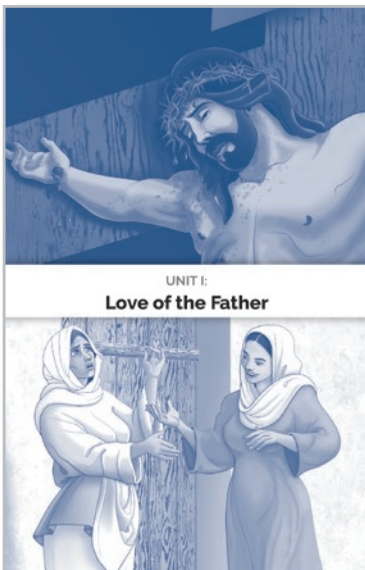
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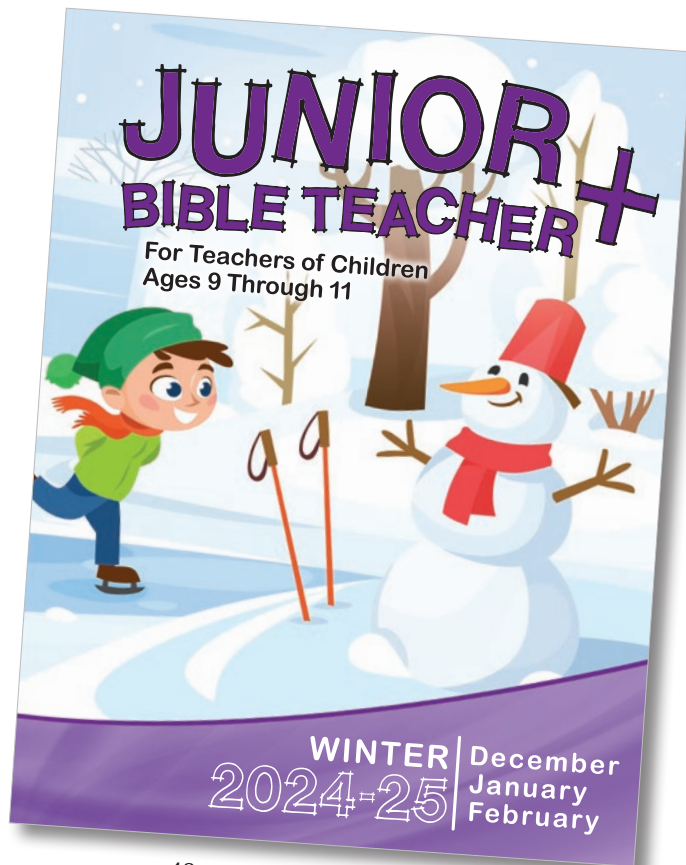
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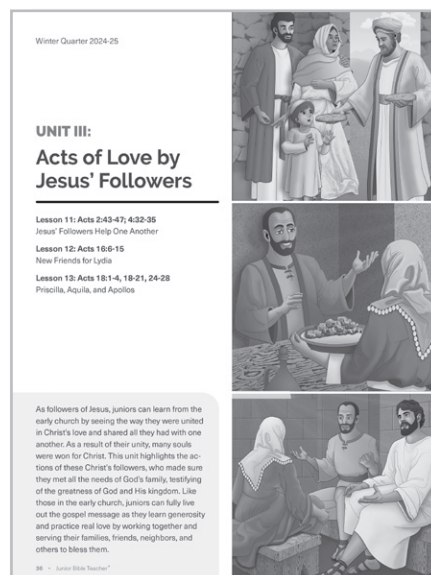
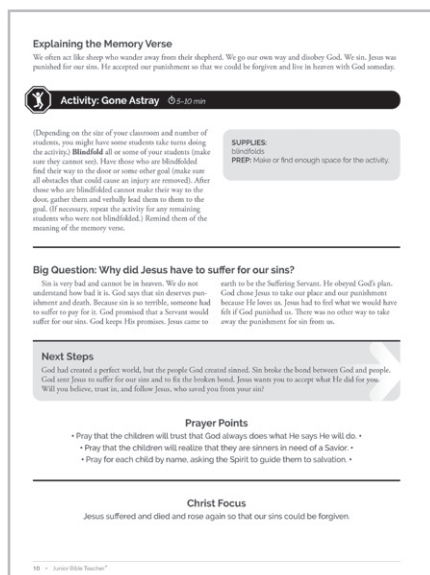
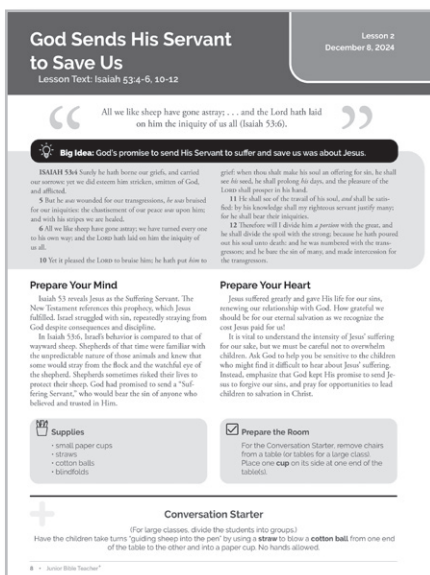
Students these ages are just deciding what they believe. Don't just lecture them; disciple them! Every week, your students will be presented with a Bible lesson that is rich with God's truth, and discussion questions throughout the lesson will help them understand and form relationships. Help them think even deeper with the Big Question, a tricky question from each lesson. The Christ Focus will show how Jesus is always most important. Use the suggested props, activities, and practical application to make every lesson memorable to your students.

