

Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	A Better Way Read the directions on page 99	Balloon, straw Pitcher of water, cup, pipette Small paintbrush, paper Tongs, Paper
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Lorene. She will get you when she is ready.	
Classroom:	The Minor Prophets: Talk about the four prophets having books in the Bible: Use Bibles and find them in the Bible. See page 99	
	Picture Messages: Play a game of pictionary or charades. See page 105	White board markers
	What's the message?	Worksheet



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “Have you ever fixed something that was broken? What was it?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What’s the Message?” activity page.

| **SAY** “You all did a great job unscrambling the prophets’ message! In today’s story, we’ll learn how God sent prophets to tell the people to repent so they could be restored to God.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: A BETTER WAY

Perform the demonstrations below and ask kids if they know a better way to do each task. Invite kids to share their ideas, or use the suggested answers below.

- Inflate a balloon using a straw. (use your mouth or a helium pump)
- Fill a cup with water by transferring water from a pitcher using a pipette. (pour the water into the cup directly from the pitcher)
- Use a very small paint brush to paint an entire piece of paper. (use a larger paint brush)
- Use tongs to fold paper into an airplane. (use your hands)

| **SAY** “Each of these tasks had a better way to do them. Today, we will see how the prophets of God called the people to a better way. The prophets told the people to repent and turn to God. Following God and worshiping Him is not only a better way to live; it is the best way.”

☐ OPTION 2: THE MINOR PROPHETS



Provide each kid with a Bible. Tell kids that you will call out a book from the Minor Prophets division of the Old Testament. Explain that when they hear the book, they should find the book in their Bible. Remind kids they can use the table of contents for help. Begin calling out one of the Minor Prophet books such as Nahum. Once every kid has found the book, call out the next book. Encourage kids to help their neighbor, if needed. Tell kids to close their Bible before they begin the next round.

| **SAY** “These 12 books are not less important, but because they are shorter, they are referred to as the Minor Prophets. Today, our story focuses on four of these prophets: Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. We’ll see how **GOD SENT PROPHETS TO TELL THE PEOPLE TO REPENT OF THEIR SINS.**”





LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: GAME OF CHANCE

Before the session, create a spinner using a paper plate, a paper clip, and a metal brad. Punch a hole in the center of the plate and loosely secure the paper clip using the metal brad. Divide the plate into six sections and label each section with a number 1–6. Tape four pieces of construction paper to the floor in a straight line.

Direct kids to form a single line behind the construction paper. Tell kids that before you spin the spinner, they will guess what number the spinner will land on. If the kid guesses correctly, he steps on the “board.” If he does not guess correctly, he moves to the back of the line. Once a kid makes it to a piece of construction paper, he will remain in place if he doesn’t guess correctly. Kids on the “board” may need to stand side-by-side. Play until the first kid makes it to the end of the papers or as time allows.

SAY “God’s message of Judah’s coming judgment was not a game of chance. It was going to happen as part of God’s plan for His people. We all deserve punishment for our sin, but we have the certain promise of salvation when we place our faith in Jesus.”

☐ OPTION 2: PICTURE MESSAGES



Play a game of pictionary by having kids draw pictures of dangerous situations. For example, kids may draw a fire, shark-infested waters, a cliff, a thunderstorm, etc. Form kids into two teams. Choose a kid from team one to draw first. Assign her a picture to draw and challenge her team to guess within 30 seconds. Award the team a point if they guess correctly. Repeat as time allows or until every kid has had a turn to draw. The team with the most points is the winner.



SAY “All of the pictures you drew involved dangerous situations. What would you do if you saw a friend heading toward a dangerous situation? **[Allow responses.]** Most likely, you would warn them and tell them to turn away from it. This is exactly why God sent prophets to His people. God loved His people and wanted them to turn away from the danger sin leads to. Unfortunately, God’s people didn’t always listen. However, when we hear God’s warnings about sin, we can turn away. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives us power to say no to sin and follow God.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

What's the Message?

INSTRUCTIONS: God sent prophets to Judah as His messengers. Use the code to reveal what the prophets told the people of Judah.

