

Lesson 11: The Prophet Ezekiel & Valentines

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn of Ezekiel the prophet who wrote during the time Judah was in Babylonian captivity.
- 2) See the need to warn others who are sinning and to encourage those in the church to remain faithful.
- 3) Make a valentine craft to encourage those they love.

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Lesson Review Visual Aids – one for teacher to share at the beginning of each class
- Prophets Timeline Chart – one per student to keep in class for duration of lessons
- Prophets Timeline Chart Answer Key – one for teacher
- Ezekiel Color Page – one per student
- Valentine Poem Cards – printed on white cardstock paper, one per student, there are 5 on a page
- Thin Cardboard paper – one 5 x 5 piece per student
- Scissors – to share
- Red or Pink Yarn – to share
- Glue stick – to share (optional if using scrap yarn to decorate card.)



Optional:

- Storybook or visuals to show students if available (use color page)

Snack:

- Heart Shaped Fruit or Enough Pieces to Make Heart
- Napkins
- Water/Cup

enough to share
one per student
one per student

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

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

*Have Bibles for those who need them and Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet to show students.

Show the lesson review visual aid sheet.

Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at each picture, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned from that lesson.

Lesson 1: The prophets were those that spoke the word of God. They spoke to bring the people back to God and taught about Jesus. There are many prophets in the Old Testament all are important.



Lesson 2: Elijah was cared for by God through the ravens and widow and Elijah stood up for God when he opposed the false prophets of Baal. We learned that God is the Only True God.

Lesson 3: Elisha received a double portion because of his boldness and willingness to serve God. Because of God Elisha helped a widow, stopped the Syrian army, and raised a boy from the dead. We learned that God is powerful and willing to provide.

Lesson 4: Jonah disobeyed God when told to go warn the Ninevites. After a storm and being rescued by a fish that God provided, Jonah obeyed but still did not want God to be merciful to the Ninevites even though Jonah enjoyed God's mercy for himself. We learn that God is forgiving and loving and willing to give second chances.

Lesson 5: Amos and Hosea were two prophets sent to preach to wicked Israel. Hosea married a woman who did not love him back to show the sad relationship the Israelites had with God. Amos told the people that God expects justice and righteousness and that the people (and us) are to respect and care for others in need.

Lesson 6: Joel and Micah were two prophets that preached to Judah. Joel warned the people that God uses natural calamities to encourage ungodly people to repent and turn to Him when he sent the locusts. Micah taught that God is merciful but expects us to be merciful as well and help the poor and needy.

Lesson 7: Isaiah was a faithful prophet who listed many prophecies concerning Jesus, all of which came true. Isaiah spoke that God is able to save and willing to suffer to redeem His people.

Lesson 8: Jeremiah continued to speak God's message that the people needed to turn back to God even though no one would listen. He spoke to Judah in the last decades before Babylon destroyed the nation. We learned that we can and need to stand up for God even when we are young.

Lesson 9: Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah were three prophets who warned the people to repent. They were the last prophets, along with Jeremiah, who spoke against Judah, Assyria, and Babylon before the destruction of Judah.

Lesson 10: Daniel was a young man taken captive to Babylon. He obeyed God, was a faithful prophet and became governor. He was saved by God from evil men, lions and kings.

2) Ezekiel – The Watchman

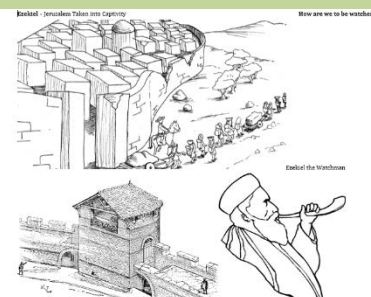
20 minutes

Optional: Have visual aid ready to show students if available

Say: **Today we will learn about another of the Major Prophets, Ezekiel. Ezekiel prophesied like Daniel, during the time of the Babylonian captivity that was to last 70 years.**

Let's all turn to Ezekiel Chapter 1. Help students as needed.

Ezekiel spoke to the Jews who were captive in Babylon. He often used dramatic stories and sometimes acted out illustrations to make his point. Ezekiel was taken captive to Babylon in 597 BC in the deportation with King Jehoiachin and ten thousand other Jews as we will read shortly and as seen also in 2 Kings 24:14-15.



Read Ezekiel 1:1-3

What does it mean that Ezekiel and others were captives? Taken by force to another land. In this case Judah has been taken captive by the Babylonians to Babylon.

Who was Ezekiel? A priest and prophet.

Priests began their ministry at age 30 (1Chronicles 23:3), so even though Ezekiel was taken eight years after Daniel, Ezekiel was most likely older since he would have been at least 30 and Daniel was taken as a young man, possibly even just a teenager when he was taken captive.