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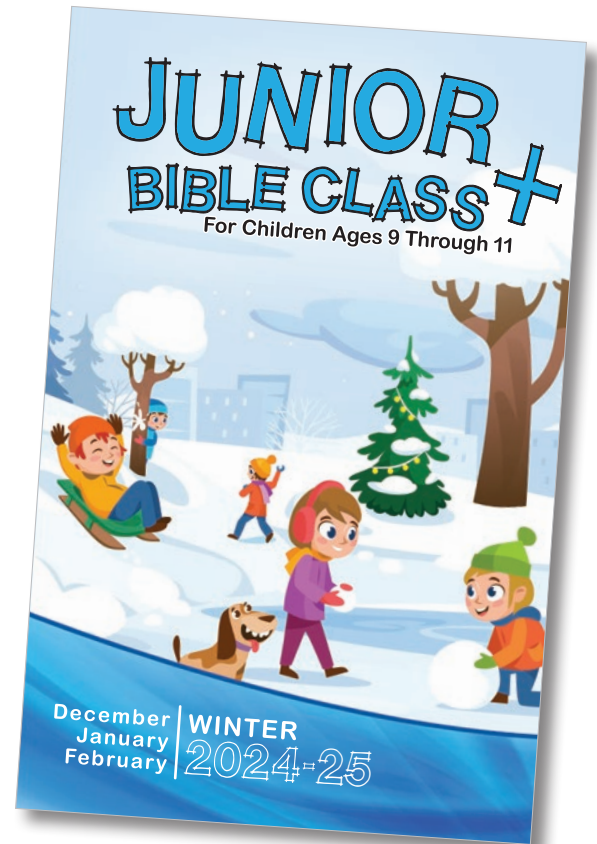
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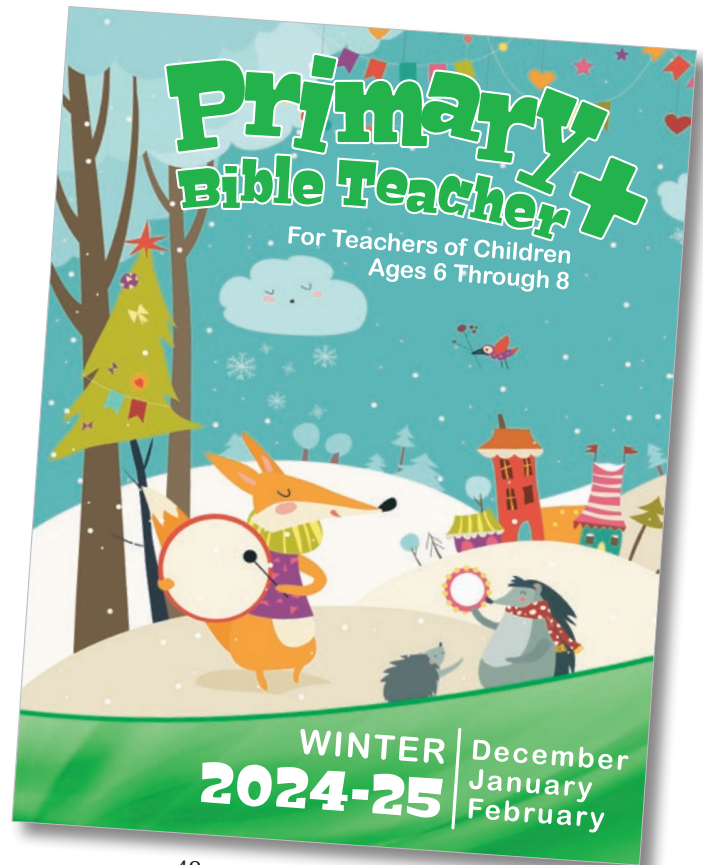
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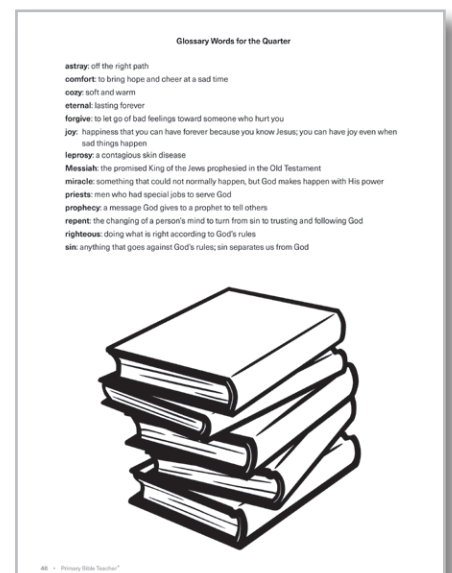
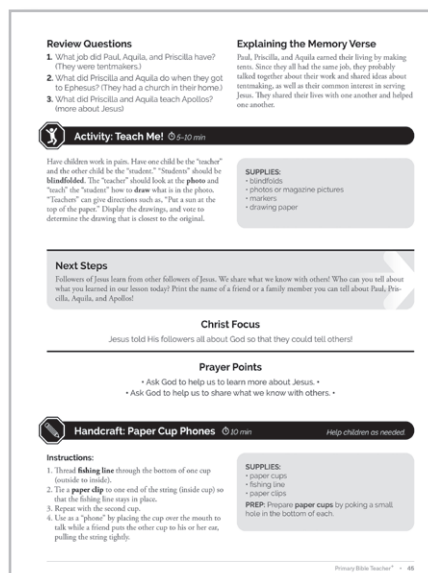
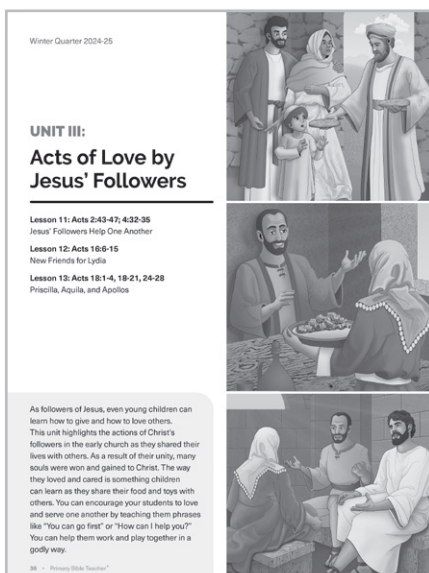
This publication is bursting with invaluable aids and supplementary material! The Bible lesson starts with a big idea from each passage, bolstered by three main truths to emphasize. This is reinforced by an array of added features: teacher tips and prompts right next to the lesson, handcraft and activity suggestions (with needed supplies), song suggestion, memory verse help, review questions, application, prayer points, and a unique Christ focus. Background information on the lesson and a concise devotional help you begin preparing for a life-changing teaching experience that will hold your children's attention.

