

Lesson 5

Messianic Prophecy

Objective

Students will learn that we can prove the Bible is from God by looking at more prophecies about Jesus's Death.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Messianic Prophecy - Student Activity Sheet - one per student
- Messianic Prophecy - Grade 5-6 Student Booklet - for each Gr. 5-6 student to take home or to read during the class time.
- Prophecy - Visual Aids for Lesson - one for teacher to show
- Bible
- Pens/Pencils/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers (for attendance)

Optional Supplies

- Snack: Round Crackers or Orange Slices (to represent coins)
- Large Paper and Marker or Easel and Marker - for teacher

Teacher Tips

- ★ See Lesson 1

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance.

Say: **Last week we talked about biblical prophecy and today's lesson will be proving the Bible through Messianic prophecy.**

Today we are going to study Messianic prophecy. A prophecy is to tell of something about the future from God and it comes true exactly as God said it would. Today we will look at Messianic Prophecies – prophecies that were written in the Old Testament to show whom God's Chosen One would be – the One that would come and save the world. Jesus' death and how he would die shows He is the Messiah and that proves that the prophecies made were all real and true, something that humans can't do – predict the future perfectly every time.

2) Class Time - Messianic Prophecy

20 minutes

Hand out the student booklets to students Grades 5-6 and mature Grade 4. The rest can look at the visual aid sheet as you read the lesson and have them turn to their Bibles.

Say: **The first prophecy we will look at is:**

1. The Messiah (Chosen One) Die with Wicked, Buried with Rich

In Isaiah 53, the entire chapter speaks of the events of Jesus' death on the cross written 700 years before Jesus was even born. Let's look at Isaiah. Can you all turn in your Bibles? (Help students find Isaiah 53:9)

Isaiah 53:9

He had done no wrong to anyone. He had never even told a lie. But he was buried among the wicked. His tomb was with the rich.

It says, "he was buried among the wicked. His tomb was with the rich."

So he would die with the wicked but in death, when buried, he would be with the rich. How does this relate to Jesus? Luke tells us how Jesus was put to death. Let's turn to:

Luke 23:32-33

There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. 33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

Who was crucified with Jesus?

Remember also that Isaiah said Jesus would be buried with the rich? Further down in Luke, it tells us where Jesus was buried.

Luke 23:50-53

A man named Joseph was there from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a good man, who lived the way God wanted. He was waiting for God's kingdom to come. Joseph was a member of the Jewish council. But he did not agree when the other Jewish leaders decided to kill Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in cloth. Then he put it in a tomb that was dug in a wall of rock. This tomb had never been used before.

Joseph was a rich man, a member of the council, who had enough money to have a tomb all ready to place Jesus in. So as Isaiah stated, Jesus would be with the rich at his death.

2. Price of Betrayal

Some people have heard about the twelve apostles of Jesus: One of them was Judas. He was the apostle that betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver as we read in Matthew.

Matthew 26:14-16

Then one of the twelve followers went to talk to the leading priests. This was the follower named Judas Iscariot. 15 He said, "I will hand Jesus over to you. What will you pay me for doing this?" The priests gave him 30 silver coins. 16 After that Judas waited for the best time to hand Jesus over to them.

But did you know that what Judas did was predicted hundreds of years earlier by Zechariah? Zechariah was given money for some sheep and the Lord told him what to do with the money.

Zechariah 11:13

And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord for the potter.

Questions:

How much money was stated?

What did God say to do with the money?

Now read what happened to Judas in Matthew 27.

Matthew 27:3-7

Judas saw that they had decided to kill Jesus. He was the one who had handed him over. When he saw what happened, he was very sorry for what he had done. So he took the 30 silver coins back to the priests and the older leaders. 4 Judas said, "I sinned. I handed over to you an innocent man to be killed."

The Jewish leaders answered, "We don't care! That's a problem for you, not us."

5 So Judas threw the money into the Temple. Then he went out from there and hanged himself.

6 The leading priests picked up the silver coins in the Temple. They said, "Our law does not allow us to keep this money with the Temple money, because this money has paid for a man's death." 7 So they decided to use the money to buy a field called Potter's Field. This field would be a place to bury people who died while visiting in Jerusalem.

Questions:

What did Judas do with the money?

What did the priests do with the money?

So we learn that Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver and that the money was used for a potter's field. Exactly what was predicted.

3) Activity Time - Student Booklet Activity Sheet

15 minutes

Hand out activity sheets and pencils or colored pencils to the class.

Let the students know you will give them a few minutes to begin with the word search at the top of the page. Go through the words first as a class so everyone knows what they mean. After that, they will move onto the activity at the bottom of the page. Discuss as a class two of the prophecies that were mentioned and have them write them down. Then the students can spend a few more minutes coloring the picture. They can always finish the activities later if they run out of time.

*The third prophecy is only if you have older students in the class. It is a mature subject and maybe hard for little ones to understand. This prophecy below is optional. But, if you do it, go back and have students write the third prophecy in their student sheet.