Read **Ezekiel 2:1-7 and 3:7**

What did God say about the people of Judah? They were stubborn and rebellious – even with being in captivity, they still hadn't turned back to God.

What did God want Ezekiel to do? Speak to them so they knew a prophet was among them.

God tells Ezekiel that even though he is going to speak the words of God to rebellious people, don't be afraid of their looks, words, or deeds – tell them God's Word anyway!

Ezekiel had a very difficult ministry. The people were still rebellious and unwilling to change.

Read **Ezekiel 3:17-21**

What was Ezekiel's job that God gave him? To be a watchman.

Watchmen were organized groups of men, usually authorized by a state, government, city, or society, to deter criminal activity and provide law enforcement as well as traditionally perform the services of public safety, fire watch, crime prevention, crime detection, and recovery of stolen goods. Watchmen have existed since earliest recorded times throughout the world and were generally succeeded by the emergence of formally organized professional police.

An early reference to a watch can be found in the Bible where the Ezekiel states that it was the duty of the watch to blow the horn and sound the alarm.

Read **Ezekiel 33:1-7 and 11-16**

So what was Ezekiel's job described in your own words? To warn and tell the people about their sin and get them to repent. And for those who were righteous, to warn and encourage them to remain pleasing to God.

Who is responsible for sins? Each person is responsible for their own sin.

Are we allowed to ignore other people and not help them? No. When we don't warn people about their wrong doing or when we don't help people remain faithful to God. Then we are sinning as well.

Can a mom save a son or daughter from their sins? No.

Can a daughter or son save a father from his sins? No.

Each person is responsible. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

Does God enjoy punishing people for their wrongs? No.

How do you know? Verse 11 says He prefers that people repent so He wouldn't have to punish. God does not enjoy or desire punishment. He would much rather we all having a loving relationship with God and obey Him and accept Jesus as Lord of our lives.

Romans 14:12 says:

So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

I can't save you, you can't save me. We are each responsible for our own actions and sins. But, I must warn you not to sin and encourage you to be faithful to God and you must warn me and encourage me also. We are all watchers for God! (If you want and have time you can read Ezekiel 18:20-24, 30-32 which talks more about the soul who sins is the one who will die.)

What does this show us for our lives today? We have God's word and are called in the New Testament to tell others about Jesus. Even though we are young, there is no excuse, we can and need to tell others about God, live a life that is pleasing to Him, and know that God promises to be with us when we do.

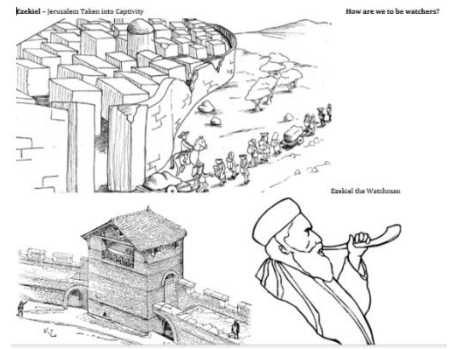
3) Ezekiel Color Page

10-15 minutes

Hand out one color page to each student with crayons. Read the descriptions and ask:

How are we to be watchers? Share the Bible with others, tell about Jesus, encourage others, give a Bible to people we know, etc.

Draw a picture of how you can be a watchperson today like Ezekiel was. Then color the rest of the page while we continue talking about Ezekiel. Provide ideas if needed – being a watchman by showing a picture of two people reading the Bible, giving out a nice card to someone to encourage them to remain faithful to God, telling others about the kind, loving things God does for all of us, etc.



Ezekiel kept contact with the Jews who had remained in Jerusalem but the people remained rebellious even though two groups of them had already been taken to Babylon as captives. Ezekiel was in Babylon when he heard the news that Jerusalem had finally fallen by the Babylonians in Ezekiel 33:21.

We are going to read about God showing Ezekiel a vision about who would be spared. God was sending destruction to Jerusalem but first sent men (which we learn were cherubim or angels) to mark out who were sad over the state of nation and the sins of the people. Those who were praying to God, sad and not sinning would be spared.

Read Ezekiel 8:1-4 and 9:1-11

What does this say to us? We should be sad and not partake of the state of the nation where we live when people sin. We should not be like those around us. Even if everyone else sins, we need to remove ourselves and pray to God for help. God will punish those who continue in sin and do not repent. We need to be concerned for others, we can't ignore the world around us but encourage the people we meet and know to turn to God and pray when they don't.

