

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.

Lesson 12: Haggai and Zechariah reminded the people who returned from captivity to build the temple of God and put Him first. In doing so they would be blessed. Zechariah had many prophecies that pointed to Jesus.

2) Obadiah - Destruction of Edom Foretold

15 minutes

Optional: Have visual aids ready to show students if available
Show students map of Edom

Say: Today we will learn about the two last prophets we will be studying before moving on to the New Testament - Obadiah and Malachi. Both, like Haggai and Zechariah, spoke after the end of the Babylonian captivity when the Jews were allowed to return to Judah and rebuild their lives. First we will talk about Obadiah.

Let's all turn to Obadiah now, use the front of your Bibles to find the page, or sing the song in your head of the Books of the Old Testament. Provide Bibles and help as needed.

*Below is the history of the Edomites. Bible verses are provided but it is not necessary to go to them unless a student has a specific question. Just provide the general background before getting into the actual book of Obadiah.

Say: To give a little background and history, Obadiah is the shortest book of the Old Testament, it doesn't even have chapters, just 21 verses. Obadiah was given a vision against Edom. Edom was another name for Esau, Israel's (Jacob) twin brother who sold his birthright for a bowl of lentil stew. The Edomites were Esau's descendants. There were always problems and fighting between the two nations – Edom and Israel. This hostility reached its climax when Edom aided Israel's enemies, the Babylonians, by standing in the escape routes, catching the Israelites who tried to escape, and delivering these Israelites to their enemies (Obadiah 14).

The Edomites would not allow Moses and the children of Israel to pass through their land when they were wandering in the desert (Numbers 20:14-21). David subdued the Edomites as he established his kingdom (2 Samuel 8:13-14). But, Edom successfully revolted against Joram, king of Judah, and became independent again years later (2 Kings 8:20-22). After an independence of about 50 years, Amaziah of Judah reconquered them, and this conquest was extended even further by Uzziah (2 Kings 14:7, 22; 2 Chronicles 25:5-15). About 735 B.C., Syria took Edom from Ahaz, king of Judah (2 Kings 16:5-6).

Later in history the Edomites were eventually overcome by the Nabataeans, who drove them from their land. By 200BC they were conquered by the Jewish people and by 100AD they had become lost to history.

*Using map point out the path the Jewish people took through Edom on their way to Babylonian captivity – point out the fact that they would have to go through Edom and that allowed the Edomites to cause problems for the Jews who were trying to escape since the Edomites would block the escape routes. Also point out the area of the Nabataeans who eventually pushed Edom from their land scattering them which was finally finished when they were re-conquered by the Jews in 200 BC, 200 years before Christ came.



Read **Obadiah 1-4, 10-14**

What does God say is going to happen to Edom? Edom will be completely overthrown

Why? Because of their pride (vs 3), violence towards brother Israel (vs10) and for standing by while Judah was captured; they even turned them over to the enemy (vs 14)

Read verse 11 again, can people stand by when evil things happen and still be guilty even though they did not actively participate? Yes. God says, "You were like one of them". When you participate in evil – even by letting it happen or watching, when you could do good – the consequence is you are guilty along with those doing it.

Read **Obadiah 15**

What is this verse saying? All nations will face judgement, how we treat others including enemies or brothers matters.

So we see from reading Obadiah that there are consequences for pride – pride will not save us but will only hurt us and others. We also see the violence of silence – it is a sin, according to God to watch people do evil and do nothing when you could have helped in some way.

From the map we saw that Edom bordered Judah. In the beginning of Obadiah it mentions that the Edomites felt protected by their high cliffs and caves which offered great protection from invaders and enemies. They had a canyon that was only 12-20 feet wide (about the approximate width of a classroom) and was about 200-250 feet high and was the only entrance to the city so anyone trying to get to them could easily be stopped and easily seen. But even with all this protection, God said He would destroy them. Only God could overcome them, and He did!