4) Optional Third Prophecy

10 minutes

3. The Messiah would be pierced, his clothes divided and cast lots for

When Jesus was on the cross, he called out to God.

Matthew 27:35-36, 46

Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

***Forsaken means left alone.**

Why would Jesus say that? Jesus was quoting from Psalm 22. Old Testament Psalms were written about 1000 BC. We have a copy of the Old Testament written in Greek that was written in 250 BC, called the Septuagint. Why is this important? It means the Old Testament was written and verified in 250 BC. That is 250 years before Jesus lived. So anything written in the Old Testament could not be changed from 250 BC onward since there was a copy to compare it too. This includes Psalm 22.

Psalm 22 was a song the Jews sang before their worship service was to start. A very well-known song to all the Jews. Imagine, you are a Jew looking at Jesus die on the cross and you are wondering, could this really be the Christ that was promised? If he was, why would he die this way? But at that same time, Jesus begins to say, "My God, My God..." and you remember the song you've sung for years. And you start remembering the words in the Psalm.

Jesus was showing to the crowd that at that exact moment in history, he was fulfilling the prophecy made about him a thousand years ago. Psalm 22 tells the story of Jesus' crucifixion in very specific detail.

Psalm 22:1, 7-8, and 16-18

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

8 "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

And you are watching the soldiers divide his clothes and cast lots that we read and you realize this Psalm was written 1000 years before Jesus was even born.

You hear the crowds say, "He trusts in the Lord, let God save Him" in Matthew 27:43 and you recall the Psalm that said the exact same thing.

Questions:

How many people do you think die having their hands and feet pierced?

What happened to Jesus that the Psalms predicted?

What was predicted came true. Jesus was showing them that they were witnessing the prophecies of Psalm 22 being fulfilled right before their eyes.

Jesus fulfilled these and every other Messianic prophecy perfectly. Why? Because he is the Messiah. We can trust the Bible.

Questions:

Any questions?

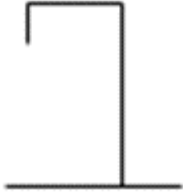
What was the most interesting prophecy for you and why?

How does this increase your trust in the Bible?

5) Optional Hangman Game

5-10 minutes

Have a blank sheet of large paper or an easel with marker and while asking questions play hangman.



We're going to play hangman. I am going to draw a gallow (see image above). I am going to ask you questions as we learn about Biblical prophecy. Raise your hand, if you think you know the answer. If you get the question right, I don't draw any part of the hangman, but if you don't get the question right, I will draw a part of the hangman. If I draw the head, body, arms and legs I win, but if you can answer more questions correctly – you win!

- 1. What was your favorite prophecy and why?**
 - 2. Who died at the same time Jesus did?** (Two criminals)
 - 3. What prophecy was made about Jesus and where he would die?** (Die among thieves)
 - 4. Where was Jesus buried?** (In a tomb) (In Joseph's tomb)
 - 5. What prophecy was told about where Jesus would be buried?** (Buried with the rich)
 - 6. What was special about the tomb Jesus was buried in?** (It belonged to a rich man. Joseph)
 - 7. How much money did God tell Zechariah Jesus would be betrayed for?** (30 pieces of silver)
 - 8. How much money did Judas receive from the chief priest?** (30 pieces of silver)
 - 9. Where did Judas throw the money?** (Into the house of the Lord - the Temple)
 - 10. What did the priests do with the money?** (Buy the potter's field)
 - 11. How does this match the prophecy made about Judas?** (God told Zechariah to take the coins and throw them into the house of the Lord for the potter)
- *If did 3rd prophecy**
- 12. Who cast lots for Jesus' clothes?** (Soldiers)
 - 13. What was predicted about Jesus' death that came true?** (Cast lots, die among wicked, buried with rich, people would mock him, hands and feet pierced, etc. Any will do.)

6) Optional Activity - Snack (Round Coins)**5 minutes**

Hand out a few round snacks to each student. Say, **this snack is to remind us that the Bible was true in all of the prophecies it has, including that Jesus would be betrayed with 30 pieces of silver coins. Today I want you to enjoy some “coin snacks” remembering all the fun facts we learned. The Bible is full of facts that are proven including prophecy.**

What was your favorite prophecy you learned today and why? Let’s go around the room and share.

Do you believe the Bible is the Word of God? If you still aren’t sure, don’t worry we have more lessons to learn and by the end you will be fully convinced the Bible is from God.

This is more evidence that the Bible is accurate, which we would expect if it came from God.

7) Optional Activity - Memory Verse**2-5 minutes**

For the next few weeks, have the students go to **John 8:32** in their Bibles and read the verse aloud as a class 2 times.

John 8:32 “ *and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*”

Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: “and you will know...” a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point to themselves “AND YOU”, point to their heads when they say “WILL KNOW”, etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

Jesus is speaking about us having the ability to know what is true from the Bible. Everything in the Bible is true and we need to follow it to live good, pleasing lives.

8) Closing Prayer

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Say closing prayer remembering to thank God for His Son and giving us the complete Word of God.