

This week we need to turn to Deuteronomy 18. We will see why we have prophets and we will also see how Moses and Jesus Christ are similar.

Can someone tell me what a prophet is? Let students answer. Idea is a prophet is someone who tells people what God says and they have to be correct and only speak what God allows.

Do you know why we have prophets in the Bible? Let students try and guess

Have students turn to **Deuteronomy 18:15-17** and ask; **Can I get someone to read Deuteronomy 18:15-17?** After reading have them turn to **Deuteronomy 5:22-27** and have them read that aloud, say, **“The Israelites were waiting for God to give them the 10 commandments through Moses on Mount Sinai (also called Mount Horeb), when they heard God’s voice, what did they say? They would die by being consumed by the fire if they heard God’s voice directly anymore, so they asked Moses to go instead.**

What does Deuteronomy 18:15-17 say about why there was going to be prophets from then on? Because the Israelites did not want to hear God’s voice directly. Say, **“The Israelites chose to use prophets rather than listen to God’s voice directly. And God honored that, that is why we have prophets in the Bible – because that was what was asked for!”**

Let’s turn back to Deuteronomy 18:15-22 and take turns reading that aloud.

Thank those who volunteered to read and then ask:

According to these verses, what were the qualifications of a prophet? Someone who would speak what God commanded and share it with the people.

How did God say we would know if they were telling the truth or not? Because what they said would happen – would actually happen!

Who did God say He was going to send after Moses? A Prophet like Moses from among the Israelites. And He would speak God’s words.

Who do you think that Prophet is? Jesus!

The Lord promised to raise up a prophet like Moses from among the Israelites. God demanded that the people listen to this Prophet, or He would call them to account. According to the New Testament this prophet was Jesus (See Acts 3:22 and 26).

So why do we have prophets in the Bible? Because the Israelites asked for them instead of listening to God directly for they feared for their lives if they heard God’s voice directly.

Any Questions? Answer those you can, tell students you will find the answer to any question you do not know at this time. And, make sure you get back to them next week.

3) How Moses and Jesus are Similar Chart

10-15 minutes

Hand out one Similarity sheet to each student along with pencils.

Read the directions aloud and help students complete the verses. You have the master copy below. The first question asks **Why do we have prophets?** Ask students to answer, if they have trouble have students turn to **Deuteronomy 18:15-17** and read aloud again.

So what do we write down beside the question, “Why God allowed prophets the Israelites asked for prophets rather than hear from God directly because they

	Moses	Jesus
How God called them	Deuteronomy 18:15 The Lord said to Moses, "I am going to raise up for the Israelites a prophet like you. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. Anyone who does not listen to his words will be cut off from his people, just as I have cut off Aaron and his sons because they did not listen to My voice. I will raise up a prophet like you from among their people."	Matthew 3:13 When Jesus had finished, he went up to Nazareth and taught in the synagogue. When they saw him teaching, they were amazed, saying, "How does this man know what he is saying? He is teaching with authority, and not like the teachers of the law!"
Qualifications	Deuteronomy 18:18 The Lord said to Moses, "I will raise up for the Israelites a prophet like you from among their people. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. Anyone who does not listen to his words will be cut off from his people, just as I have cut off Aaron and his sons because they did not listen to My voice. I will raise up a prophet like you from among their people."	Matthew 5:19 Whoever relaxes these laws that I have commanded you to observe, that one will be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever practices and observes these laws, that one will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.
How they died	Deuteronomy 34:5 The Lord said to Moses, "This is the day I have taken away from the world. I have called you, and you have obeyed My voice. You have been obedient to My commandments, and you have kept My laws. Now I will send you back to your country, and you will be buried in the land of the Ammonites. When you have been buried, you will die, and you will be buried in the land of the Ammonites."	John 8:58 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
Why God allowed prophets	Deuteronomy 18:17 The Lord said to Moses, "I will raise up for the Israelites a prophet like you from among their people. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. Anyone who does not listen to his words will be cut off from his people, just as I have cut off Aaron and his sons because they did not listen to My voice. I will raise up a prophet like you from among their people."	John 6:14 The people were saying, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world."
How they were received	Deuteronomy 18:16 The Lord said to Moses, "I will raise up for the Israelites a prophet like you from among their people. I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. Anyone who does not listen to his words will be cut off from his people, just as I have cut off Aaron and his sons because they did not listen to My voice. I will raise up a prophet like you from among their people."	John 8:12 Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

As a class, ask each student to read one of the similarities from the chart on their page in the first column, example: Both saved in infancy from cruel kings. Then read Moses' section, then Jesus'. Go down the entire list. Ensure students get their Bibles so they can fill in the blanks of any verse that is missing a word – answers are below.

