

God's Special Spokesmen—The Prophets

Lesson Focus | To help prepare Israel for the coming Messiah, God sent many prophets to his people. The prophets' job was not so much to foretell the future as to give people a message from God about their present circumstances, a message to help them love God and others better. In Israel's history there are both major and minor prophets. Some of the most important prophets are Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, and John the Baptist, the last prophet of the Old Testament.

1 | begin

- Pray the Glory Be with your child.
- Tell your child about a time you had to correct a friend or loved one who was doing something wrong and harmful to his soul. How did that person react?
- Read Matthew 3:1–12 aloud.

2 | summarize

Summarize this week's lesson for your child:

Example: John the Baptist was the last and greatest prophet of Israel. He was also Jesus' cousin. Like all prophets, John was often unpopular because he called people to give up their sin and repent. Also, like all prophets, he helped prepare people for Jesus, the Messiah.

3 | review

Review this week's lesson by asking your child the following questions:

1. Define prophet. (*A person chosen by God to be his messenger to his people.*)
2. What do we call the messages God gave through his prophets? (*Prophecies.*)
3. What does Messiah mean? (*"Anointed One."*)
4. Who are the four major prophets? (*Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and Ezekiel.*)
5. Who are the twelve minor prophets? (*Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.*)
6. Who are Elijah and Elisha? (*Important early prophets who left no writings behind.*)

References

- Student Textbook: Chapter 6, pp. 41–44
- Sacred Scripture: 1 Kings 18; 2 Kings 1–2; 4; Is 52:13–53:12; Mt 3
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 64, 436, 523–24, 717–20



4 | apply

Help your child apply this week's lesson by asking the following questions:

1. Why do you think the prophets were so unpopular? Do you think it was easy or hard for them to be God's messengers? Why?
2. Why is it so hard to repent for what we've done wrong? Why don't we like it when people correct our wrong actions?
3. What do you think a prophet of God would have to say to our world today?

5 | conclude

- With your child, pray the Our Father.

6 | follow up

During the week, do at least one of the following activities with your child:

1. Memorize Acts 10:43.
2. Have your child call a grandparent or godparent to explain what the prophets told Israel.
3. As a family, pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet (see Appendix.)

To him all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

—Acts 10:43

notes
