

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.



2) Amos – The Prophet of Justice and Righteousness

10-15 minutes

Optional: Have visual aids ready to show students

Optional: Have a blank sheet of large paper or an easel with marker and while asking questions below you can play hangman with your class. (See instructions below)

Say: **Does anyone remember who is a prophet?** A person who spoke the words of God.

What was the qualifications of a true prophet? Their prophecy would have to come true and be in line and agree with what God already commanded. (For example: if a prophet said to follow after other “gods” they were not to be listened to and in fact were to be killed.)

What if you gave someone lots of gifts, so many gifts they should be able to have everything they needed, but even have so much more that they could share with others. Would you be happy you were able to help them? Let students answer.

What if instead of thanking you for the gifts and sharing them, they kept them all for themselves and even tried to hurt others so that they could get more from the people they should have actually shared with? Let students answer.

This was what God was dealing with. He blessed Israel with so many gifts and blessings that they should have been happy, kind, and willing to share with each other. Instead, they were mean, rude to God, didn't care, and took from the poor and needy rather than sharing with them.

Today we are going to study Amos and Hosea. Both prophesied to Israel around the same time. Amos lived in a time when Israel was not being right and fair. They were greedy and willing to hurt others instead of helping them. God saw this and promised them that because of their sin, they would be punished. Let's turn to the book of Amos (it is after Daniel, Hosea, and Joel and before Obadiah near the last part of the Old Testament).

Read **Amos 1:1-2** *Show visual aid if available

What did Amos do for a living before becoming a prophet? He was a shepherd.



Later in Amos, Amos also says he took care of sycamore trees – for a sycamore fruit to ripen, you had to pinch each fruit individually. Show picture.

God told Amos to predict the destruction and punishment of different cities that surrounded Israel. These people were enemies of the Jews who had done evil things. God then tells Amos to tell the Israelites and those in Judah that they were going to be punished as well for their sins.

Read Amos 2:4-6

God said those in Judah were going to be punished because of what? They hated God's word and did not keep His commandments and they followed lies instead. (vs 4)

Why was Israel to be punished? Because instead of helping the poor and honoring the righteous people (those who do right by God), they were selling them as slaves.

Read also Amos 5:10-12

What else was Israel doing that upset God so much? They weren't listening to those who told them to do right and instead hated them. And, even though they had everything they needed including fancy homes and food, they were mistreating the poor and expecting them to pay more than they could afford and not giving them justice when they needed it.

What does God say in verse 15 that they and we should do? Hate evil, seek and love good and be fair and just to everyone.

God said he would punish the Israelites for not being responsible in caring for others as they should. They were to help the poor and uphold justice, instead they hurt the poor and lied and cheated. God did not tolerate that then, and He does not tolerate that now. We too have been called to help the poor and those who are weak and defenseless. We are blessed with so much and if we don't help others and share what God has blessed us with, will He be happy with you? No!

What can we learn from this?

Amos preached to Israel during a time of prosperity. He told the people that God would judge them for not helping the poor. We too have a responsibility to help those in need. We can't keep all of God's blessings for ourselves.

Optional Hangman

We're going to play hangman. I am going to draw a gallow (see right for image). I am going to ask you questions. 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 all the questions before I do, you win!



3) Optional: Money Bank for the Poor Craft

15-20 minutes

*Have materials ready before class. Show visuals below to students to help them visual the craft.

To help us remember that we are responsible to help the poor and weak, we are going to make a bank to put money so we can save for those in need.

This bank makes a great project to save money for the poor.

- Hand out one template sheet cut in half to each student along with scissors and crayons to share.
- Color and cut out the pattern.
- Fold on dashed lines.
- Apply glue to tab A and glue to area marked with an * along the side of the box.
- Then put glue on the bottom tabs and overlap them to form a base of the box.
- Finally glue the top of the bank as shown placing a drop of glue on each circle.



Help students as needed, read the phrases aloud and while creating talk about the importance God placed on helping the poor when studying Amos the prophet. **Why is helping the poor important? What are some ways we can help the poor? What can we do with the money we collect in our money banks for the poor? How can we earn some money to put in the bank?** Do extra chores either at home or for someone in the church to earn some money, take some of our allowance, etc.

Get students to clean up before moving on to the next activity.

4) Hosea – God’s Intense Love for His People

10-15 minutes

The next prophet we will learn from today is Hosea. God’s people lived in two nations: Israel and Judah. The people of Israel stopped loving God. God told Hosea the prophet to marry a woman who would not love Hosea as an illustration of how the Israelites were treating God. Hosea married Gomer, and she had three children. Hosea loved Gomer, but she did not love Hosea. Gomer even ran away! But Hosea brought Gomer back home. Hosea’s love for Gomer showed Israel how much God loved His people. God would never stop loving His people, and He would help them when they called to Him. God said, “Return to Me. I will heal you and love you.”

Read **Hosea 1:2** (*You may have to explain the words “harlotry” and “adultery” – simply meaning someone who was unfaithful to their spouse and who instead of being with one person, would go from person to person.)

God asked Hosea to do something very difficult – marry a woman who would not love him back. Hosea obeyed and married Gomer. Gomer had three children, each child’s name represented a warning to the Israelites. God had promised the people that *if* they would obey God *then* they would be His people. But they *did not* obey and so were unfaithful to God. God used Hosea’s life to show God’s people what they were like in how they treated God. Hosea’s wife would love other men besides Hosea, just like the Israelites were loving idols and false gods rather than their loving, true, faithful God.

