

Kids Club

Elementary Leader Guide

Feb.
Week 1

Feb. 2, 2024

Leader Info

Each week kids will learn about a few books of the Bible along with some simple hand motions to help them remember what each book is about. The goal is that by the end of the 12 weeks, kids will be able to say all 66 books of the Bible from memory and have a general idea of what each book is about.

Memory Verse:

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." - 2 Timothy 3:16 (NirV)

Lesson 5: Kind of a BIG Deal

Scripture: Isaiah 9:1-7

Bottom Line: The Major Prophets brought important messages to God's people.

Synopsis: The Major Prophets were men who delivered God's messages to his people. Three of them warned the people to turn back to God. The fourth one spoke while the children of God were in exile and reminded them that God was still in control.

Objective: Kids will memorize the next 5 books: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

Schedule:

20 minutes- Set out 2-4 rotations of seated activities for kids to play. Sit with them, play with them. Ask questions about their past week, pets, family, and other things that are important to them. This is important relation-building time!

10 minutes- Lesson intro and discussion (page 1)

10-15 minutes- Activities (page 2)

15-20 minutes- Games // Free play

MEMORY VERSE

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"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." - 2 Timothy 3:16 (NirV)

Divide the room into girls and boys. Have the girls and boys read the verse aloud together, alternating every other word, so girls say the first word, boys say the second word, girls third, etc.

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

TEACHING TIME

BOTTOM LINE:

The Major Prophets brought important messages to God's people.

SAY:

"Did you guys know you already know one third of the Bible? It's true. You're 22 books into learning all 66 books of the Bible. Let's review what we've learned so far: the first five, the histories, and the books of poetry.

Review the books as a group from Genesis through Song of Solomon, with the hand motions.

The books of history took us to a time of kings, to the time after the kings when Israel was a prisoner in Babylon, to the time when the Israelites came home from Babylon. Today, we're going to go back in time a bit to the time of the Major Prophets. These were men who delivered messages from God that his people needed to hear. Some were good messages. But many of these messages were hard to swallow because they were about God's judgment.

God used these prophets to warn the people to turn back from their sinful ways. Many people had forgotten about God. They had followed their kings in worshipping false gods. God was ready to punish them for their sin, but he desperately wanted to give them one more chance. The four men we will meet today delivered messages before the exile and during the exile to Babylon. They spoke about God's judgment, but they also spoke about his love and forgiveness. Best of all they spoke about something very special: God's plan to save us from sin."

READ ISAIAH 9:1-7

Main Point:

"Many people ask, "How can God be a good God if he allows bad things to happen to his people?" They also ask, "If God is so good, why doesn't he just forgive his people for their sins?"

These people are missing one important fact: God doesn't punish sin because he's mean. He punishes sin because he has to. God is perfect, and he cannot be with people who sin. That's why he would send the Messiah, Jesus, to pay the price for our sins.



God doesn't want to abandon us, and he does not like to see us suffer the consequences for our sin. Sometimes we have to pay a price for our sins, but no matter what, God still loves us, and he will forgive us.

Drive it Home:

"The first Major Prophet was Isaiah, the one we heard from today in our scripture. Isaiah tried to warn God's people that they needed to stop sinning and turn back to God. He also wrote about Jesus, who can forgive our sins and help us to turn from sin. Isaiah's words were not welcome to those who didn't want to turn back to God, but they are a good warning to us today.

Jeremiah wrote Jeremiah and Lamentations. He shared God's Word before and after God's people were taken prisoner to Babylon. Jeremiah was very sad that no one would listen to him, and in Lamentations, he writes how sad he was that Jerusalem was now a defeated city.

Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet, and if we read his book, we will see why he was so sad! Next comes Ezekiel. Ezekiel wrote his book after the Israelites were conquered, and he lived in the kingdom of Babylon. Ezekiel had seven visions about the power of God. He reminded the people that even though they had sinned, God was in control. Ezekiel shares some amazing stories about God in his book.

Finally, we come to Daniel, a name many of you already know. His is the shortest of these books, but it's full of big stories. He and his friends were taken prisoners to Babylon. He interpreted a dream for the king of Babylon. His friends were tossed in a fiery furnace, and Daniel was thrown into a lion's den. Daniel was a bold and brave man, and his story teaches us that we need to obey and follow God, no matter what.

There are only four Major Prophets who wrote these five books, but their message is as important today as it was back then. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel warn us to follow God and obey him. Turn from sin, they say, and live a life that will honor your God.

HAND MOTIONS:

"The Major Prophets were great heroes of the Bible, even though the people who knew them didn't always think of them as heroes. They delivered messages from God to his people before and after they were punished by being captured by the Babylonians. They have important messages not only for Israel, but for us today. They even tell about the coming of Jesus.

