

JUNIOR Bible TEACHER



Union
Gospel
Press

For Teachers
of Children
Ages 9 Through 11

WINTER
December 2022,
January,
February 2023

Junior Bible Teacher

WINTER QUARTER

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Dear Junior Teacher:

What if God delighted in bringing pain and punishment upon us every time we failed to live up to what He desires of us? We would have no way of escaping His wrath. But we can all rejoice and be grateful that His delight is in showing His goodness and bestowing His great blessings.

The three units that comprise this quarter's lessons focus on various aspects of God's amazing blessings. Since the greatest of God's blessings is the gift of salvation, which comes through faith in His Son, it should come as no surprise that the good news of Jesus Christ is at the forefront throughout the quarter.

Lessons 1 through 3 anticipate the earthly arrival of the promised Saviour. God delivers the promise of John the Baptist's birth via the angel Gabriel in the first lesson. Though not covered in detail, John would play a prominent role in God's plan as he would later pronounce the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah.

In the second lesson, Jesus' coming and everlasting reign are alluded to from approximately a thousand years out as the Lord sends a message to David, informing him that his throne and kingdom would be "established for ever" (II Sam. 7:16). Gabriel brings another message from the Lord in lesson 3—this time to Mary, God's chosen vessel to physically bring His Son, Jesus, into the world. The first unit is capped with the birth of Jesus for the Christmas lesson in week 4.

So many blessings are extended to us because of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. The second unit explores several prominent blessings made a reality through our faith in Christ.

Reconciliation with God in lesson 5 and receiving the gift of forgiveness and new life in lesson 6 are among the blessings addressed. Lesson 7 will afford you the opportunity to help your students understand the concept of Jesus functioning as our Intercessor with God the Father. The final lesson of the unit calls attention to the blessing of liberty that we have in Christ. While Christians are indeed free in Christ, our liberty should be used as occasions to demonstrate our love for God as opposed to sin.

Some of the students in your class may have already trusted Jesus as their Saviour while others have not, and some might make that most crucial decision over the course of the next thirteen weeks. Whatever the case may be, the quarter's final unit is full of rich material that your class is sure to benefit from.

The importance of every individual believer within God's family is made clear in lesson 9. Christians will face various trials in their lives, but lessons 10 and 11 will help your students understand that God is with them through those times. Important lessons on the blessings of godliness and spiritual fruit close out the quarter. May God bless you on your journey this quarter.

For His glory,

Reginald Coats

A Good Tour Guide

How would you like to be the tour guide on an amazing adventure? You might initially have second thoughts about being the one pointing out historical landmarks and providing cultural insight as you and a group of guests embark upon an epic journey. As a Sunday school teacher, however, you actually function as a tour guide in a lot of ways, and digging into God's Word is the adventure of a lifetime.

Every Bible lesson is another opportunity to help your students make more amazing discoveries in the Word of God. Your responsibility is not to manufacture what the children in your class will find along the way but to help them see and understand what God has already revealed through the pages of Scripture.

Good tour guides are passionate about what they do. A guide speaking in dull monotone and who is uninterested in the attractions encountered while touring should not be surprised to learn that within a relatively short period of time, everyone has tuned him out. There is nothing more exciting than exploring and continuing to learn more about our infinitely great and awesome God and His Word.

If you lack passion for studying and teaching God's Word, it will be readily detected by your students, and they are also likely to lose interest and will disengage when a lesson is being taught. Greeting your students with energy each week and conveying excitement at the start of and throughout the lesson every week will play an integral part in priming your students for a fruitful study.

People expect a tour guide to be familiar with and to know what those taking the tour are likely to encounter. Likewise, a good teacher should be well acquainted with a lesson prior to arriving in class to teach it. By studying and going through a lesson in advance, you will be better equipped to lead your class and anticipate some of the questions students may have during your time together. You will also be able to do more in-depth research, enabling you to provide additional insight that your class will be interested in and can benefit from.

Good communication is also a key component of being a good tour guide. Having helpful knowledge is one thing, but being able to convey that information is another. Be sure not to speak over the heads of the children in your class. Children can have a tendency to smile and nod in agreement even when they do not fully understand what is being taught. Throwing out an occasional question pertaining to what you were just talking about is a good way to ensure that students are following along with you.