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For Children Ages 6-8

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December 15, 2024 Lesson 3

MARY IS BLESSED BY GOD

Lesson Text: Luke 1:39-56

"Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour" (Luke 1:46-47).

BIG IDEA: Mary is happy and blessed to be chosen by God to give birth to the Savior.

GIVING THANKS WITH JOY

Print a T beside each true sentence. Print an F beside each false sentence.

- The people of Israel waited a thousand days for the Messiah.
- God asked Mary to do something special for Him.
- God never asks His followers to anything for Him today.
- Mary was full of joy to be chosen to give birth to the Messiah.
- Mary praised God with a song.
- Elizabeth's baby did a flip in her tummy when she saw Mary.
- God sent His Son to the rich and powerful.
- Mary did all that God asked her to do.



MEMORY HELPER

Warning: for a gift can be hard, but it's exciting when you finally get it! God's people waited a long time for the Messiah, and Mary was full of joy that God's gift had finally come.

CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus found joy in being the Savior of the world (Hebrews 12:2).

In Bible times, many people lived in tents instead of homes with solid walls. Imagine you live in a tent. What things would you want to have in your home? Circle only four items you want in your tent.




TALK ABOUT IT

Help your child tell someone about what he or she learned about Paul, Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos.

You learned a lot of new words this quarter! Can you match the word to its definition?

1. astray	a. anything that goes against God's rules; sin separates us from God
2. comfort	b. lasting forever
3. cozy	c. a contagious skin disease
4. eternal	d. to bring hope and cheer at a sad time
5. joy	e. off the right path
6. leprosy	f. doing what is right according to God's rules
7. miracle	g. a message God gives to a prophet to tell others
8. prophecy	h. men who had special jobs to serve God
9. righteous	i. soft and warm
10. priests	j. something that could not normally happen, but God makes happen with His power
11. sin	k. happiness that you can have forever because you know Jesus; you can have joy even when sad things happen



Answers: 1. k, 2. d, 3. i, 4. f, 5. g, 6. e, 7. b, 8. c, 9. h, 10. j, 11. a

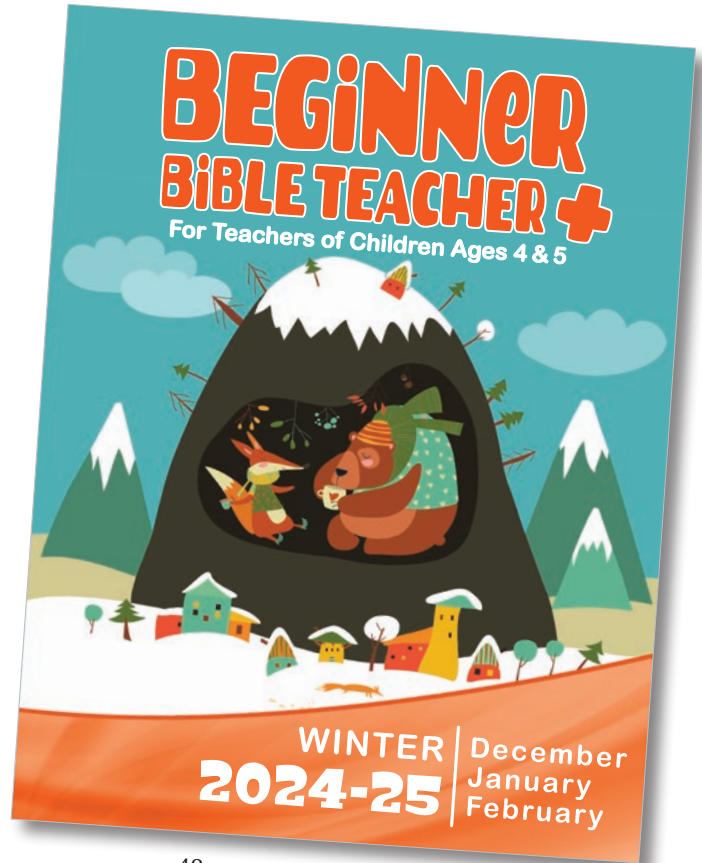
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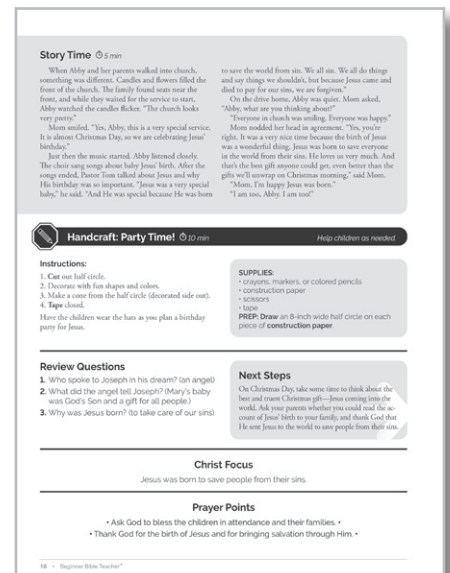
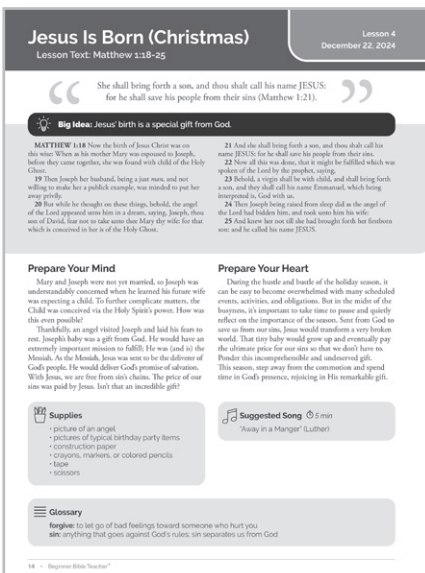
The Bible lessons in this publication focus on a big idea from each passage for the children to grasp and apply. The following added features will be invaluable aids in each lesson: teacher tips and prompts right next to the lesson, handcraft and activity suggestions (with needed supplies), song suggestion, review questions, application, prayer points, and a unique Christ focus. There are also background information and a devotional on each lesson that will help you begin preparing for a life-changing teaching experience that will hold kids' attention.