Read **Hosea 3:1-5**

Gomer kept turning away from Hosea, God’s people turned away again and again too. God told Hosea, even though Gomer has left you for other men – go after her! So Hosea found Gomer and paid to get her back and brought her back home. Even though Gomer would be unfaithful – Hosea loved her and cared for her. Just like God loves and cares for His people. All people. Israel was just like Gomer and did not love God as they should, but God did not give up. God hated their sin, but loved the people. He was compassionate. Just like Hosea paid a high price to get Gomer back, so God paid a high price for us as well – The cross. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins to bring us back to Him. God loves us so much. And, just like Gomer did not deserve Hosea’s love,

6) Optional: Magnet Activity – Repelling or Attracting Others

5-10 minutes

Have magnets and paper clips ready. Demonstrate how magnets repel (push away) or attract (stick together). Have the children build paper clip chains and test the magnets with them.

Say: **These magnets remind me of God. We push God away when we sin, but God never gives up on us. God loves people who do not love Him back. God comes after us. Everything God does—whether He punishes us or blesses us—is meant to pull us to Him. God sent Jesus so we could be with God forever.**

Have students make a heart out of their magnets and/or paperclips.

Say: **Hearts remind us of love. Gomer did not love Hosea with all her heart, and God’s people did not love God with all their hearts. That hurts God! The way Hosea loved Gomer when she did not love Him back showed God’s people how God loved them. God loves people even when they do not love Him back. We do things that make God sad and hurt His heart, but God loves us anyway. He loves us so much, He sent His Son to take the punishment of sin away from us and onto Him when we recognize, believe, confess, repent and are baptized because of our belief and faith that Jesus can and does save us and will bestow the gift of God – the Holy Spirit to help guide us even further, as we obey.**

True or False

1. **God thinks of us as His family.** T
2. **God will tolerate all behavior.** F
3. **We must always put God first.** T
4. **We always know what's best for us.** F
5. **Some people worship idols today.** T

7) 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.

Prophets
Prophets who spoke during times of the divided kingdoms and what era
*Times and order are based on scriptural accounts and notes

Divided Kingdoms		Fall of Israel		Fall of Judah		Ruled by Governors	
Prophets in Israel		Prophets in Judah		Prophets in Judah		Ruled by Governors	
Isaac Israel		Isaac Israel		Isaac Israel		Isaac Israel	
Prophet	Time/Book	Chronological	Isaac Israel	Isaac Israel	Isaac Israel	Isaac Israel	Isaac Israel
Isaiah	(King Manasse)	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah
Jeremiah	(King Zedekiah)	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah
Ezekiel	(King Zedekiah)	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel
Haggai	(King Darius)	Haggai	Haggai	Haggai	Haggai	Haggai	Haggai
Zephaniah	(King Josiah)	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	Zephaniah
Malachi	(King Darius)	Malachi	Malachi	Malachi	Malachi	Malachi	Malachi
Isaiah	(King Manasse)	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah
Jeremiah	(King Zedekiah)	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah
Ezekiel	(King Zedekiah)	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel
Haggai	(King Darius)	Haggai	Haggai	Haggai	Haggai	Haggai	Haggai
Zephaniah	(King Josiah)	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	Zephaniah
Malachi	(King Darius)	Malachi	Malachi	Malachi	Malachi	Malachi	Malachi

Ask them:

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

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

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

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

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

God loves us very much, but expects us to use the blessings He gives us to help those in need. God expects us to know and study His Word so we get to understand God and His love for us. Aren’t we blessed to have such a loving, wonderful, powerful, and capable God?

Who is the next two prophets on our list? Joel and Micah.

Help students fill in or draw correct events they remember of today’s account.

Put sheets away and keep for next week.

***Encourage students to read Joel and Micah during the week on their own to be prepared for next time.

8) Learning from the Time of the Prophets

5 minutes

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

What do we learn about God's love?

What do we learn about what God expects of us?

How do you think God feels when we don't talk to him?

How can we always do what's best for us? By doing what the Bible says.

Does God leave us or do we leave God? We leave God, He is always there.

Why is it important to be faithful to God? We have made a commitment, because He is trustworthy.

Is Hosea in the New or Old Testament? Old (minor prophets)

Why did Hosea preach to the people? To convince them to repent

Was Hosea's wife faithful to him? No

How do we get to know God? Study, pray, act like He wants us to

Why did God want Hosea to feel how He felt? So he could tell the people of Israel.

How can we remain faithful? Remember God daily, study, practice His will, avoid things that drag us away from him

Optional questions to ask:

What did you like best about today's Bible reading?

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

I encourage you to read the books of Joel and Micah at home this week which will prepare you for the next prophets we will learn about.

9) Learning the Prophets Through Song

5-10 minutes

This quarter we are going to study many prophets. We are going to look specifically at prophets who spoke from the time of the divided kingdom in 1 Kings all the way to Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament.

We are going to memorize the books of the prophets. Remember there are what are called the "Major" and "Minor" prophets. The only difference between these two categories is that the Major prophets had longer books, not that they were any more important than the prophets who wrote smaller books.

Go to the front of your Bible and find the Table of Contents. You will see a long list of books of the Bible in the Old Testament. Remember that the order in the Bible is not necessarily the order in which the prophets lived and worked. But to make it easy for us, we will learn the books in the order listed in the Bible.

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.

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.

Point out to students that Lamentations is a book of sadness that Jeremiah wrote concerning the fall of Jerusalem. All the other names after the book Song of Solomon, are a name of one of the prophets we will be looking at this quarter.

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: Heart Shaped Fruit or Cheese

5 minutes

Ensure you check for allergies first. Hand out a few pieces to each student and say, **What does this snack remind of us?** God’s love for us.

Let’s all remember that God loves us so much He sent His Son to pay for our sins. We can’t just say thank you and do nothing more, we need to be respectful and helpful to others and share the blessings God has given to us with those in need. We need to be like Jesus and obey God and love Him fully.

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.