4) Valentines Poem and Craft Yarn Heart

15-25 minutes

Before class print enough poem cards – one per student, and cut them out so each student gets one. Have thin cardboard pieces ready for each student – they will use the cardboard to cut out a heart shape for their yarn hearts. Gather remaining supplies. (You may desire to draw heart shapes in advance on their cardboard and if needed, cut out the heart shapes before class or during class for those who may need help.)



Say, today since it is the week of Valentines, we are going to make a heart shaped ornament and a card with a poem to encourage someone we love. Everyone will first take their piece of cardboard and draw a heart shape onto it. Make the heart large enough to fill the cardboard. When you are happy with your heart shape, take scissors to cut the heart out. (See picture above.)

While students do that say: **Remember Ezekiel saw a vision that showed God sending a cherub (angel) to go through the city and mark those who were sad over the state of Jerusalem? We are going to make a poem card that tells someone we love that we are watching out for them and will be sad if they are sad and happy when they are happy.**

Now, once you have your heart shape cut out, take some yarn. Leave a 4 inch piece of yarn hanging at the top (that will eventually be a hook to hang the heart). Take the remaining yarn and start wrapping it around the heart all over to cover it in yarn. Remembering to always leave that small piece



hanging from the top. When you have covered the entire heart, take the yarn back to the top and tie a knot at the top base of the heart with the other piece of yarn. Then cut the yarn so that you have two pieces of yarn left at the top (see first picture above for the string hook image). Now, take those two yarn pieces and tie a knot at the top so that the heart can hang.

Clean up before moving on. If desired, you can keep some scrap yarn to make a bow or heart shape to glue onto the front of their poem cards if time/desire.

Hand out one card to each student. Read the poem aloud and have them decorate the card, put a “to and from” somewhere and if time/desire, use the scrap pieces of yarn to glue a design on the front. Have them discuss ways we can all help others when they are sad, encourage others to remain true to God, and how we can share the Word of God with those in our lives.

When done, clean up and then move onto the remaining activities.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!	I'll be happy when you are happy. I'll be sad when you are sad. I will tell you of God's love So that your days will all be glad!
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!	I'll be happy when you are happy. I'll be sad when you are sad. I will tell you of God's love So that your days will all be glad!

5) Prophets Timeline

5 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student. You will gather them up again for later use.

Ask them:

What time did Daniel and Ezekiel preach? During the Babylonian captivity.

What did we learn last time about Daniel? See Teacher Answer Key

What can we fill in under Ezekiel for major events? See Teacher Answer Key

What did we see in today's lesson about the power of God? See Teacher

Answer Key

Prophets

Prophets who spoke during times of the Jewish Exile and after the return to Jerusalem.

Timeline and order are based on historical information and are not exact.

Divided Kingdom	Fall of Israel	Fall of Judah	Exile	Return	Exile
Prophets to Israel			Prophets to Judah		
Isaiah			Ezekiel		
Jeremiah			Daniel		
Hosea			Isaiah		
Amos			Jeremiah		
Jonah			Ezekiel		
Micah			Daniel		
Nahum			Isaiah		
Habakkuk			Jeremiah		
Zechariah			Ezekiel		
Haggai			Daniel		
Malachi			Isaiah		
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When you get to Song of Solomon, that is when the alphabet tune starts again, that is where you will start each week, even though Song of Solomon is not a prophet book.

Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Repeat this section 2 times each week as a way to practice learning. Encourage students to practice at home as well. You may even decide to offer a prize or praise for each student who can recite all the books of the prophets from memory as you go through the quarter.

*If students have learned them all, sing through the entire Old Testament books as practice.

7) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **Hebrews 1:1-2** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. 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: "God, who at various times" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point up when you say "GOD", point to their mouths when they say "SPOKE", etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

Hebrews 1:1-2

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

8) Optional – Snack: Heart Shaped Fruit or Enough Pieces to Make Heart 5 minutes

Ensure you check for allergies first. Hand out a few pieces to each student and say,

To remember that we need to love others and reach out to them, we are going to have a heart-shaped snack. Let's all remember that God loves us so much and commands us to tell others about Jesus. We can be strong, just like Ezekiel, even though he was sent to an evil people – he remained true to God and did not get caught up in the sins of everyone around him. Even though he was taken captive along with the wicked people around him, he didn't get mad at God for being taken captive, but knew it was his important job to warn others as a watchman to them.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands if needed. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking.

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Thank You for Your Son, who obeyed You and died for our sins. Forgive us when we sin and help us to learn Your words in the Bible. Help us to take the time to devote and dedicate our lives to You, as the prophets did, eager to share Your word with others. For You are worthy, good, awesome and loving towards us. Help us be merciful and forgiving as You are. Pray for those who could not be here today, and pray for those here who have special issues in their life. Be with them, guide, comfort, and bless them. In Jesus' name, amen.