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Make learning fun for your youngest students while you instill God's truths in their hearts! With a full-page picture to color and colorful and kid-friendly lesson features, they will thoroughly enjoy this hands-on approach to Bible learning. This publication is to be paired with *Beginner Bible Teacher+*.

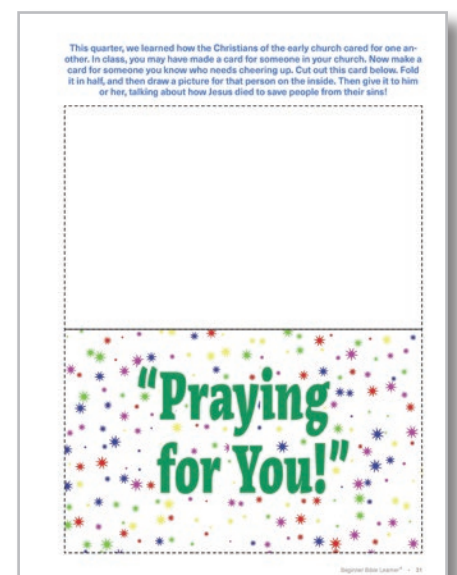
Beginner Bible Learner+ is designed specifically for beginner children to hold and to handle. Every lesson concentrates on a big idea drawn from the Scripture passage, which is supported by several other features, including a memory helper, a unique Christ focus, a Bible picture to color, and a tip for the beginner's parents or caregivers. Each issue also contains bonus activities.

Beginner Bible Learner+ is also available in an e-book edition on these sites: Amazon, iTunes, and Kobo.



32 pages, published quarterly

Sample Pages



Our Bible Picture Talks

For Beginner and Primary Ages 4-8

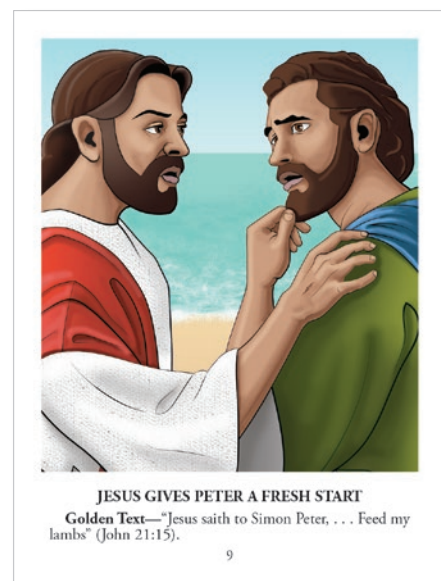
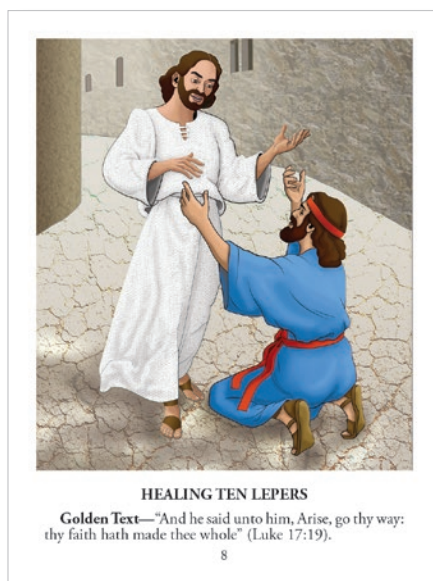
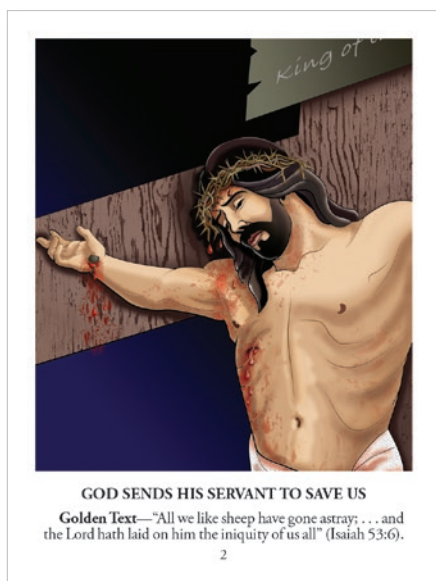
How can *Our Bible Picture Talks* be used as a powerful tool? Use these colorful Bible picture cards for a quick review of each lesson in the quarter! And teachers of beginners, primaries, juniors, and intermediates can also use these to hand out to students as reminders of the lessons to take home or to make matching/review card games during class.

