

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

The Major Prophets brought important messages to God's people.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the next 5 books: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 9:1-7, Isaiah Predicts the Coming Messiah

MEMORY VERSE:

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." - 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

The Major Prophets were men who delivered God's messages to his people. Three of them warned the people to turn back to God. The fourth one spoke while the children of God were in exile and reminded them that God was still in control.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to listen to your prophets and follow you closely.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

MEMORY VERSE

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room into girls and boys. Have the girls and boys read the verse aloud together, alternating every other word, so girls say the first word, boys say the second word, girls third, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

Books of the Bible

SKIT

KIND OF A BIG DEAL

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Mike and Elaine - Bible fans

Mike and Elaine enter.

MIKE: Hey guys, I'm Mike.

ELAINE: And I'm Elaine.

MIKE: And we are Bible fanatics!

ELAINE: I tell you, guys, we have come a long way learning the books of the Bible.

MIKE: You bet we have. We've learned the first five, the twelve books of history, the five books of poetry. How many does that make?

ELAINE: By my count, we've learned 22 books so far! One third of the Bible!

MIKE: That's incredible. Do you think we can recite them all?

ELAINE: Let's give it a try! Ready guys?

Go through the books, Genesis to Song of Solomon, with the hand motions with the kids.

ELAINE: Great work, guys!

MIKE: Today we're going to add five more books, the books of the Major Prophets!

SKIT

ELAINE: The Prophets were men who delivered messages from God to his people. Some were good. Some were bad. And some even told the people about how God would fulfill his promise to save the world from sin!

MIKE: Isaiah was the first of these prophets. He delivered messages to God's people in the time of the bad kings, warning them to turn back to God. To remember Isaiah, let's draw a lower case I with our fingers. Don't forget to dot the I!

ELAINE: Jeremiah was another prophet who spoke to God's people, urging them to turn back to God! Some people call him the weeping prophet because he was so sad that no one would listen and obey God. Let's put our hand beside our left eye like we're crying to remember Jeremiah.

MIKE: Let's cry with both eyes to remember the next book, Lamentations. This book was also written by Jeremiah, so we can cry with both eyes and remember its author, the weeping prophet.

ELAINE: Next we come to Ezekiel. Ezekiel delivered messages from God after the people had been captured and taken into exile by the Babylonians. Let's write a Z with our finger in the air to help us remember—

MIKE: Zorro??

ELAINE: No, Ezekiel!

MIKE: Oh yeah. And that brings us to the fourth Major Prophet, Daniel. Daniel was a young man who was taken to live in the palace of the king of Babylon. He got to know their king personally, and he and his friends had some daring adventures.

ELAINE: His friends were tossed in a fiery furnace and lived. And Daniel spent the night in a den of lions.

MIKE: God saved Daniel by shutting the lions' mouths. So cover your mouth to remember Daniel.

ELAINE: Okay guys, one more time through the Major Prophets. Draw a lower case "I" for Isaiah. Cry with one eye for Jeremiah. Cry with both eyes for Lamentations. Draw a Z for Ezekiel.

MIKE: Not Zorro!

ELAINE: And cover the mouth of lions for Daniel.

SKIT

MIKE: Way to go, guys! That's twenty-seven books!

ELAINE: We'll see you next week, guys!

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

HAND MOTION LESSON

During the middle 10 lessons of this series, there will not be a traditional object lesson. Instead, use this time to teach and reinforce the hand motions that go with each book.

The Major Prophets were great heroes of the Bible, even though the people who knew them didn't always think of them as heroes. They delivered messages from God to his people before and after they were punished by being captured by the Babylonians. They have important messages not only for Israel, but for us today. They even tell about the coming of Jesus.

Isaiah is the first of these prophets. He prophesied before the Babylonian exile, and he even wrote a passage about Jesus' birth. Let's draw a lower case "i" with the dot to remember Isaiah.

Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet because he was so sad the people had rejected God. Let's cry with one eye for Jeremiah.

