

Lesson 6: The Prophets Joel & Micah

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn of Joel and Micah, two prophets sent to preach to Judah to call them to repentance.
- 2) Learn that God uses natural calamities to encourage ungodly people to repent and turn to Him.
- 3) Understand that God is merciful and expects us to be merciful to others as well.

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
- Good News Bad News Game – one for teacher to share with class
- Good News Bad News Images – one for teacher to share with class, cut out beforehand
- Locust Game Board – one per 4 students printed out before class
- Locust Game Board Pieces – 12 on a page – cut out before class or allow students to – one per child
- Tape or Glue Stick – to share for locust game pieces
- Scissors – enough to share to cut out game board pieces
- Locust Board Game Questions – cut out before class – one set per game.

Optional:

- Storybook or visuals of this story to show students
- Micah Plaque – 2 on a page – one per student cut out before class
- Fill in the Blank Joel Activity Sheet – one per student
- Fill in the Blank Joel Answer Key – one per teacher
- Match the Verse Activity – one per student
- Match the Verse Answer Key – one per teacher
- Locusts Color Page/Visual Aid – one per student if coloring or one to share

Snack:

- Crackers (example of crops that were devastated)

And/Or Green Grapes (to represent locusts)

some for each student

- 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. Thank them for coming. 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.



2) Joel

15 minutes

Optional: Have visual aids ready to show students

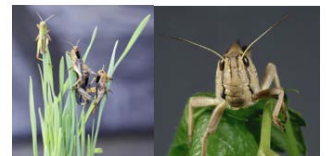
***Have board game ready along with game pieces and questions cut out before class.

Say: **What if someone ran into the room waving their arms and yelling fire – what should you do?** Let students answer: Get up quickly and calmly and head out the door to safety.

What are you supposed to do when you see a yield sign or a stop sign when driving? Only proceed when safe to do so for a yield sign and stop completely and only proceed when safe for a stop sign.

These are examples of warnings. We are to take warnings seriously. If we don't, people can die – if you ignore the fire alarm or a person's warning about fire, you might suffocate in the smoke. If you don't stop when you should there might be a big car accident.

Today we will look at the warning God sent to Judah – Locusts!



God told Joel to explain to Judah (in the Southern Kingdom) that the locusts that had devastated their land was a warning of worse things to come if they did not repent and turn back to the Lord. Locusts are a kind of grasshopper that when they group together can completely destroy all food, fruit, and crops in an area leaving total devastation.

Joel looked back on these events and announced that these were not mere natural disasters—the Lord was judging the people for their sin.

In Deuteronomy 28:15, 38 and 42, God told His people,

“If you do not obey the Lord your God by carefully following all His commands and statutes I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overtake you: ... You will sow much seed in the field but harvest little, because locusts will devour it. 42 Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land.”

God had warned them in Deuteronomy and that is exactly what happened because they did not follow His commands.

*Show visual aid.

Read Joel 1:1-4, 14-20

Joel’s warning was for the purpose of calling the people to repentance. Repentance means to stop the evil you are doing and instead do the right thing. This book is an appeal from God. The locusts, drought and fire are a warning.

Joel 1:4 – what is mentioned? Locusts

Joel 1:16 – what is mentioned? Drought

Joel 1:19-20 – what is mentioned? Fire

We also see that God does not withdraw His goodness toward His people, even in the midst of judgement.

In this first section of the book, the locusts, fire, and drought are a warning that unless the people repent, a greater judgment will follow. It is called the day of the Lord. In this sense, whenever you see the phrase “day of the Lord” it refers to judgment from God upon a nation.

In the second section of the book, the day of Jehovah is to be a day of terror only to His enemies; it is to be a day of deliverance for His own people. If His people will repent and serve Him, they shall be delivered; but, if they choose to act as enemies towards God, then the day of the Lord must be a day of judgment and destruction to them also.

Read Joel 2:1-2, 6-11, and 25 – The terror of the locust invasion described

How do we know that Joel is talking about locusts when describing this day of the Lord? They will run on the walls, climb into houses, in verses 11 and 25 the army of God is said to be locusts.

Would that terrify you to have millions and millions of locusts covering all of your trees, sidewalks, walls, beds, floors, fields, and roads? They would be everywhere destroying all your food? Let students answer.

We see that Joel explains the day of the Lord in gruesome terms, again this is used by other prophets and does not literally mean that the moon will turn to blood but was a symbolic description of how terrible it will be for those who do not repent and turn to the Lord before the judgement of the nation comes upon them for their sin. In this case the day of the Lord is the locusts and if they did not repent – an even more devastating consequence would come.