Another important aspect of being a good tour guide and one that could potentially be overlooked is that those who are with you should have an enjoyable time. While maintaining order in the classroom is both a challenge and a necessity, your classroom should also be a place that your students look forward to attending. Do your best to make your classroom a place filled with love and encouragement. Bright colors and artwork can also help to create an environment conducive to learning for your juniors.

Many of your students will one day become parents. Some of them may even become Sunday school and Vacation Bible School teachers themselves. When those occasions occur, they will still remember some of the amazing adventures that you led them on as they studied God's Word and learned awesome truths about Him, His love, and His plan to save us through faith in His Son, Jesus.

—Reginald Coats.

FOR COMFORT AND CHALLENGE

MEGAN HICKMAN

COVERED

Snow falls softly down
White, clean blessing covers mud
Bright until spring blooms.

DESPISED AND REJECTED

Décor on shopping windows shines tonight.
My own reflection slows and stands to squint
Into a bulb and catches the twinkling lights,
But passing shoppers see only a glint.

A nativity scene frames the window
With one ceramic angel toppled over
And no manger. The cold wind blows the snow;
I button up my coat and turn to go.

My Christmas shopping is completely done,
So I go home and open up a book
That tells about the victories God has won
For those who have the faith in Him to look.

My greatest treasure is His love for me,
That He would be despised and I would be free.



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Zacharias and Elisabeth were the parents of John the Baptist.

A Great Promise to Zacharias

Lesson Text: Luke 1:8-20

GOLDEN Text—“Thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John” (Luke 1:13).

Scripture Lesson Text

LUKE 1:8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest’s office before God in the order of his course,

9 According to the custom of the priest’s office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

12 And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor

strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.

16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

APPROACHING THE LESSON

AIM: to help children understand that God always confirms His Word.

When God spoke His Word to mankind, He always confirmed it in some way. When the Lord told Noah that He would not destroy the earth again with a flood, He confirmed His promise with the sign of the rainbow in the sky. God told Abraham at least three times that he would become the progenitor of an innumerable number of descendants. When God spoke either blessing or judgment through the

prophets, the same message was usually repeated over a period of years or even decades.

When God told mankind of the coming of the Messiah through His spokesmen in the Old Testament, centuries later He confirmed His Word through the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. John would proclaim Jesus as the Saviour of Israel, the Messiah.

Bring a picture of the priest Zacharias and his wife, Elisabeth.

TEACHING THE LESSON

AN ANGEL APPEARED TO ZACHARIAS—Luke 1:8-11

Zacharias was a priest in Jerusalem. The Bible tells us that he and his wife, Elisabeth, were godly people. They lived a life that glorified and honored the God of Israel. Zacharias was from the tribe of Levi. Only those from the tribe of Levi could be priests. His wife, Elisabeth, was also descended from the priestly line. (Teacher, show Zacharias and Elisabeth.)

Not only was Elisabeth in the priestly line, but she also was a descendant of Aaron. Only those descended from Aaron could become high priests. Because she was a woman, Elisabeth could not become a priest. But the fact that both she and her husband were in the priestly line may have been God's way of letting people know that important events were about to happen in the land of Israel.

The Bible also tells us that Zacharias and Elisabeth had no children. There were others in the Bible who were not

able to have children. Abraham and Sarah were not able to have a child. God made a promise to them that a child would be born, and Isaac was miraculously born years later. Samson the judge had parents who were unable to have children when God gave them the promise of a child, and Samson was born to them. Hannah had no children, either, and God caused Samuel to be born to her and her husband, Elkanah.

For Zacharias and Elisabeth, it was a great heartache that they were not able to have children, especially now that they were past their childbearing years. However, God was about to change things for them. (Show Zacharias and Elisabeth again.)

On this day, it was Zacharias's turn to burn incense in the temple. Two times a day a priest was chosen to burn incense in the temple—once in the morning and once in the evening. It was considered a great honor for the priests to do this, and this duty was