Our Bible Picture Talks is made up of three-by-four-inch cards that supplement the quarter's lessons with Bible pictures and a brief summary of the week's Bible lesson. There is one card for each Sunday in the quarter.



16 cards, published quarterly

Sample Cards



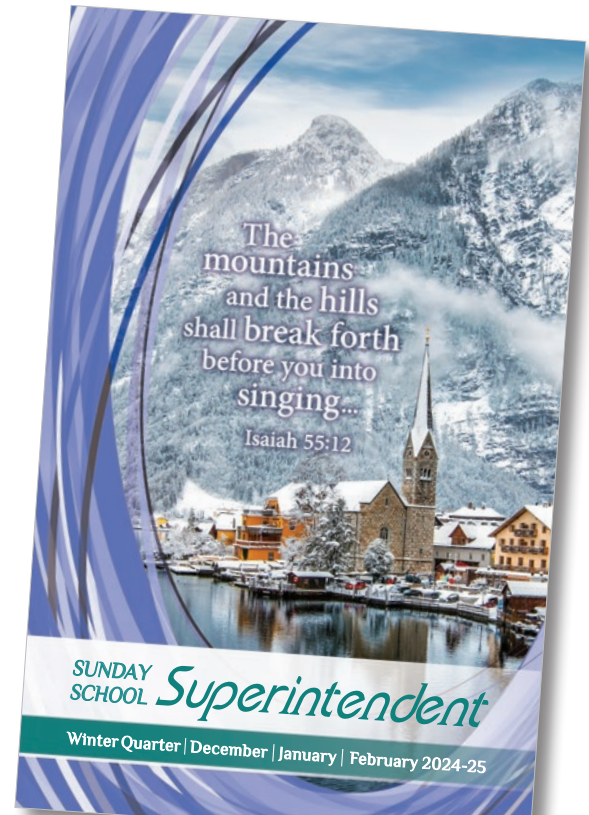
Sunday School Superintendent

Lesson Previews for Superintendents

Attention Sunday school superintendents and other leaders! *Sunday School Superintendent* offers valuable guidance for you! This publication addresses the key issues and challenges in each weekly lesson for both adults and children.

Sunday School Superintendent not only outlines the main themes of the lessons but also points out the key issues to help prepare teachers for challenging questions. To liven up the classroom environment, we even offer suggestions for lesson-related songs and icebreakers each week, making it more enjoyable for the students. Although primarily for the Sunday school administrator, this publication contains helpful material for any leader looking to effectively engage students in a study of God's Word.

Sunday School Superintendent is also available in an e-book edition on these sites: Amazon, iTunes, and Kobo.



32 pages, published quarterly

Sample Pages

PARAGRAPHS ON PLACES AND PEOPLE

PHILIPPI

Paul founded the church in Philippi during his second missionary journey (Acts 16), visited them again on his third missionary journey (20:1-6), and wrote an epistle to them. Philippi was named after Alexander the Great's father.

After a famous sea battle in 42 B.C., the future Emperor Augustus realized the strategic location of the city and made Philippi a Roman colony. Many Roman soldiers retired to Philippi; the people of the city spoke Latin instead of Greek, as did the rest of the population of Macedonia, and the city was laid out as a miniature version of Rome (Krugler, ed., *A Biblical Theological Introduction to the New Testament*, Crossway). Many there were full Roman citizens, and some had exemption from taxes. All of this added weight to Paul's reminder to us in his letter to the Philippians that our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 2:20).

CORINTH

Paul spent eighteen months in Corinth during his second missionary journey (Acts 18:1-18), revisited it several times (II Cor. 13:1), and wrote them multiple letters. Corinth was where Paul met Priscilla and Aquila. Corinth had been destroyed by Rome in 146 B.C. but was rebuilt in 44 B.C. by Julius Caesar. It became a wealthy cosmopolitan city, benefiting from its position along several major trade routes. Its citizens came from all over the Roman Empire, and a variety of religious beliefs and practices existed there. The widespread immorality, social stratification, and religious pluralism of the city affected the Corinthian church, and Paul wrote about those issues in his letters.

SHEPHERDS

The shepherds who received the good news of Jesus' birth would not have been as cute and comfortable as we often picture them. They typically slept outside and smelled of sweat and animals. Although being a shepherd was an ancient and accepted profession (cf. Gen. 47:1-3), they were considered lower-class citizens. The contrast between the impressive exaltation from the heavenly host glorifying God and the lowly recipients of their message was enormous.

God did not choose to reveal Jesus' birth to the powerful, the influential, or the educated but to the humble. This is a good reminder that God is not impressed by the same things we are, nor does He always work the way we would expect.

MATTHEW THE TAX COLLECTOR

One of the most despised types of people in first-century Israel was a tax collector. They were considered traitors who helped the Roman Empire. They frequently overcharged their countrymen and kept extra for themselves. Being a tax collector was lucrative, but it came at the cost of being an outcast from much of society. When Jesus chose Matthew, a tax collector, to be one of His disciples, it was undoubtedly a scandal. Jesus is able to save anyone, regardless of his or her background.

Early church fathers like Irenaeus and Clement tell us that Matthew first preached in Judea before going to other countries. Although it is disputed, tradition tells us that Matthew was martyred in Ethiopia.

—Tom Greene

Editorials

(Continued from page 3)

God's Motivating Love

This quarter we are looking first at God's great love and second at our love, which should come in response to God's. First John 4:19 reminds us that we love because He first loved us. This is a crucial principle. As we see God's love for us more clearly—especially in the work of Jesus Christ for us—we should naturally grow in love for Him. In fact, the very act of seeing Jesus for who He is can transform us (cf. II Cor. 3:18; I John 3:2). This means that an important part of our effort to become more Christlike is simply to see and know Christ better.

There is an important implication here: God's tremendous, sacrificial love is generally a better motivator for His people than guilt and shame tend to be. To be clear, there is certainly a place for godly sorrow and repentance over sin. We are commanded repeatedly to repent of our sins through Scripture. Godly sorrow is a good thing. But guilt should not be the primary motivator for God's children. If we use guilt as a motivator to recruit more volunteers or boost giving, it may work temporarily. However, Hebrews 12:17 seems to imply that begrudging service is not beneficial. Even if it works in the short term, using guilt as a motivator for service is not a healthy, long-term strategy for individual Christians or for the church in general.

Instead, we should remind people repeatedly of God's great love: while we were still His enemies, Jesus came, took on a weak human body, and died for us so that we might live in Him.



This is spectacular love! As we appreciate God's infinite, overflowing love more, the sacrifices we make will seem small by comparison. As we realize He has given us more than we can comprehend in Christ and eternal joy lies before us, we will want to share His love with others. This love is much greater than any guilt we may stir up in people. God's love can power a lifetime of joyful service.

Paul provides a motivational exhortation on the preciousness of God's love and how it encourages the godly Christian to serve Christ. In Romans 8:35-39, he explains that nothing can separate believers from God's love. No amount of persecution or hardship can keep us from God. Even if we should be martyred on behalf of Jesus, we are not defeated. Death cannot separate us from God's love, nor can Satan and the demonic hoard. God's love compels us to serve Him, and God's love will sustain us during difficult times.

—Tom Greene

Training Up Leaders

It is common to hear churches lament that younger people are leaving the church. Though each church is different, this is often due to a failure to raise up the next generation. As time passes, they often walk away.

Training the next generation must include both biblical teaching and godly examples for young people to follow (cf. Deut. 4:8; Titus 2:7). It is unlikely that anyone reading this will disagree! While those things are foundational, however, we can do even more. We can help train and teach them how to lead.

There are many ways we can encourage students to participate actively. This could mean allowing students to help teach Sunday School to younger age groups occasionally with direct supervision, guidance, and feedback. We can encourage them to use musical gifts during Sunday worship. It could mean helping them to lead a small group.

As a sophomore in high school, I was tremendously blessed to have a pastor meet with me several days before a student small group to help me plan a lesson and come up with good questions to ask. He would also attend the group quietly and give me tips afterward. He did this for a year, and it helped me greatly. This was a large time commitment on his part—but after a year, he trusted me to lead it without his constant supervision. He did this with several students a year, and you can imagine the positive, multiplying effect that had on the impact of his ministry over time!

An essential part of a teaching ministry is equipping all the saints to do the work of ministry (cf. Eph. 4:11-12). We should do more than simply give answers or tell students how to think.

We can mentor them on how to evangelize, give generously, be hospitable to others, teach, and work to expand the kingdom. If only pastors are doing this work, there may be some fruit, but there will be far less than if every church member is sharing the gospel with their neighbor!

Ephesians 4:12 informs us that God has prepared pastors and teachers so that they will equip the church for ministry. Too often, congregations assume that the pastor is the only one responsible for ministry; but this is not so. A church's pastor should not be the star of the show but a member of the supporting cast. The pastor should prepare the congregation.

If we are looking for ways to allow our students to take responsibility, even in small ways, it will have several benefits. First, students who are learning to lead will usually be growing in their faith. This alone would be enough to allow our students to take responsibility in ministry. Second, someone who is engaged and leading in some way is less likely to quietly fade away from church than someone who is merely a passive listener. Third, most of our students will likely outlive us. This is not intended to be morbid; it is simply a fact! If we do not let younger people take responsibility in small ways now, they will not be ready to undertake large responsibilities later.

Those in leadership positions should help train and establish future leaders (cf. Titus 1:5). As we encourage our students to take leadership in all sorts of different ways, big or small, we will help them to grow in their faith. More than that, we will help prepare them for a lifetime of service to the Lord.

—Tom Greene

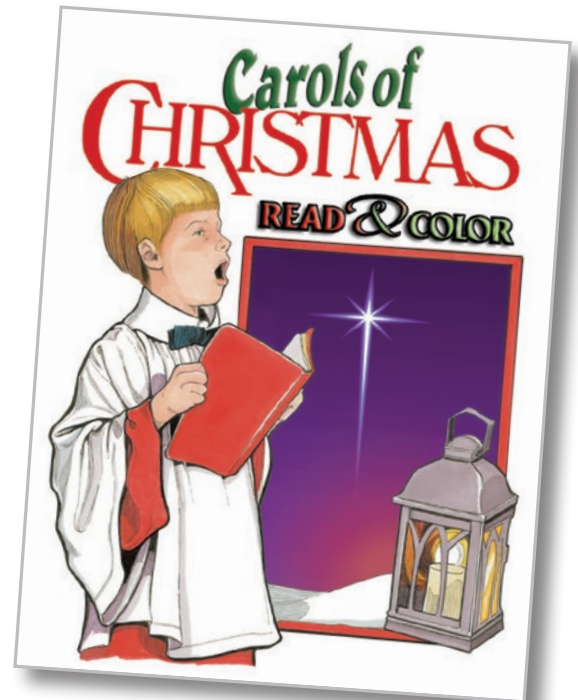
Coloring Books for Kids

For Children Ages 4-11

Carols of Christmas: Read & Color

The *Carols of Christmas* coloring book will help children experience the wonder and joy of Christ's birth as they learn songs of praise. Nineteen beloved Christmas carols are accompanied by charming images that children can color as they learn to sing the story of the Saviour's birth.

Sample Pages

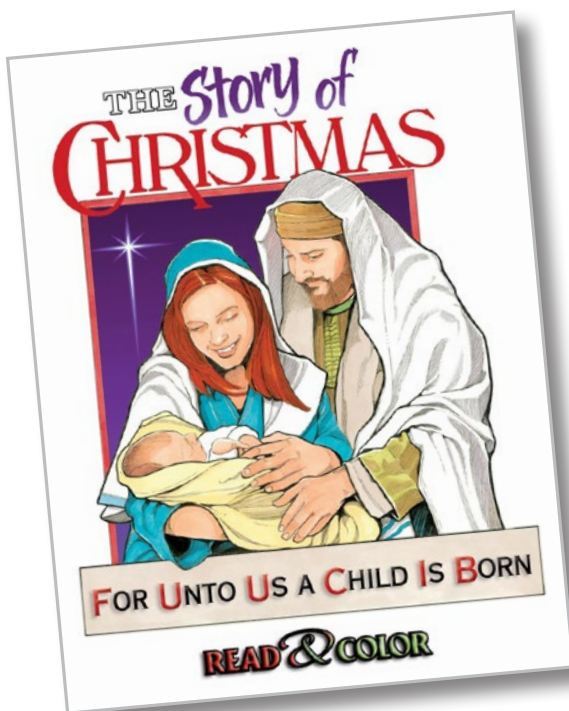
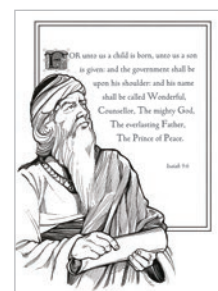


40 pages

The Story of Christmas: Read & Color

The miraculous birth of Jesus is one of the most important stories of the Bible. This coloring book features captivating images that portray the nativity story of our Saviour. The forty ready-to-color pictures help children learn about the climax of God's wonderful plan of redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Sample Pages



40 pages

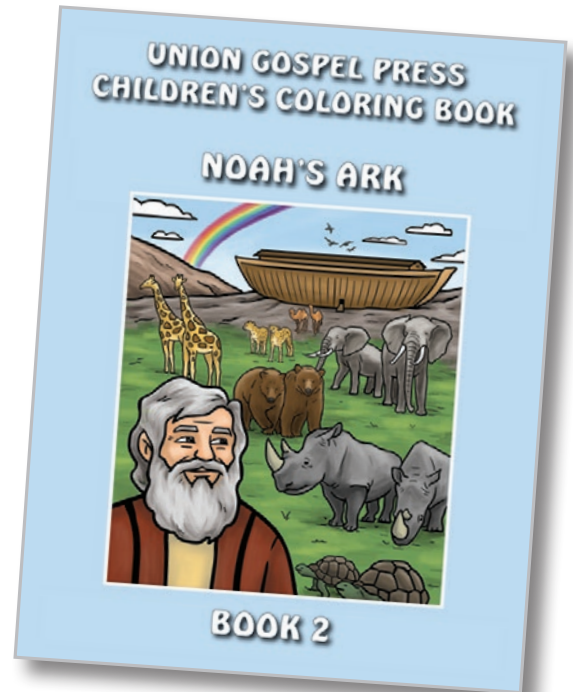
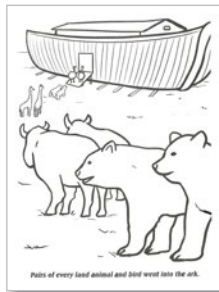
Coloring Books for Kids

For Children Ages 4-11

Noah's Ark: Children's Coloring Book

This lively coloring book features forty pictures to color for children. The book tells the story of Noah's ark, helping children engage with the Bible in a fun and creative way. Every picture is explained in age-appropriate language, including relevant Scripture verses. This is an exciting aid for every child's Christian growth.

Sample Pages

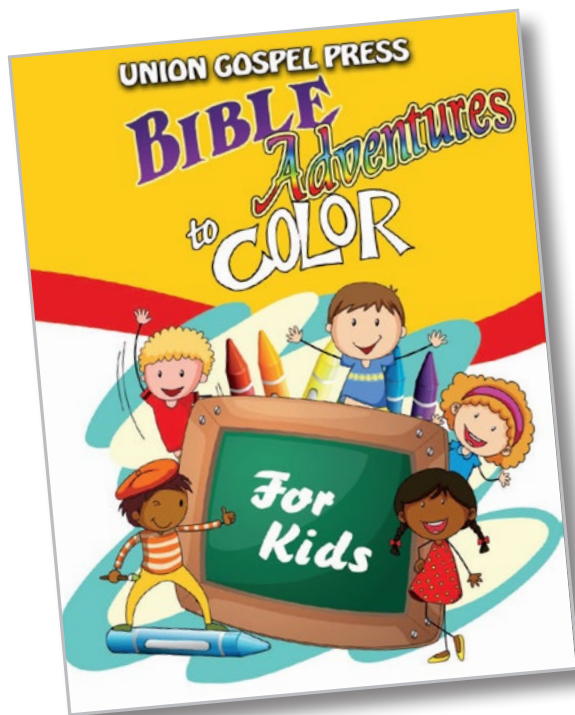


40 pages

Bible Adventures to Color: For Kids

The original Union Gospel Press coloring book, *Bible Adventures to Color: For Kids* offers ready-to-color pictures for children. This is a fun way for children to learn about Jesus and creatively engage with God's Word.

Sample Pages



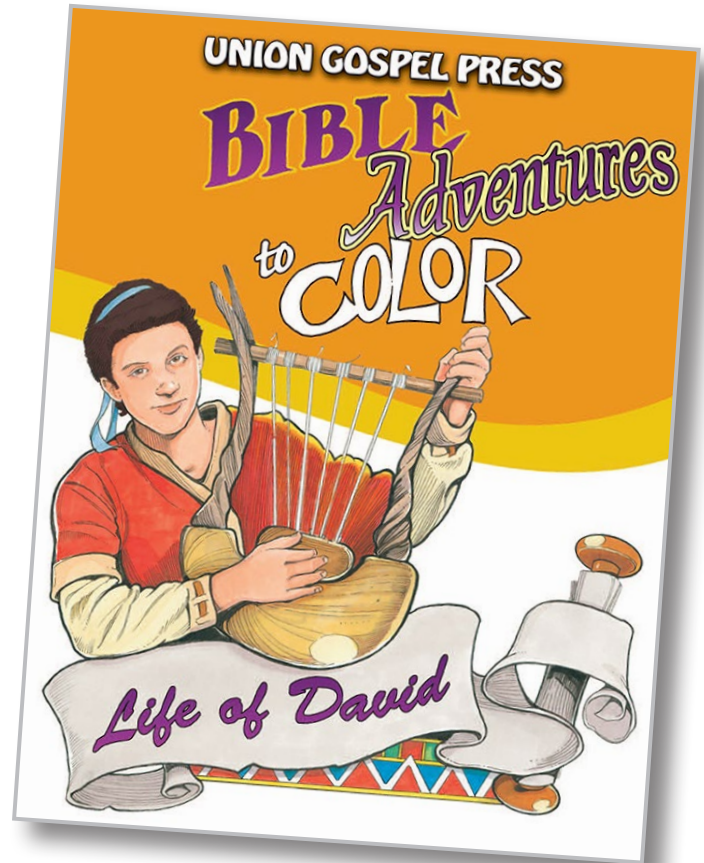
40 pages

Coloring Books for Kids

For Children Ages 4-11

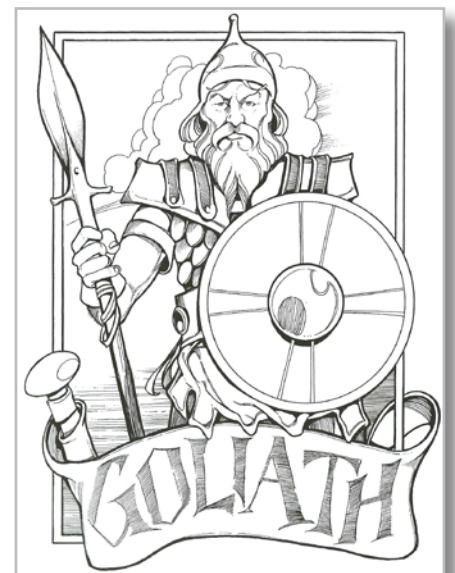
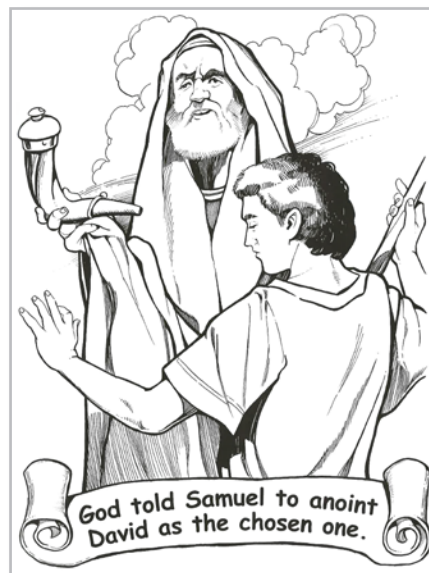
Bible Adventures to Color: Life of David

Our *Bible Adventures to Color* series offers this attractive coloring book focusing on the exciting life of David. It is an effective aid to help children creatively engage with Scripture. Children will learn from David what it means to have a relationship with God at a young age.



40 pages

Sample Pages



Statement of Faith

What We Believe

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired by God, are inerrant in the original writings, are the Word of God, and the final authority in faith and conduct.

We believe in one God, the Creator of man and all things, eternally existing in three Persons in a threefold relationship, that of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is God incarnate, the God-Man.

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; that Adam's sin is imputed to the whole race of mankind; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners before God in thought, word, and deed.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe on Him are freely justified before God and stand before Him accepted in the character and merit of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, in His ascension into heaven, and that in His present glorified body He is the Head of the church, the Lord of the individual believer, the High Priest over the house of God, and the Advocate in the family of God.

We believe in the personal, imminent, pretribulational, and premillennial second coming of Christ; first to receive His own to Himself, and later to set up His earthly kingdom and to reign over redeemed Israel and all nations; that is, to bring peace and blessing to the whole world.

We believe that all who by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit and Word of God, receive the Holy Spirit and a new nature, and also are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ.

We believe that God is the spiritual Father of only those who trust His Son, Jesus Christ, as Savior, and that only those saved through faith in Christ are spiritual brothers.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting punishment of the unsaved.

Contact Information



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Building Relationships With Jesus Christ

Jesus gave the church a mission: Tell everyone, everywhere about the love of God and make disciples in Jesus' name. Because of His command, our focus at LifeStone has been and always will be discipleship.

LifeStone Ministries' roots go back to 1895, when Reverend William B. Musselman and seven women from his church began a home missionary ministry that would become the Gospel Worker Society. Together, they set out to reach people who were not being reached by the churches in their communities and to encourage people to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior from sin. They expanded their ministry by starting Union Gospel Press, through which they produced their own literature to spread the gospel. The Gospel Workers have all passed on to glory, but the labors they began for the Lord over one hundred years ago continue today through LifeStone Ministries. What started in local churches has now expanded on a global scale without losing sight of our core mission, which is empowering disciples to make disciples.

LifeStone's focus is to build Christian leaders' conviction and confidence to help transform people into the image of Christ through biblical resources and real-life application training. We believe the best place to start is learning the Word of God in community with one another. Our curriculum lineup includes weekly Bible studies for ages four through adult, featuring a fresh, new topic of study every quarter. We also produce Illuminate Bible Series, a daily Bible curriculum for grades 1 through 12.


LifeStone
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES
www.UnionGospelPress.com