

Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant

This quarter introduces the ministry of the Old Testament prophets. God employs people who live among Israel and Judah to be spokespeople for God. A formal representative of God, the prophet has a message meant to effect social change that conforms to God's desired standards as prescribed under the Law.

UNIT 1 • Faithful Prophets

"Faithful Prophets" has four lessons drawn from Deuteronomy, Joshua, 1 and 2 Kings, that explore the reasons prophets were necessary for Israel's history. Moses leads the people out of Egypt, thus fulfilling God's promise to bring the people back to Canaan. In Deuteronomy, Moses gives the people God's promise to give them prophets who will speak God's word to them. Stories about Joshua, Huldah, and Elijah illustrate the fulfillment of God's promise given through Moses.

Lesson 1: March 7, 2021

Moses: Prophet of Deliverance

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

Life often confronts us with situations that appear to offer only poor outcomes. How are we to respond when the seemingly impossible is asked of us? Following the command of God, the people of Israel left Egypt under the leadership of a faithful prophet, Moses, who became a model for prophets to come.

Lesson 2: March 14, 2021

Joshua: Prophet of Conquest

Joshua 5:13-6:5, 15-16, 20

Individually and corporately, people face choices. How do we discern what choices are best and organize our actions? Joshua and the people of Israel chose to honor a covenant with God, obeying God's instructions perfectly.

Lesson 3: March 21, 2021

Huldah: Prophet of Wisdom

2 Kings 22:14-20

No one knows all the implications of what they learn. Who can help us understand what the future holds? King Josiah's advisers consulted the prophetess Huldah who shared her God-given insights about the coming days of the nation and the king.

Lesson 4: March 28, 2021 (Palm Sunday)

Elijah: Prophet of Courage

1 Kings 18:5-18

People like to go their own way until faced with crises beyond their control. How shall we respond to the advice of those who have great wisdom and insight? In 1 Kings, God sent Elijah to warn of impending disaster.

UNIT 2 • Prophets of Restoration

This unit has four lessons that reveal the compassion of God during the times in Israel's history when the people continually forsook the ways of God. On Easter, Isaiah's prophetic writings and the Book of Luke are used to portray Jesus as the Suffering Servant and the one through whom believers receive salvation. Passages from the prophecies in Ezra, Nehemiah, and Lamentations show the faith of the prophets as they presented new hope to the Israelites.

Lesson 5: April 4, 2021 (Easter)
Salvation is Sealed

Luke 24:13-16, 22-35

When life reaches its darkest depth, people wonder if there is still hope for the future. Where can we find the promise of joy that will overcome our deepest sorrow? Luke 24 records the encounter of the Emmaus travelers with the resurrected Jesus.

Lesson 6: April 11, 2021

Ezra: Faith and Action Preacher

Ezra 10:1-12

Sometimes people can lose their sense of direction in life and turn away from the values they once held. How can we recapture the values we once cherished? Ezra led the returned exiles in prayer and repentance, and afterward, he read the book of the Law to which the people listened and then joyously worshiped the Lord.

Lesson 7: April 18, 2021

Nehemiah: The Captive Cupbearer Rebuilds a Nation

Nehemiah 2:11-20

People are often contemplative before they make major decisions. How does one or should one react after careful consideration of a major decision? Nehemiah set out to rebuild the wall after praying and surveying the ruins.

Lesson 8: April 25, 2021

A Plea for Restoration

Lamentations 5

People seek restoration when their possessions are taken and relationships are broken. How does one cope with the loss of that which is very important? The writer of Lamentations trusted that God would re-establish a relationship with Israel.

UNIT 3 • Courageous Prophets of Change

This unit has five lessons. These lessons show the boldness of God's prophets in 1 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Jonah. Israel and Judah were released from captivity and charged to rebuild Jerusalem. God sent prophets to call the people to restore their covenant relationship with God. When the people strayed away from their covenant with God, the prophets called them back.

Lesson 9: May 2, 2021

Micaiah: Speaking Truth to Power

1 Kings 22:15-23, 26-28

Telling the truth to those who are in power can be difficult. How does one give a difficult message to powerful people? Micaiah resolved that he would tell King Ahab only what the Lord said to him.

Lesson 10: May 9, 2021

Isaiah: Offering Hope for the Future

Isaiah 29:13-24

Relationships suffer when humans lapse into immorality. What is the result when we or others have been immoral? Isaiah prophesied that God would punish the people of Judah but still be merciful and restore the nation.

Lesson 11: May 16, 2021

Jeremiah: The Suffering Preacher of Doom

Jeremiah 38:14-23

No one wants to be the bearer of bad news or challenging advice. How can we find the courage to speak when what we have to say is likely to cause controversy or hard feelings? Jeremiah frankly discussed his concerns with King Zedekiah and then spoke with confidence that he was delivering a message from God.

Lesson 12: May 23, 2021

Ezekiel: Street Preacher to the Exiles

Ezekiel 18:1-9, 30-32

It is easy to blame our background or upbringing for the misfortunes we face. What is the role of personal responsibility? Ezekiel warns Israel that each person will answer for his or her behavior and that all must repent of their sinful ways and obey God's commands to find favor with God.

Lesson 13: May 30, 2021

Jonah: Do the Right Thing

Jonah 3

Change is often required in life if we are to live in peace with others. What can we do about life situations that threaten us? After hearing God's warning from Jonah, the people of Nineveh repented and God forgave their sin.