Isaiah is the first of these prophets. He prophesied before the Babylonian exile, and he even wrote a passage about Jesus' birth. Let's draw a lower case "i" with the dot to remember Isaiah. Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet because he was so sad the people had rejected God. Let's cry with one eye for Jeremiah.

Now let's cry with both eyes because the next book, Lamentations, was also written by Jeremiah. He wrote the book to mourn the loss of Jerusalem and the Promised Land God had given his people.



Ezekiel is the next prophet in this section. He prophesied during the Babylonian captivity, and he reminded the people that God was still in control. Let's draw a Z in the air for Ezekiel!

Now we come to Daniel, the prophet who once spent the night in a den of hungry lions without getting a scratch. Since God shut the lions' mouths, let's cover our mouths to remember Daniel.

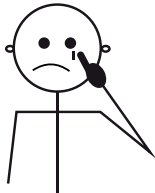
Have you got them all? Let's review these one more time!

Repeat the five books and their hand motions with the kids 2-3 times then review all the books from Genesis to Daniel to wrap up the lesson.



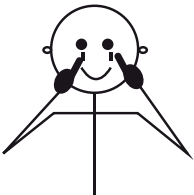
ISAIAH

Draw a lower case "I" in the air and dot the "I"



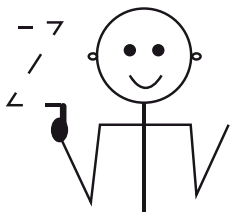
JEREMIAH

Cry with one eye



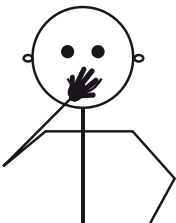
LAMENTATIONS

Cry with both eyes.



EZEKIEL

Draw a "Z" in the air



DANIEL

Cover your mouth like God closed the lions' mouths.

ACTIVITIES

ICEBREAKER/OBJECT LESSON:

Follow the Light

SUPPLIES: small flashlight or glowstick. 1/kid.

1. Setup:

- Dim the room lights and give one child a small flashlight or glow stick.
- Explain that the "light" represents God's promise of hope and Jesus, the Light of the World.

2. How to Play:

- The child with the flashlight walks around the room, shining the light in different places.
- The other kids follow the light wherever it goes.
- Every 30 seconds or so, pause the group and ask them a simple question related to Isaiah 9:1-7, such as:
 - "What does light help us do?"
 - "What does it mean for Jesus to be the Light of the World?"
 - "How does it feel when we have hope?"
- After answering, choose another child to carry the light and continue.

3. Wrap-Up:

- After everyone has had a turn or a set time has passed, gather the kids and briefly explain:
 - In Isaiah 9:2, we read, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." Jesus is the great light that brings us hope and joy!
- End with a short prayer or encouragement.

GAME: SOUR FACE

SUPPLIES: Warheads, or other sour candy

Choose four players for this game. Give each a piece of sour candy, and on your signal, have them all put the candy in their mouths. Any kid who can go a full minute without making a sour face or tearing up gets a prize.

This can be a game of chicken, with two players trying to out last one another.

"The Major Prophets delivered messages from God that were hard to take but important to hear."



REVIEW: KIND OF A BIG DEAL

SUPPLIES: Books of the Bible Key Chain Cards(1 set/kid), metal binder rings (1/kid)

PREP: Cut out the books of the bible sets so each kid has a set. Punch a hole in the top left corner of each card.

Each week, kids will add the books they are studying each week to their key chain. Make sure their names are on their keychain somewhere. They will leave it at church and take home at the end of the Books of the Bible Unit.

Add the history books from today: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel.

Recite the books and practice the motions as kids add to their keychain. Have volunteers read the clues on the back of each card.

PRAYER:

SUPPLIES: Responsive Prayer Activity (1/every 2-3kids)

Lead a responsive prayer time. Pass out the Responsive Prayer Activity page and have kids read their parts after you.

Responsive Prayer: The Promise of Hope

Leader: Jesus, You are the Light shining in the darkness.

Kids (together): We thank You for bringing us hope!

Leader: You are the Wonderful Counselor, guiding us with wisdom and truth.

Kids: We trust You to lead us every day!

Leader: You are the Mighty God, stronger than any fear or problem we face.

Kids: We praise You for Your power and love!

Leader: You are the Everlasting Father, always caring for us.

Kids: We are grateful You will never leave us!

Leader: You are the Prince of Peace, bringing calm to our hearts and our world.

Kids: We ask You to help us share Your peace with others!

Leader: Thank You, Jesus, for being the great light and the fulfillment of God's promise.

Kids: We celebrate You as our Savior and King!

Leader: Let's walk in Your light and share Your love with everyone we meet.

Kids: Amen!