After each similarity ask, **“How were Moses and Jesus similar here?”**

SIMILARITIES	MOSES	JESUS
Both saved in infancy from cruel kings	Exodus 1:22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”	Matthew 2:13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”
Peacemakers	Exodus 2:13 The next day he went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. He asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?”	Matthew 5:9 Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
Sent by God	Exodus 3:10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”	John 5:30 Jesus said, “for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.”
Worked Miracles	Exodus 4:4-5 Then the LORD said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. ⁵ “This,” said the LORD, “is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”	Matthew 11:20 Then Jesus began to denounce the towns in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent.
Proclaimed deliverance	Exodus 3:17 (God said through Moses) And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’	Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me , because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor....
Prophet	Deuteronomy 34:10 Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,	Matthew 21:11 The crowds answered, “This is Jesus , the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”
Lawgiver	John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.	John 14:15 Jesus said: If you love me, keep my commands .
Rejected by many	Acts 7:25 ²⁵ Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.	John 12:37 Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.
Placed his people before himself	Exodus 32:32 But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.	Matthew 20:28 Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve , and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Ask students:

Are there any similarities that we too as Christians have with Moses and Jesus? We too should be peacemakers, we are sent by God to proclaim the Word to others, we share the law of God with others, we might face persecution or be rejected by many as we try and share the Word, we should treat others better or higher than ourselves.....

There are a lot of similarities with Moses and Jesus, and we should try to share those similarities where we can aswell!

When done, gather up the pencils, see if students have any questions and then move on to the next activity.

4) Optional: Color Page

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student with crayons. Discuss questions while they color including who was a prophet? What were the requirements? How can you tell if a prophet was telling the truth? Why were their prophets?



5) Optional: Name that Answer Clue Game

10 minutes

Form two teams – make sure younger and older students are placed together so that the younger ones can receive help from the older students.

Tell the teams that you are going to name a topic. You will then ask Team 1 how many clues they think they need to guess the answer. For example say, “The topic is the book of Genesis. How many clues do you need to guess the answer?” A representative from Team 1 will talk to his or her group and tell you how many clues they need from 1-6. Team 2 then gets a chance to try and answer in fewer clues by making a lower bid. Ask them if they think they can.

Have the teams bid until one of the teams decides it can’t go any lower. That teams will get to try and name the answer!

Read aloud the number of clues underneath the answer without saying what the answer is (See list below) that the lowest team bid. If the team can guess the answer, it scores a point. (Have a sheet of paper to write down each team and how many points they collect). If the answer isn’t right, the other team has a chance to answer and may ask for one more clue.

In the next round, start the bidding with Team 2. Continue until you’ve gone through all your answers. The team that scores the highest wins!

Topic: Old Testament

Answers:

Moses

Clues

1. Followed God
2. Knew the Law
3. Spoke the Law
4. Led the people
5. Did Miracles
6. Great Prophet

Prophet

Clues

1. Representative of God
2. Raised up by God
3. Spoke God’s Words
4. Prophesized
5. Man of God
6. Spoke in God’s name

Jesus

Clues

1. Prophesied about
2. Came from Israelites
3. Spoke God’s Words
4. Did miracles
5. Son
6. God

Laws

1. Given by God
2. Repeated in Deuteronomy
3. Some were on stone
4. Starts with "L"
5. Rules to live by
6. Contained blessings

Words

1. Come from God
2. Spoken by Prophets
3. Were to be heard
4. Were to be followed
5. Important to listen to
6. Spoken by Jesus

6) Jesus and Prophets Word Search

15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencils. Read the instructions aloud and read the words aloud that they are to find for those who have trouble reading. Help students as needed find the words and while they are searching, ask them;

Why is each word important as it relates to our lesson?

What does the word (pick a word) have to do with what was learned today?

7) Optional – Snack: Strawberries or Mouth Shaped Snack

5 minutes

*Ensure no one has strawberry allergies before handing out snack.

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that: **Today we learned that what the prophets spoke came from God – they spoke in God’s name. We also learned that Jesus was sent by God and that Jesus Words are true, holy and important for us to have salvation. Let’s remember this as we eat our snack in the shape of a mouth – what we say too is important – let our words be true, holy and pleasing to God!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

8) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples are found in the song section.

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.

Dear God, help us as we study Your perfect Word in the Old Testament to understand it, use it and see the examples of faithful people that followed You. Help us to remember that Your commands are important and need to be followed to live a life that is pleasing to You. Help us all too always love You with our whole heart, mind, strength and soul! Help us this week as we go from our church family – we pray that you will be with us and our families, help us share the good news of Your love to every one we meet and help us to remember to pray and study the Bible every day. We pray that you will bless us for following You. And we pray that you will help us be like Moses – caring, faithful, and obedient to You. Help us to remember that Jesus is the one we follow now and that He was sent to provide us salvation and that all His Words came from You as You prophesied over 3500 years ago through Moses!

Thank you God for Your love, thank you for Your Son Jesus, thank you for caring for us and providing such a beautiful world for us to live in, and thank you for giving us Your Word – the Bible so we can learn what pleases You. In Jesus precious name, Amen.