3) Malachi – False/Fake Worship is Unacceptable

15-20 minutes

The next prophet we will look at is Malachi. By the time of Malachi, hundreds of years had passed since the Jews had returned to the Jerusalem. They were now lazy and not caring about how to please God. Turn their now, it is the last book in the Old Testament. Malachi is the last prophet to speak from the Old Testament. It was about 400 years later that Jesus came to earth as all the Old Testament prophets had predicted.

Malachi shows us that we need to honor God and wait for His righteousness. Malachi was the last Old Testament prophet, he faced a nation that had grown indifferent to God. Malachi tried to encourage the people to turn back to God and to give God the proper respect and worship He deserves.

Read **Malachi 1:6-14 – God does not accept our leftovers**

What is God asking them? If sons and servants know how to give proper honor – why aren't you?

How did God know they were not honoring Him? Not giving the best to God in sacrifices but giving sick, bad, stolen, or weak sacrifices that not even another person or their government would accept.

What did God say about their sacrifices? They were unacceptable, it is useless, He finds no pleasure in them, nor will He accept them.

What were the people complaining about in verse 13? That sacrificing to God is tiresome, weariness, a burden – too hard.

What does God do for us? Give us food, clothes, homes, family, love, salvation, forgiveness, creation to enjoy, health, education, etc.

Do you think God gets weary or tired of providing all of this for us? No because He loves us.

So when the people were complaining of having to give back a little of what God had so richly blessed them with, how do you think that made God feel? Unloved, unappreciated, upset, angry, sad, etc.

Was God asking too much of them? No. He was just asking that they show their reverence, respect and honor to God as they should because of all He does for them and for us today as well.

Read **Malachi 2:17 – God does not accept those who say all is well when it isn't**

How did the people weary God? By saying all is well and those that do evil are acceptable and good in the sight of God.

According to this, is God pleased and happy with those who do evil? Absolutely not!

The main job of the priests was to teach Israel the law of God. Here God is saying they failed miserably and instead of fearing the Lord, speaking the truth, and having the true knowledge of God they were despising His name, being disrespectful and offering unacceptable sacrifices.

Read **Malachi 3:7-10**

Why was God upset with the Jews? They weren't bringing all the tithes as a gift to God. (Tithes were an amount God asked the Jews to give to support the Levites whose sole job was to be the spiritual caretakers of the Jewish nation and therefore did not earn their own money.)

What was the consequence of them not giving as they should? God did not bless them and in fact cursed them.

What did God say would happen if they gave appropriately again? He would abundantly bless them. They would have so much there would not be enough room for all of what God blessed them with.

Read **Malachi 3:13-17, 4:1**

What bad thing was the Jews saying against God? It is useless to serve Him.

What did the righteous among them do? Those who feared God talked to each other and spoke to the Lord and He listened.

What beautiful thing does God call the righteous? They are His and they are a special treasure/jewels.

What did God say would happen to those who thought it was useless to serve Him and to the proud? They would be destroyed.

Read **Malachi 3:1, 4:5-6** – a prophecy of Malachi concerning the coming of Jesus and His kingdom

Verse 1 speaks of God sending a messenger to prepare the way, He mentions the prophet Elijah. God is not saying that Elijah (who was the first prophet we studied) would literally come to prepare the way, but one like Elijah. We see in the New Testament that that person was John the Baptizer.

Read **Luke 1:17** below and explain that this verse is referring to when the angel of God came to Zechariah (John's dad) to explain that John would prepare the way for Jesus:

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

The angel says he will go in the power of Elijah and he even quotes Malachi 4:5-6 which we just read earlier.

Jesus Himself also says of John the Baptizer in Matthew 11:10-15

This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

We also see more about Jesus. Read Malachi 3:1 again.

Who is John to prepare the way for? Jesus - The Lord, the Messenger of the new covenant.