Now let's cry with both eyes because the next book, Lamentations, was also written by Jeremiah. He wrote the book to mourn the loss of Jerusalem and the Promised Land God had given his people.

Ezekiel is the next prophet in this section. He prophesied during the Babylonian captivity, and he reminded the people that God was still in control. Let's draw a Z in the air for Ezekiel!

Now we come to Daniel, the prophet who once spent the night in a den of hungry lions without getting a scratch. Since God shut the lions' mouths, let's cover our mouths to remember Daniel.

Have you got them all? Let's review these one more time!

Repeat the five books and their hand motions with the kids 2-3 times then review all the books from Genesis to Daniel to wrap up the lesson.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

LARGE GROUP GAME

SOUR FACE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Warheads, or other sour candy

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose four players for this game. Give each a piece of sour candy, and on your signal, have them all put the candy in their mouths. Any kid who can go a full minute without making a sour face or tearing up gets a prize.

VARIATION:

This can be a game of chicken, with two players trying to out last one another.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

The Major Prophets delivered messages from God that were hard to take but important to hear.

Books of the Bible

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

The Major Prophets brought important messages to God's people.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will memorize the next 5 books: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 9:1-7, Isaiah Predicts the Coming Messiah

INTRO:

Did you guys know you already know one third of the Bible? It's true. You're 22 books into learning all 66 books of the Bible. Let's review what we've learned so far: the first five, the histories, and the books of poetry.

Review the books as a group from Genesis through Song of Solomon, with the hand motions.

The books of history took us to a time of kings, to the time after the kings when Israel was a prisoner in Babylon, to the time when the Israelites came home from Babylon. Today, we're going to go back in time a bit to the time of the Major Prophets. These were men who delivered messages from God that his people needed to hear. Some were good messages. But many of these messages were hard to swallow because they were about God's judgment.

God used these prophets to warn the people to turn back from their sinful ways. Many people had forgotten about God. They had followed their kings in worshipping false gods. God was ready to punish them for their sin, but he desperately wanted to give them one more chance. The four men we will meet today delivered messages before the exile and during the exile to Babylon. They spoke about God's judgment, but they also spoke about his love and forgiveness. Best of all they spoke about something very special: God's plan to save us from sin.

READ ISAIAH 9:1-7

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

Many people ask, “How can God be a good God if he allows bad things to happen to his people?” They also ask, “If God is so good, why doesn’t he just forgive his people for their sins?”

These people are missing one important fact: God doesn’t punish sin because he’s mean. He punishes sin because he has to. God is perfect, and he cannot be with people who sin. That’s why he would send the Messiah, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins.

God doesn’t want to abandon us, and he does not like to see us suffer the consequences for our sin. Sometimes we have to pay a price for our sins, but no matter what, God still loves us, and he will forgive us.

DRIVE IT HOME:

The first Major Prophet was Isaiah, the one we heard from today in our scripture. Isaiah tried to warn God’s people that they needed to stop sinning and turn back to God. He also wrote about Jesus, who can forgive our sins and help us to turn from sin. Isaiah’s words were not welcome to those who didn’t want to turn back to God, but they are a good warning to us today.

Jeremiah wrote Jeremiah and Lamentations. He shared God’s Word before and after God’s people were taken prisoner to Babylon. Jeremiah was very sad that no one would listen to him, and in Lamentations, he writes how sad he was that Jerusalem was now a defeated city. Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet, and if we read his book, we will see why he was so sad!

Next comes Ezekiel. Ezekiel wrote his book after the Israelites were conquered, and he lived in the kingdom of Babylon. Ezekiel had seven visions about the power of God. He reminded the people that even though they had sinned, God was in control. Ezekiel shares some amazing stories about God in his book.

Finally, we come to Daniel, a name many of you already know. His is the shortest of these books, but it’s full of big stories. He and his friends were taken prisoners to Babylon. He interpreted a dream for the king of Babylon. His friends were tossed in a fiery furnace, and Daniel was thrown into a lion’s den. Daniel was a bold and brave man, and his story teaches us that we need to obey and follow God, no matter what.