Read Joel 2:12-13 – Salvation is from God

God uses natural calamities to encourage ungodly people to repent and turn to Him. God asked the people in Joel to “rend your heart, not your garment” meaning to tear. God is saying don’t just tear your clothes and act like you repent, instead change your evil heart and stop doing the evil things you were – tear out the bad and replace it with good.

The good news is when we do turn to God, it will avert the judgment of God.

How does that work for us today – what has God set in place through Jesus so that when we recognize our sins we can turn to God and receive forgiveness and avert the judgment of God?

Thanks to Jesus dying on the cross for our sins, when we hear this message, believe that Jesus can save us, repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord of our life, and are immersed in water by faith that Jesus will indeed save us – we not only avert judgment, but we receive the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, forgiveness of our sins, and become part of the family of God. (Examples of some New Testament verses that confirm this if needed to show students: Acts 2:38-41, Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:16)

When we speak today of receiving the Holy Spirit, the idea was first explained in the book of Joel which we will read about shortly.

Read Joel 2:17-19 – Implied Repentance Leads to Physical Blessings Restored

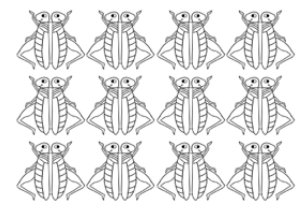
Repentance is implied between verses 17-18, for God took pity on the people.

What will the Lord do for them? Restore their food, their honor, and their satisfaction with God’s blessings.

3) Locust Board Game Pieces Craft

5-7 minutes

Hand out one locust to each student, have them color it a different color than other students, cut it and fold it to use as a game piece. Provide scissors, crayons and if needed tape or glue to keep the folded locust together. Once their game piece is made. Have them put their things away and move onto learn more about Joel and Micah before playing the board game.



Read Joel 2:28-32 – Spiritual Blessings are also Promised for All Who Call on God

The Holy Spirit was prophesied by Joel. The Holy Spirit was to be poured out on ALL flesh. And was on the day of Pentecost, the first day of the church as foretold by Jesus in Acts 1:1-5 and explained by Peter when it happened in Acts 2:1-2, 16-17, 32-33. Listen while I read the verses from Acts. See below for verses to share with students:

Acts 1:1-5

*The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall **be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**”*

What does Jesus say is going to happen not many days from now? Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

*Note if students ask: the baptism of the Holy Spirit was not just for apostles but for all see Luke 3:16-17 and Matthew 3:17 to show that John the Baptizer was speaking to all the people when discussing the Holy Spirit baptism.

Acts 2:1-2, 16-17, 32-33

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

*But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit **on all flesh;***

*Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.*

*This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of **the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.***

What did Peter say the sound from heaven that filled the house was? That God (Jesus) poured out the Holy Spirit as the Holy Spirit baptism.

Who can receive the Holy Spirit? All flesh – all people who come to God.

What did Jesus pour out on the Day of Pentecost? The Holy Spirit.

Optional Questions:

What things we can learn from the book of Joel?

Disasters serve to turn men to God and prepare their hearts to hear Him.

Judgment upon a wicked nation is inevitable.

We need to repent of our sins. This means not just stop doing wrong, but doing right instead.

God wants all to be saved and gave His Holy Spirit.

What traits of God do you see in the book of Joel? Just, merciful, loving, giving, willing to warn, etc.

What are the chief duties of man as shown in the book of Joel? Repent of sins, turn to God, be satisfied with God's blessings, be prepared for any day of the Lord.

What was the cause of the locusts? To warn the people of an even worse judgment if they did not repent.

4) Good News/Bad News Game

5-10 minutes

*Before class cut out each image so students can determine what side each image should be placed on. Have the Good News/Bad News chart.

Say: **We heard a lot of good and bad news today from Joel. I am going to show you a picture and then ask one of you to take the picture and place it in the right column – is it talking about good news or bad news?**



Go around the class letting each student pick an image and determine where it goes. Ask them what the picture represents. If students have trouble, go to the verse and read it aloud again so they can determine what the picture is talking about.

***Save the images of Micah for when you are done discussing him and then let them choose where each image goes at that time.

Answer: Good News – Joel 2:26, 2:28, Micah 5:2, 6:8

Bad News – Joel 1:4, 1:10-12, 1:19, Micah 6:11-14

5) Micah – God is Merciful and Expects Others to be Merciful Also

10-15 minutes

Have students turn to the book of Micah.

Remind them that the Book of Joel is in the Minor Prophets, in the Old Testament. It follows the books of Daniel and Hosea. If kids need help, guide them to use the table of contents at the front of their Bibles.

Micah was a prophet who had the courage to stand up for the poor. He stood up against judges, priests, false prophets and rulers who were corrupt. Micah warns the people of the exile to come because of their sin, but also shares the promise of a return from exile afterwards.

Micah 1:1-5, 16, 2:1-2 – Going into Captivity for Planning Evil

Why was Judah to be punished? For their sin and for worshipping false gods. For practicing evil by being violent and taking what didn't belong to them.

What was the consequence of their sin in verse 16? Captivity

Micah 6:11-14 – Evil Deeds, The Sins of the People

What else were the people of Judah doing that was wrong? Being dishonest to make money, violence, lying, etc.

What was the consequence? Becoming desolate – having nothing, not being satisfied – hungry, sick.

Micah 5:2 – Prediction of Where the Messiah (Jesus Christ) Would Be Born

Where was the Messiah (the One to be Ruler) to be born? Bethlehem.

This prediction came true in Matthew 2:1; “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea...”

Micah 6:8, 7:18-19 – God’s Desire

What did God actually want the people to do? To do justly – meaning to be fair and right – do the right thing no matter what. To love mercy/loving kindness – to be kind and caring to others, forgiving their sins and giving them the things they need. To walk humbly with God – to have a relationship with God knowing that God is in control and provides all things. We can't be arrogant, boastful and proud of our own accomplishments, but need to give the credit to God for the good things we have in our lives.

Micah 7:7 – Trust in the Lord!

What did Micah say he was going to do? Wait for the Lord, look to Him for help and know that God hears him and will help.

*Finish the good news/bad news images before moving on.

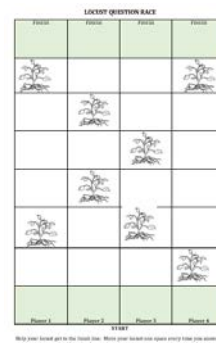
6) Locusts Question Game

15-20 minutes

*Have board game(s) ready, along with cards cut out before class – one set per four students. Have students place their game piece they made earlier on one of the “start” squares.

Each game can have 4 players, divide the class accordingly.

Tell the students that: **We are going to play a game. Your goal is to get your locust to the last square that says ‘finish’.** Every time you answer a question correctly you can move your locust one square. If you land on a plant you miss a turn – because locusts like to stop and eat plants! When it is your turn, have someone who is able to read well, take a card from the pile and read it out loud. If you get the question right can move forward one square. When you are done answering the question, put the card face down in another pile and continue taking turns until one person gets to the finish line.



GAME QUESTIONS FOR MICAH AND JOEL ANSWERS.

1. Were the people in Judah obeying God? (no)
2. What did God send to eat all the plants? (locusts)
3. What was the good news Joel gave the people? (Allow any of the following: If the people repented, God would make the plants grow. God would save the people. God would bring them back together.)
4. What is God's good news for you? (Jesus loves me, and will take away my sins when I obey Him!)
5. What did Joel call the judgment of the Lord? The day of the Lord.
6. What did the day of the Lord mean in Joel? That God would punish the nation for their sins.
7. In Joel, did the people repent and turn from their sin? Yes
8. What other natural disaster happened to the people besides locusts? Fire and/or drought.
9. What did Jesus pour out on the Day of Pentecost? The Holy Spirit
10. Who is the Holy Spirit for? All flesh (all people).
11. Who did Joel preach to? The people of Judah.
12. Why did the locusts happen? To warn people and turn them back to God.
13. What do we learn about God from the book of Joel? Accept any reasonable answer – He is loving, merciful, just, wants people to repent, is caring enough to warn us when we are heading into sin, etc.
14. What can you learn from the book of Joel? Accept any reasonable answer – we need to pay attention to our sins, we need to listen and turn to God, we need to obey God, etc.
15. Does God want to save all people? Yes.
16. What does God promise to give to those who believe and obey? His very own Holy Spirit.
17. In the book of Micah, where was Jesus to be born? Bethlehem.
18. What did Micah warn the people? That they were going to captivity because of their sins.
19. Name the two prophets we studied today? Micah and Joel
20. Where did Micah preach? In Judah.
21. What is a prophet? A person who speaks the words of God and what they say comes true.
22. What is a false prophet? A person who says they speak the words of God but they lie and what they say does not come true.
23. God says in Micah we need to do justly, what does that mean? To be fair and/or do what is right.
24. God says in Micah we need to love mercy, what does that mean? We need to be kind hearted, giving, and forgiving one another. (any portion of this answer or something similar will do).
25. God says in Micah we need to walk humbly with God, what does that mean? Not be proud, but know that it is because of God that we are blessed and saved. To follow God. (any portion of this answer or something similar will do).
26. What does God require us to do in Micah 6:8 – to love _____? Mercy.
27. What else does God require us to do in Micah 6:8 – to do _____? Justly.
28. Finally, what else does God require – to walk _____ before our God? Humbly.

7) Optional: Micah Plaque Craft

10-15 minutes

*Before class print plaques and cut the page in half so that each student gets one plaque.

To help us remember what God wants from us, we are going to color and decorate this plaque. Can I get someone to read the words?

Hand out crayons, decorations, etc and let students color and decorate their picture. Talk about what it means to be just, merciful and humble. Ask them for examples of each. Ask them how they can be just, merciful and humble this week.



While students are coloring and decorating. Say: **God wants us to have a heart for Him, to love Him more than anything else. He wants us to tear away anything that does not honor Him. God loves us and wants us to return to Him. What are some things you and others might be tempted to love**

more than God? (video games, sports, friends, and so on). Help them, based on what was learned from Joel and Micah, to see that it is better to trust in God and love Him fully for a satisfying, peaceful, blessed life.

What can we do to ensure we always put God first and are content? Be just, kind, merciful and humble.

8) Optional: Fill in the Blank Joel Activity Sheet

10 minutes

Hand out crayons and pencils to each student. Read directions aloud and help students as needed. Check answers to questions asked and discuss as a group if able.

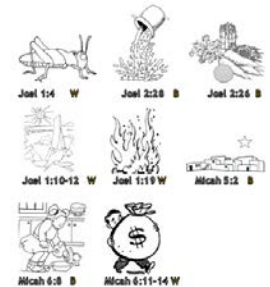
See answer key for answers. Allow students to decorate and color their warning sign if time.



9) Optional: Match the Verses Activity – Joel and Micah

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet per student along with crayons. Make sure each student has a Bible. Have answer key available as well. Read the directions aloud and help students match the verse with the picture. Then, have them write a “w” or “b” besides each picture depending on whether the picture shows a warning or a blessing.



10) 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 studied so far and in which phase of history.

Prophets

Prophets who spoke during times of the divided kingdom and when one
*Times and order are based on biblical accounts and verses

Divided Kingdom	Fall of Israel	Fall of Judah	Ruled by Governors
Prophets in Israel			
Prophets in Judah			
Timeline			
Prophet	Chronological	Bible Books in List Order	
Isaiah	Isaiah	Isaiah	
Jeremiah	Jeremiah	Jeremiah	
Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	
Haggai	Haggai	Haggai	
Zephaniah	Zephaniah	Zephaniah	
Malachi	Malachi	Malachi	
Amos	Amos	Amos	
Hosea	Hosea	Hosea	
Joel	Joel	Joel	
Micah	Micah	Micah	
Obadiah	Obadiah	Obadiah	
Jonah	Jonah	Jonah	
Nahum	Nahum	Nahum	
Habakkuk	Habakkuk	Habakkuk	
Ezekiel	Ezekiel	Ezekiel	
Haggai	Haggai	Haggai	
Zachariah	Zachariah	Zachariah	
Malachi	Malachi	Malachi	

Ask them:

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

What did we learn about Hosea? See Teacher Answer Key

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

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

God is loving and compassionate. He is merciful and forgiving and cares deeply for everyone. Including each and every one of you! We need to be loving and compassionate to others too. Even our enemies and even when it is hard to do. We all sin, so we all need God’s mercy and guidance. God is willing to forgive us, so we need to be willing to forgive others. Amos and Hosea prophesied to the people of Israel and Micah and Joel warned Judah – God made sure everyone heard His message.

Who is the next prophet on our list? Isaiah.

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

Put sheets away and keep for next week.

11) Optional: Learning from the Time of the Prophets**5 minutes**

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

What do you think the story of Joel teaches us about God's power? God is in total control of the natural elements. He has the power, authority and ability to judge people for their sins.

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 some of the book of Isaiah at home this week which will prepare you for next time. There is a lot of chapters as it is a big book, but read a few to give you an understanding of what we will be discussing.

12) 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.

13) 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.

14) Optional – Snack: Crackers of Green Grapes**5 minutes**

Ensure you check for allergies first. Hand out a few pieces to each student and say, **What insect did we learn of today? Locusts. What do locusts eat? Plants, fields, crops, grains, etc. This snack is to remind us of the locusts eating all the grains and plants in Judah. Why did God send the locusts? To warn Judah to repent. How can we avoid having disasters in our life today? Obey God! That doesn't mean nothing bad will happen in our lives, but at least we won't have God punishing us for our sins when we can instead have a loving, blessed relationship with Him!**

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?

15) 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 Word and will through the Bible. 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. Thank you for providing second chances. Give us wisdom Lord so we can serve others and You, even now at our young age. 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.