What do these two prophets show for our lives today? We need to turn and remain faithful to God. He will protect those who do, but will punish those who aren't willing to repent and change. God is the God of all the world. He controls nations, kings, powers and authorities. He can and will put a stop to evil when the time is right and we can trust in Him to do so. God does not accept just any worship – He knows your heart and knows if you are sincere and honoring God properly. Those that don't worship God and give Him the love and respect He deserves are unacceptable to God. Finally, those who watch evil occur when they have the power to stop it are considered just as evil as the others.

We can learn from Obadiah and Malachi:

- 1. God will punish the wicked**
- 2. God warns and calls for us to turn from our sins and obey Him.**
- 3. God gives lots of warning and opportunities for those who seek Him.**
- 4. God will not accept false/fake worship from anyone.**
- 5. Malachi is the final book warning the Jews to turn back to God and get rid of their wicked ways. If they did not Malachi ends with saying that God would strike them with a curse.**
- 6. God promises them that they would know when Jesus would come as God would send someone to prepare the way – the person was John the Baptizer.**

4) Prophets Timeline

5 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student. You will gather them up again for later use. Read through the top part of the sheet showing the prophets of the Divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah.

Divided Kingdoms		Prophets	
Prophets in Israel	Fall of Israel	Fall of Judah	Exiled by Soveraans
Amos	725-713 BC		
Hosea	725-702 BC		
Isaiah	740-700 BC		
Jeremiah	627-586 BC		
Ezekiel	604-593 BC		
Zechariah	520 BC		
Haggai	520 BC		
Ezra	458 BC		
Nehemiah	445 BC		
Malachi	450-425 BC		
		Isaiah	
		Jeremiah	
		Ezekiel	
		Zechariah	
		Haggai	
		Ezra	
		Nehemiah	
		Malachi	

Ask them:

What time did Zechariah and Haggai prophecy? During the end of Judah and its captivity.

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

What did we learn last time about Zechariah?

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

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

5) 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 so they can see when the prophet they match spoke.

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.

Elijah	Elijah
Elisha	Elisha
Jonah	Jonah

6) Matching Prophets 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.**

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, Babylon, 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!

Prophets Preaching in Israel (Northern Divided Kingdom)

Prophets Preaching in Judah (Southern Divided Kingdom)

Elijah	Elijah
Elisha	Elisha
Jonah	Jonah

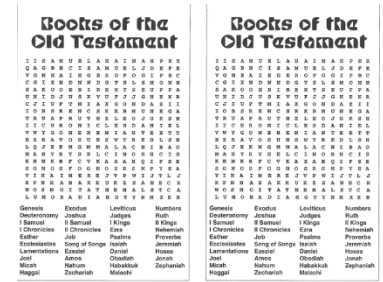
Answers are below. Ensure you call out prophets in random order. If desired you can play the game again to ensure that most of the students will then get the right answer the second time.

Israel:	Judah:	Babylon:
Elijah	Joel	Zephaniah
Elisha	Isaiah	Habakkuk
Jonah	Micah	Obadiah
Hosea	Nahum	Malachi
Amos	Jeremiah	

7) Optional: Books of the Old Testament Word Search

15-20 minutes

Hand out one sheet per student with pencil. Read the words aloud as a class. Help as needed.



8) Optional: Hangman Name the Prophets Game

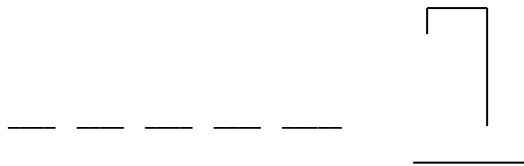
10 minutes

***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
Elisha	Isaiah	Haggai
Jonah	Micah	Zechariah
Hosea	Nahum	Malachi
Amos	Jeremiah	Daniel
Ezekiel	Zephaniah	Habbabkuk

9) 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.

10) 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.

11) Optional - Snack: Your choice

5 minutes

Ensure you check for allergies first. Hand out a few pieces to each student and say, **We learned about 18 different prophets of the Old Testament. That's a pretty big accomplishment. As we eat our snack, each one of you take turns and share what was the most interesting thing you learned about the prophets? Or a specific prophet or prophecy?**

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?

12) 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.