

*Fellowship Kids*

# 1st-3rd Grade Lesson Plan

*Sunday, April 19*

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UNIT 15 | SESSION 2

## PROPHETS TO JUDAH

MICAH, NAHUM, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH

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**MAIN POINT / CHRIST CONNECTION:** God sent prophets to His people to warn them to repent of their sin and turn to God. Jesus gave the same message, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” When we trust in Jesus, we are restored to a right relationship with God and have the hope of eternal life.

**CATECHISM QUESTION :** Q. What does Christ do for His people? A. He does the work of a prophet, a priest, and a king.

**MEMORY VERSE of the Month:** PSALM 145:9 - “The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.” (ESV)

### Preparation

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#### Lesson Context

**This Unit:** The Southern Kingdom of Judah experienced the reign of both good and evil kings. Yet, the people’s allegiance was divided between the worship of God and the idols of foreign nations. God sent prophets to warn the people to turn back to Him, but they did not listen. God disciplined His people by sending them into captivity in Babylon but promised they would one day return home.

#### Volunteer Huddle | **8:45 a.m.**

Meet in the Threes classroom (first floor) for prayer and important info for this Sunday.

## Prep Room | 8:50 a.m.

- Put out activity pages (in Activity Box) and markers (in Teacher Box) on desks.
- If you'd like, put music on the Spotify app on the Roku TV.
- You can push tables back or to the sides to make space in the center or front of the room for activities.

## Fellowship Time | 9:00 - 9:15 am

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### FELLOWSHIP TIME

Greet families at the door as they arrive. Allow children time to engage with one another and catch up. Use this time to get to know your students and hear about their week. What was a good part/hard part or “yay duck”/“yuck duck” of their week? If you'd like a prompting question for discussion, you can use the one below:

**SAY:** *Have you ever fixed something that was broken? What was it?*

### ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead children to choose a desk and give them an Activity Page and markers (in Activity Box). You can also give them blank paper to draw or some playdough (in Teacher Box) if you prefer.

**SAY:** *You all did a great job unscrambling the prophets' message! In today's story, we'll learn how God sent prophets to tell the people to repent so they could be restored to God.*

### REVIEW CLASSROOM RULES

Post the Rules Poster (in Activity Box) somewhere in the room.

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## Group Activity | 9:10/9:15 am

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### PICTURE MESSAGES: DANGER!

Play a game of pictionary by having kids draw pictures of dangerous situations on the white board. For example, kids may draw a fire, shark-infested waters, a cliff, a thunderstorm, tornado, etc. Ask for a volunteer to draw first and either assign her a picture to draw or have her come up with one on her own. Have the rest of the class attempt to guess the situation within 30 seconds. Repeat as time allows or until every kid has had a turn to draw.

**SAY** *All of the pictures you drew involved dangerous situations. What would you do if you saw a friend heading toward a dangerous situation? [Allow responses.] Most likely, **you would warn them and tell them to turn away from it.** Today we will learn that this is exactly why God sent prophets to His people. God loved His people and wanted them to turn away from the danger sin leads to. Unfortunately, God's people didn't always listen. However, when we hear God's warnings about sin, we can turn away. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives us power to say no to sin and follow God.*

## Lesson | 9:20 am

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Ask students to return to their desks and pass out **Bibles** (in Teacher Box). Let them know of your expectations during the lesson: listening to the teacher, sitting quietly with hands and feet to themselves, etc.

### 1. Introduce the Lesson + Pray

**SAY** *Welcome, kids! Today, we will learn about prophets God sent to His people. We'll be in the books of Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. In our story, we'll see how God sent prophets to tell the people to repent of their sins. Let's pray.*

## 2. Using Bibles

**SAY:** Today, we will be in several books of the Bible during our review time: **Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah**. These books are all in the section of the Old Testament that we call the **Minor Prophets**. They are not called “minor” in the sense of being inferior, but because they are shorter books with shorter messages for God’s people. But the short messages they contain are very important.

## 3. Tell the Bible Story

Open your Bible to **THE MINOR PROPHETS** and ask children to turn in their Bibles.

### PROPHETS TO JUDAH

God loved His people so much that He sent messengers, or prophets, who called the people to repent of their sin so they could be restored to a right relationship with God.

The prophet **Micah** said that God was going to judge the wicked leaders of His people. They had become rich by stealing from others. Micah warned that God would send foreign nations to destroy Israel, and called the people to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Micah’s message also included hope—he said that God would one day send a new king from the line of David, who would be born in Bethlehem and rule over the restored people of God.

Years later, God gave a message for the prophet **Nahum** to share. The main message of Nahum’s writings is this: “God is slow to anger and great in power. He will not let the wicked go free.”

Nahum comforted God’s people and gave them hope by showing that God will punish their enemies, the evil nations and empires that love violence. Nahum’s message was also a warning to not act like these nations, and to remain faithful to God.

**Zephaniah** was another prophet. He saw that the nation of Judah was going to be judged for worshipping idols and that God would send a great nation to destroy the city of Jerusalem.

Zephaniah begged the people to turn away from sin while there was still time, so that they might be spared from God's righteous anger against sin. Zephaniah said that God will also judge all the evil nations and Judah because they acted like these evil nations.

The prophet **Habakkuk** was also sent to the people of Judah. Habakkuk spoke directly to God, asking Him why He would not stop the violence and sin of the people of Judah. God responded by saying He would gather the army of Babylon to destroy Judah. God shared that even though this disaster would come, the righteous will live by faith in Him.

Habakkuk ends his message by pleading for God to be merciful to His people. Even though God's judgment would come, Habakkuk said: "I will celebrate in the Lord; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation!"

#### 4. Christ Connection

**SAY:** *God sent prophets to His people to warn them to repent of their sin and turn to God. Jesus gave the same message, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." When we trust in Jesus, we are restored to a right relationship with God and have the hope of eternal life.*

## Review & Video | 9:30 am

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### Bible Story Video

If you'd like, watch the **Bible lesson video** on the YouTube app on the TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom*).

### Review the Bible Story

Invite children to **open their Bibles to MICAH 3:9, 12.**

## SAY -

**1. Who were the four prophets that we talked about today?**

- a. Today, we learned about Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk. Each prophet spoke God's words to the people, reminding them to turn away from sin.

Please turn to **MICAH 3:9,12. Have a volunteer read the passage.**

**1. God is just, and He will not allow evil to go unpunished. What did the prophet Micah say about God's coming judgment? Look at Micah 3:9,12.**

- a. The prophet Micah said that Judah's leaders were evil and unjust. Because of their sin, Jerusalem would be destroyed.

Please turn to **NAHUM 1:7. Have a volunteer read the passage.**

**2. The prophet Nahum also said God would judge the evil nations who hurt Israel. But what did Nahum say about those who trust in God? Look at Nahum 1:7.**

- a. God is good, and He cares for and protects those who trust in Him.

Please turn to **ZEPHANIAH 3:16-18. Have a volunteer read the passage.**

**3. Zephaniah and Habakkuk also gave messages of God's coming judgment on the people's sins. But they also gave the people hope. Though the nation of Babylon would come to destroy Jerusalem and take the people captive, God promised to restore His people. He promised a day when they would be rescued. What did Zephaniah say God would one day do? Look at Zephaniah 3:16-18.**

- a. God would be among His people, like a warrior who saves. He would bring His people back from Babylon. Habakkuk also trusted in God's salvation, even though judgment would come. Habakkuk said, 'I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.'

## Pray

Ask students if they have any **prayer requests**. Pray about what you learned in the lesson and for any requests.

## Catechism Question

Use the **Catechism Question** posters to review previous questions and learn the new one for this week (in Activity Box).

**SAY:** Today we will review our new catechism question for the month:

**Q. What does Christ do for His people?**

**A. He does the work of a prophet, a priest, and a king.**

Today we learned about several different prophets. Jesus was a prophet like Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah because he also warned people of God's coming judgement for sin. Jesus also gave people the hope of salvation—himself! All those who repent of their sin and trust in Jesus for forgiveness will be saved. And, Jesus promised that there would be an ultimate day of salvation; one day He will return to create a new heavens and a new earth.

Let's review all of the catechism questions again:

**Q) What kind of life did Christ live on earth?**

**A) A life of perfect obedience to the Law of God**

**Q. What does Christ do for His people?**

**A. He does the work of a prophet, a priest, and a king.**

## Memory Verse | 9:40 am

Show the **memory verse poster** (in Activity Box). Open your Bible to **PSALM 145:9** and lead the kids to read the verses together. You can also write the verse on the whiteboard so that children can see it more clearly.

**“The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.”**

**- PSALM 145:9**

### CHOOSE ANOTHER

Lead kids to sit or stand in a circle on the floor. Choose one kid to say the first word of the key passage. After she says the first word, she may point to another kid who will then say the second word. Continue until the entire key passage is said, emphasizing the need for every kid to say a word of the key passage. Repeat, trying to say the key passage faster each time.

**SAY:** God is good! Even though sin deserves punishment, God is good to everyone because He has provided people with the way to be saved from sin and death through His Son, Jesus.

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## Extra Activity

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### BAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS

Challenge kids to respond with a message of good news for every message of bad news you share. For example, when you say, "The dentist said you have a cavity," the good news may be, "The cavity can be filled so your tooth can be saved." Consider using the following examples, or create your own:

- "The dentist said you have a cavity."
- "Your dog ran away."
- "You have the flu."
- "You forgot your homework at home."
- "We are all sinners who deserve death."

**SAY:** *It gives us hope when we receive good news in response to bad news. The Bible shares bad news with us: we are all sinners who deserve death. But the Bible also responds with good news: Jesus died and rose again to save us from sin. Today, we learned how God sent prophets to share bad news with His people: they sinned and would face consequences for their sin. But the prophets also shared good news: God would send a perfect King who would restore His people.*

## Dismissal | 9:50 am

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As parents arrive,

- Match the 4 digit code on the parent's tag to the child's tag
- Check out the child on the tablet by clicking the check box to the left of their name on the roster.
- **Give feedback!** Tell parents how the student did that morning.

## Clean Up

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- Wipe down tables if any messes were made with activities. [Magic eraser sponges can erase markings on desks.]
- Put teacher and activity items back in the Activity Box or Teacher Box.
- Place the TV remote in the white holder on the dry erase board.

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- Return the small Activity Box, class tablet, and your lanyards to the check-in desk.