

## GOD'S MOUTHPIECE – PROPHETS (PART 1)

### Objective

The children find out that God reveals his will and announces what is to come through man.

### Contents

- Prophets' responsibilities.
- Prophets announce what is to come (Jonah 1–4).
- What God proclaims through man must be believed.



## Lesson Plan

### Lead-In

#### Workbook, Exercise 1

The children individually work on the exercise. They learn that the Old Testament contains 17 prophetic books written by 16 prophets.

### Implementation

#### Teacher's Presentation

The Old Testament names additional prophets, e.g., Moses, Samuel, Nathan, Elijah and Elisha.

The word “prophet” comes from the Greek, meaning “one who proclaims (i.e., speaks for) and interprets divine revelation (i.e., foretells)”. How prophets made clear in whose name they spoke, you can find out for yourself.

#### Workbook, Exercise 2

The children work on the exercise individually.

#### Discussion

Prophets often used the words, “Thus saith the Lord”, when they spoke to the people. They were spokespersons in God’s name.

#### Board

**Prophets were**

– spokespersons in God’s name

This responsibility of prophets can be made clear through the story of Jonah.

Have the children tell the story of the prophet Jonah. Ensure that the important points are elaborated on.

[Remark: Jonah’s flight and his being swallowed by the fish should only be mentioned briefly, since the children are adequately familiar with these events.]

- God commissioned Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh to preach judgment to the people because of their great wickedness.
- Jonah eventually went to Nineveh and told the people that their city would be overthrown in forty days.
- The inhabitants of the city, including the king, believed Jonah. They regretted their evil conduct, did penance and prayed to God. As a visible sign of their penance, they put on sackcloth and did not eat anything.

## Teacher's Presentation

- When God saw their repentance and that they had changed their ways, he spared the city and its inhabitants.

God had selected Jonah to be his spokesperson. He reproached the people of Nineveh about their evil activity and announced its consequences. However, when the people regretted their conduct and changed, they found grace before God and were spared.

The message Jonah brought required faith in the words of the prophet and a decision by the people. They had to recognize their improper conduct and orientate themselves to God's will.

As with the deliverance of Nineveh, the prophets' words were to move the people to improve their conduct.

Prophets were exhorting watchmen by pointing out sin and calling upon the people to change their ways.

## Board

## Prophets were

- spokespersons in God's name,
- exhorting watchmen

Prophets conveyed messages from God to the people. Often, this was how future events were predicted.

## Board

## Prophets were

- spokespersons in God's name,
- exhorting watchmen, and
- seers.

## Workbook

The children transfer what is written on the board into their workbook.

## Question Prompt

How far in the future was the event which Jonah foretold?

## Discussion

The city was to be overthrown in 40 days.

God's message to Nineveh was an announcement of an event which was in the near future. Prophets also announced events which would take place in the distant future, and even described particulars.

## Bible

Prophets also foretold the various stages of God's plan of salvation up to its completion, in general terms. They referred to the appearance of the Messiah, Jesus Christ's suffering, the return of the Lord Jesus, and events that will take place before or after the day of the Lord. In the process, they also now and then made statements, the meaning of which they themselves were unable to understand.

The prophet Daniel, for example, saw the following which are connected to Christ's return.

The children read the Bible passages aloud:

Daniel 7:13:

*"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him."*

Daniel 7:18:

*"But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever."*

Daniel 12:1-2:

*"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*

Jesus knew the words of the prophets. He himself referred to, and confirmed, them during his activity on earth.

One of the children reads the following Bible passage aloud:

## Bible

Luke 21:27:

*"And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."*

## Conclusion

Through God's word in our time, the promise of Jesus Christ's return continues to be kept alive.

Just as it was necessary to believe the message of the Old Testament prophets and make decisions at that time, it is also necessary for us today to do the same with God's word proclaimed by Jesus' Apostles.

## Notes

[illegible]

## THE CALLING – PROPHETS (PART 2)

### Objective

The children learn how God chose prophets and was active through them.

### Contents

- Jeremiah's calling (Jeremiah 1:4–10).
- The Lord helps Hezekiah through Jeremiah (2 Kings 18–20).
- Through the prophets, the Lord points to the future.