There are only four Major Prophets who wrote these five books, but their message is as important today as it was back then. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel warn us to follow God and obey him. Turn from sin, they say, and live a life that will honor your God.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to listen to your prophets and follow you closely.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

Who can remember the first twenty-two books with their hand motions?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

2 Timothy 3:16

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

Who was Isaiah?

What message did he give the people in this verse?

What other messages did the Major Prophets teach us?

ACTIVITY:

Review the hand motions with the kids for the Major Prophets.

Isaiah - Draw a lower case "l" in the air and dot the l

Jeremiah - Cry with one eye

Lamentations - Cry with both eyes

Ezekiel - Draw a "Z" in the air

Daniel - Cover your mouth like God closed the lions' mouths

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to obey you, no matter what, just like Daniel and the prophets.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Books of the Bible

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Q & A

Which prophet wrote the book of Lamentations?

JEREMIAH

Who had seven visions from God when His people were in Babylon?

EZEKIEL

Who was known as the weeping prophet?

JEREMIAH

Who wrote, "For unto us a child is born?"

ISAIAH

Who spent the night in a lion's den?

DANIEL

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: KIND OF A BIG DEAL



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

The Major Prophets were men who delivered God's messages to his people. Three of them warned the people to turn back to God. The fourth one spoke while the children of God were in exile and reminded them that God was still in control.

Isaiah 9:1-7, Isaiah Predicts the Coming Messiah



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask the kids to teach you the hand motions they learned to help them remember the Major Prophets of the Bible. See if they can remember all of the books from the beginning.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who were the Major Prophets?
- What books did they write?
- What message did these prophets have for God's people?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

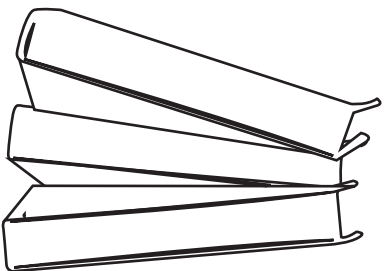
"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

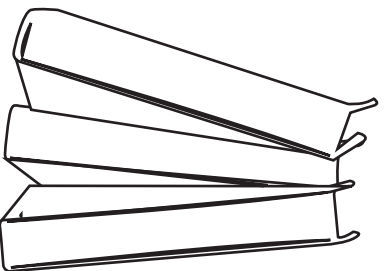
What you need to know:

The Major Prophets stood up for God in dark times when the people had turned away from God, but they also had some amazing stories to tell and some beautiful messages. Re-read this week's verses with your kids, Isaiah 9:1-7, and read the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den in Daniel 6.



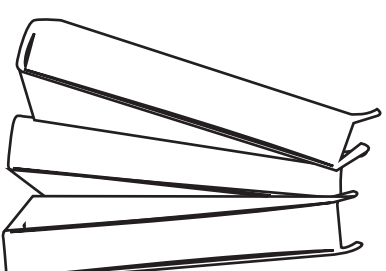
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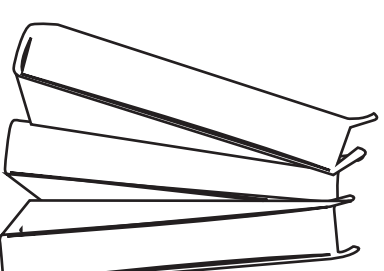
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BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Each week, the kids will cut out and make “book spines” for the books of the Bible they learn that week. The goal is by the end of the series, they will be able to put all of these crafts end to end on a wall or other display at home to show all the books of the Bible lined up, if they so choose.

Use construction paper to cut out the book ends. They can either do different colored strips for each book and paste them onto another piece of paper, or they can use one color and use a marker to draw lines to divide the books. Help them write the book names on each book “spine” in order.

This week's books are:

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel