

# Lesson 12: The Prophets Haggai & Zechariah

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Learn about Haggai and Zechariah and their message to rebuild the temple of God.
- 2) See that God has the power to bless and to curse.
- 3) Understand that God prophesied that He would send Jesus to save and rule the whole earth.
- 4) See that the prophecies that point to Christ were accurately fulfilled.

**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
- Zechariah Bible Verse Match – one per student
- Prophets Timeline Chart – one per student to keep in class for duration of lessons
- Prophets Timeline Chart Answer Key – one for teacher
- Overview of OT Books of Prophets – one – four for class to share (can use from lesson 1)
- Easel or Large Sheet of Paper – one for teacher to do heart drawing and optional hangman
- Marker – one for teacher
- Tape - if using large sheet of paper – one

### Optional:

- Storybook or visuals to show students if available
- Paper cups or small wood blocks – enough for teacher to “build” a temple while telling story
- Blank Sheet of Paper – one per student
- Matching Game – one set per two students cut out on cardstock paper
- Prophets Matching Game Sheet – one for every two students

### Snack:

- Fruit pieces you can stack enough to share
- Napkins one per student
- Water/Cup 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.

**Lesson 11:** Ezekiel was a prophet and priest during the time of Babylonian captivity. God called him to be a watchman and warn the people of their unrepentant hearts.

## **2) Haggai - Rebuild the Temple**

**20-25 minutes**

Optional: Have visual aids ready to show students if available

Have easel or large sheet of paper to do class activity

Have paper cups or wooden blocks to use to "build a temple" while you ask questions.

**Say: Today we will learn about Haggai and Zechariah who encouraged and lead the people to rebuild the temple after their return to Jerusalem from Babylonian captivity.**

**Let's all turn to Haggai Chapter 1 now.** Provide Bibles and help as needed.

**Say: From the time of Daniel and Ezekiel, Judah was in captivity for 70 years. Away from the holy land and from the temple of God. When the Babylonian empire had fallen to the Medo-Persian Empire, Cyrus the Persian king, foretold by God, said that every captive in the land could go back to the land they were from and build the temple of their God. Zerubbabel a governor, and Joshua**

a high priest, led the people of God back to the city of Jerusalem to rebuild the temple of the Lord and start their lives again.

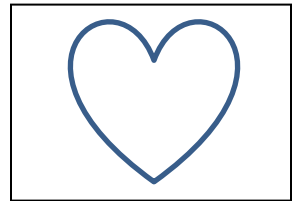
During this time of Zerubbabel, the Jews laid the foundation of the temple but they became discouraged and lacked dedication, so they went and made their own beautiful homes instead. The temple foundation was so neglected that it lay barren and neglected for 16 years.

Haggai and Zechariah are called to bring the people back again to build the temple of the Lord in 520BC. After having it sit for 16 years, they were able to complete the entire temple in only 4 years. But people were discouraged that it did not look as grand and large as the original temple that Solomon had built years earlier during the time of the United Kingdom. God assured them that it wasn't the size of the temple, but the dedication to God in their hearts that mattered most.

### Heart Drawing

Use easel or large piece of paper with markers. Tape if using paper.

Draw a big heart on a large piece of paper and hang it on the wall. You may also use a dry erase board or easel if available. Choose volunteers to either say or come up and write something in the heart that is important to them. They cannot write the same thing in the heart twice.



If no one writes "God", ask: **Should God be in the heart?** If someone does put God, ask the kids what should be first of all the things written in the heart. Say: **God wants to be first in everything. What we love is what we make time for. If we love God, He will be an important part of our lives. He loves us and cares for us, He wants us to feel the same for Him.**

In today's Bible story, we will see if the Israelites learned that after returning to Jerusalem from

When the people returned to Jerusalem, they were more concerned with building their own homes and getting their own lives in order and had not rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem that they were called to do. God was displeased about this and through Haggai, spoke to the leaders of God's people and reminded them to get busy and build the temple. Haggai scolded the people for not putting God first. Haggai told them to build the house of the LORD. He told them to put God first!

### Build the Temple - Block Activity

Read **Haggai 1:1-14**

\*\*\*As you ask each question below, use a paper cup or wooden block if available to "build" a simple temple. Use one cup or block for each question. If it falls just start again.

**What did God want the people to do?** Finish building the temple they were sent back to Jerusalem for.

**What was their excuse?** The time is not now, the time hasn't come.

**Why was God upset?** They had time to build their big beautiful homes but no time for God.

**What was the consequence of them not putting God first?** They weren't prosperous - they weren't getting enough food from the seed they planted, enough warmth from the clothes they wore, all their wages were wasted.

**What was the result of Haggai's message?** They worked on the temple!

**Haggai shows us the importance of putting God first. As shown in the priority of God's house/temple being rebuilt after the Jews returned to Jerusalem.**

We read that the people were discouraged. Was that an acceptable excuse? No.

God said discouragement is not a reason to give up and not do the work of the Lord that we are called to do. We need to be strong and work, regardless of the circumstances. This is very, very pleasing to God. Whenever there is a good work that needs to be done, God says the time is NOW.

Put the last block on the temple you built to show that work can be done and completed ☺

### 3) Zechariah - Rebuild the Temple Activity Sheet

15-20 minutes

The next prophet who also encouraged the people to build was Zechariah. Zechariah also urged the Jews to work on rebuilding the temple and prophesied how the temple and his prophecies would point to the coming Messiah (Jesus). Like Ezekiel, Zechariah gave much detail about the Messianic age – the age of Jesus Christ. Zechariah had eight night visions that speak of Israel's immediate future. Zechariah came to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel (Nehemiah 12:4, 16). He was both a priest and prophet and spoke at the same time of Haggai (Ezra 5:1, 6:14). Haggai was older and only prophesied for 3 months, whereas Zechariah spoke for a little over two years. Both spoke of rebuilding the temple.

Turn to Zechariah, the next book after Haggai so we can read.

Read Zechariah 1:1, 17-17

What did God say to Zechariah? He was returning to Jerusalem to bless it and have the temple built.

Zechariah has many prophecies that point to Jesus. Some include that Jesus is called the BRANCH, the Priest, will ride on a donkey, be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, and will suffer for our sins.

Turn to Zechariah 6:12-13.

Notice that even though Zechariah is speaking of Joshua the high priest, he is also foretelling of Jesus as the words "He" and "Branch" in this section are capitalized.

Here Jesus is also called a priest and will be a counsellor of peace. This passage also mentions that Jesus will rule and will build the temple of God – that temple is the spiritual temple we have today – the church! Paul says to the Corinthians that we, who are baptized believers and followers of Jesus are that temple that Christ built.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

*16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

\*Hand out one Zechariah Match the Verse Sheet to each student with a pencil. Read the instructions.

Do this as a class and as you finish reading the verse from Zechariah on the left, ask the questions below before letting the students find the answer on the right of the sheet.

Read Zechariah 12:10

How is Jesus described here? He'd be pierced and those who saw Him would mourn (be very sad).

Now which verse on the right fulfills this prophecy? **John 19:33-37**

Read Zechariah 9:9

How is Jesus described here? He would have salvation and be lowly.

What was His title (what was He called)? King

What did it say He would be riding? A donkey

Now which passage on the right fulfills this prophecy? **John 12:12-16**

Zechariah - Pictures of Christ's Kingdom and Prophecies of Christ

Match the Bible verse on the left with the correct Bible verse on the right that shows Jesus' kingdom and/or the prophecy concerning Him.

<b>Zechariah 12:10</b> "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look upon me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn."	<b>John 12:12-16</b> "The next day the large crowd that had come to the Feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. "So they took branches of palm trees and rosemary and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus thought a young child and sat on it as he walked. "Praise God, daughter of Zion, because you king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" "The disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him."
<b>Zechariah 9:9</b> Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! "Stand about O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you, righteous and having salvation in his hand, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."	<b>Revelation 19:11-15</b> "The seventh angel threw his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." <b>John 19:33-37</b> "But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. "But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. "He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—so that you also may believe. "For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "His side was pierced." "And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."
<b>Zechariah 14:9</b> "And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one."	<b>Matthew 26:14-15</b> "Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver."
<b>Zechariah 11:12-13</b> Then I said to them, "It is more good to give me my wages, but if not, keep them. And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver." Then the Lord said to me, "Throw this to the potter—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord in the palace."	





Ask them:

**What time did Ezekiel preach?** During the end of Judah and its captivity.

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

**What can we fill in under the two prophets we studied for major events?** See Teacher Answer Key

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

**6) Optional: Hangman Name the Prophets Game**

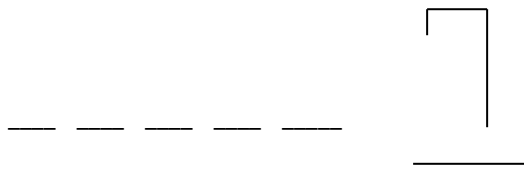
**10 minutes**

**\*Play hangman – students must decode the names of the major and minor prophets**

Before class get a large easel or chalkboard with marker or chalk to show kids while playing the game of hangman. If neither are available sit around a table and hold up a page with the gallows and slots for the words underneath so all children can see – use a marker to fill in each letter as they say them. Play hangman using names of the prophets – when kids discover the word – ask them to explain something about that prophet if able.

Game instructions: Ask students if they know the game, if not explain to them the following:

1. Start the game by choosing a word from the list below –don't let the children know what word you have chosen and don't let them see your list of words.
2. Place one dash on the bottom of a piece of paper for each letter of the word or words chosen. Leave a space between words. Example: Jacob – you would write \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ at the bottom of the page you are using to show the students.
3. Draw a "gallows" at the top of the paper - draw a horizontal line at the bottom, a vertical line coming up out of its center, and then a short line off to the right at the top (so that you now have an upside-down "L" on the horizontal line). Draw a short vertical line off the end of the top line - this is your "noose." Example:



4. Have the other player guess one letter at a time - or he or she can use a turn to guess the entire word or words. If they get the letter write – fill it in where it belongs – example: J would go at the first slot above for J \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_.
5. If they get the letter wrong – write the letter on the top of the page – so other students know it was already chosen and then fill in a part of the body on the hangman's noose. Begin by drawing a head attached to the short vertical line (the "noose"). Add body, right leg, left leg, right arm, then left arm.
6. Know that if the drawing of the person is completed before the word or words are guessed, the guessing player loses. If the player figures out the word or words first, he or she wins.
7. When a student guesses the word ask them to explain something that they know about the word.

**List of Words to Use \*If able you can ask students to also determine if the prophet (once they figure out the word) was a major or minor prophet.**

Elijah	Joel	Obadiah (we will study next week)
Elisha	Isaiah	Haggai
Jonah	Micah	Zechariah
Hosea	Nahum	Malachi (we will study next week)
Amos	Jeremiah	Daniel
Ezekiel	Zephaniah	Habbabkuk

### 7) Optional: Matching Game – The Time of the Prophets

10 minutes

Hand out one set of cards to every two students, either let them pick who they want to pair up with or you decide. Have prophet timeline sheets available as well.

Have students shuffle and place cards face down and play a game. Each student gets a turn to flip over two cards, if the two cards match, the student keeps the cards, if they don't match, the student has to flip the cards back over. Then the other student gets a turn. Continue playing until all the cards have been matched.

\*Make sure you read the names allowed first as most names are difficult to pronounce. Also let them know that two of the prophets – Obadiah and Malachi, we will study next week.

Elijah	Elijah
Elisha	Elisha
Jonah	Jonah

### 8) Optional: Matching Prophets to Kingdom Game

10 minutes

Let the students keep their matching card game set out, then hand out one Matching Prophets Game sheet to each pair of students. Read the instructions aloud.

Tell them: **We are going to play a game. On your sheet there are two sides – one shows the prophets that preached to Israel, during the time of Israel. The other, the prophets during the time of Judah who preached to Judah. At the bottom are the prophets who preached in Babylon. Using your matching card set, place the prophet under the correct heading. We will do this as a class. So I will call out a prophet and then each of you will take the prophet card that I have mentioned and on your own, will place the prophet where you think he preached – to Israel, Judah, or Babylon. In our match set there are two prophets – Obadiah and Malachi. We haven't studied them yet so when you come across those cards, don't worry, we aren't using them for this game.**

**Once you place your card on the sheet, don't move it. Once all students have picked where they want their card, I will then ask you to raise your hand if you placed the prophet under Israel or Judah. I will then give the correct answer. If you got it right, you can keep the prophet card in a pile of "correct" cards. If you got it wrong you will put the card face down on the table. At the end, the student with the most correct cards wins!**

Answers are below. Ensure you call out prophets in random order. If desired you can play the game again to ensure that most of the students will then get the right answer the second time.

<b>Israel:</b>	<b>Judah:</b>	<b>Babylon:</b>
Elijah	Joel	Haggai
Elisha	Isaiah	Zechariah
Jonah	Micah	
Hosea	Nahum	
Amos	Jeremiah	
	Zephaniah	
	Habakkuk	

**Prophets**  
Using your matching card set, place the prophet under the correct heading.

Prophets Preaching in Israel  
(Northern Divided Kingdom)

Prophets Preaching in Judah  
(Southern Divided Kingdom)

Elijah	Elijah
Elisha	Elisha
Jonah	Jonah

## 9) Optional: Learning from the Time of the Prophets

5 minutes

Say: **What did we learn today?** Let students answer.

**Haggai:** (The priority of God's house) After returning from Babylonian captivity, the Jews began rebuilding the temple of God. But soon, they set aside that task to work on their own homes. Haggai reminded them to put God first.

**Zechariah:** Zechariah also urged the Jews to work on rebuilding the temple and how the temple would point to the coming Messiah (Jesus). Zechariah prophesied that the Messianic King would provide salvation, be lowly, rejected, pierced and betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. But Jesus would be victorious and reign in His kingdom as King over all the earth and does today. He is the Shepherd that came to rescue His sheep. He allowed Himself to suffer for our sins to be forgiven.

**What does these two prophets show us for our lives today?** We need to do the work God calls us to do. When we put God first and serve Him, He will bless us – not always with money, toys and a “happy” life, but with God's comfort, protection, salvation, mercy, peace, guidance and eternity in heaven.

Optional questions to ask:

**What did you like best about today's Bible lesson?**

**What questions do you have about today's lesson?**

## 10) Learning the Prophets Through Song

5-10 minutes

Sing the Old Testament books to the tune of the Alphabet song. “Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers” (A,B,C,D,E,F,G)... you will have to repeat the alphabet tune twice to get through all the books.

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.**

## 11) 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, <sup>2</sup> 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.*



**12) Optional – Snack: Fruit to Build “Temple”****5 minutes**

Ensure you check for allergies first. Hand out a few pieces to each student and say, **God calls us to do good works and to serve Him because He loves us and we can show our love for Him. Let’s use our snack to “build” a temple for the Lord. We don’t need to build temples for God today, as we read earlier in Corinthians, the church is the temple of God. But we build the spiritual temple by encouraging each other, reaching out to others, preaching, sharing the good news of Jesus and doing things that build God’s temple – the church! Let’s think about different ways we build God’s spiritual temple as we build and eat our snack.**

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. What did they like best about today’s Bible reading? What questions do they have about today’s lesson? How was God’s power shown?

**13) 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 has given us Your complete words and will through the Bible. Who obeyed You and died for our sins. Forgive us when we sin and help us to learn Your words by looking 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.**