

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to listen to God's Word.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will know who the prophets were and what they did.

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 53:4-12

INTRO:

Trivia is all about facts. Trivia is about things that have happened. It's about people, places, things, and events that are unchanging. If someone asks you, who sang the song, "*Let It Go*," the answer will always be Queen Elsa/Idina Menzel. If someone asks who the first president of the United States was, the answer will always be George Washington. Facts are usually about the past. They are set in stone, unchanging. Always the same.

Trivia is almost never about the future because no one really knows what the future is going to be like. Scientists and science fiction writers love to speculate about the future, but no one really knows. A hundred years ago, when people thought about the 21st century, they envisioned flying cars and a colony on the moon. I think we can all agree they were way off on both counts!

Today, however, we're going to learn some trivia about a group of men who did see the future. These were special messengers of God, men known as prophets. A prophet is a man or woman who receives messages from the Lord, just like Deborah in the book of Judges.

Many times the prophets were sent to warn the people of danger. When the children of Israel rebelled against God, the prophets would urge them to repent and come back to God. If they did not, God would send judgment on them. When the people were wise, they listened. Many times they ignored and even killed the prophets. And that's when the prophecies about judgment and punishment would come true.

The prophets also spoke about one more thing to come: the Messiah. God had promised to send a Savior to save his people. Listen to the words of one of the Major Prophets, Isaiah, and see if you can tell who he's talking about.

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READ ISAIAH 53:4-12

MAIN POINT:

Isaiah was one of many prophets who wrote about Jesus. Malachi predicted that a messenger, John the Baptist, would come before him. Micah wrote that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. Hosea predicted that Jesus would come out of Egypt, as he did when his family had to flee there to escape King Herod. Jeremiah wrote that Herod would try to kill the baby boys in Bethlehem. Zechariah wrote that he would ride into town on a donkey, and that he would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.

The prophets show us that the Word of God is true. Their words about Israel's punishment and restoration came true in the Old Testament, and their words about Jesus came true in the New Testament. They show us we can trust the Bible. They show us that we need to listen because their God is the one true God!

DRIVE IT HOME:

The books of prophecy are divided into two parts: the Major and Minor Prophets. There are five books in the Major Prophets written by four men. These books are longer than the writings of the Minor Prophets.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel all spoke to the children of Israel before they were conquered by Babylon. They warned the people that God would punish their sins, and they told them they were headed into exile. They also told the people that God would forgive them and bring them home, just as he did.

Daniel lived during the time of that exile. He became an advisor to the kings of Babylon and Persia. Daniel had some amazing adventures on his own, and he also wrote about the coming of Jesus.

There are twelve books in the Minor Prophets. These books are shorter than the Major Prophets, but they all carried messages from the Lord. Some spoke about the exile to Babylon. Some spoke about Jesus. Some even carried messages to other people outside Israel. The most famous of these was Jonah, who tried to run away from God and spent three days in the belly of a great fish.

The sixteen men who wrote these books were messengers from God. The words they wrote were, as we learned in week one, "God breathed." When we read how God's prophecies came true, we are reminded that God is all-powerful and in control. We also see how much he loves us, and how great his forgiveness can be.

The wise men listened to the words of prophecy. That's how they found Jesus. When we listen to the Word of God, we will draw closer to him as well.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us your Word.

In Jesus' name,

Amen