



LESSON 14: THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

Objective (Learning Outcomes)

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- To understand the significance of the role of Prophets, Fathers and Doctors of the Church in leading the faithful, clarifying doubts of the Faithful and strengthening their Faith.
- Know the distinction between each of their contributions
- Understand the significance of the Pope's Encyclicals in deepening of Faith
- To learn to rely on these writings and teachings to grow deeper in Faith and lead good Christian life.
- To emulate the values of faithfulness, obedience and repentance as demonstrated by the prophets in their lives.

Starter

- The teacher will take a quick recap of Ten Commandments through a class activity. After the activity the teacher will explain the importance of Ten Commandments and help the students understand, how the people of Israel disobeyed God.
- Teacher will then emphasize on God's plan to bring his people back from evil and lead them to God in the path of goodness through Prophets.
- Teacher will introduce the topic and make the students aware of the different prophets in the Old Testament.

Presentation (15 minutes)

Teacher can begin by explaining about prophets and their role as assigned by God –

Prophet is One who speaks for God. They are people ordained to bring Israelites back to God. God appointed them to lead the people away from immorality, repent for their wrongdoings and come back to God, to the path of Goodness.

The Greater prophets and Lesser prophets :

Greater prophets – These prophets had a greater mission in the history of Israel. – Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. Bible does not have books in the name of prophets Elijah and Elisha, but they are mentioned in the book of Kings.

Lesser Prophets – Bible has small books named after 12 other prophets – Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

The teacher may explain about the life histories of some of the Greater prophets, through the video links shared.

1.Elijah –Prophet Elijah was a messenger of God and played an important role during a time when people were turning away from God and worshipped false Gods, particularly ‘Baal’. Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal to prove whose God was real. After Elijah, Elisha took his place, performing many miracles and treasuring the downtrodden. <https://youtu.be/7fWgpcMdMIU>

2.Isaiah – Isaiah had a powerful vision, where he saw God’s holiness and felt unworthy. This experience led him to respond to God’s call to be a prophet. Isaiah’s messages often included calls for repentance, warnings about the consequences of sin and promises of hope and restoration.

One of the most important aspects of Isaiah's prophecies is his predictions about the coming of Messiah, who would bring salvation.
<https://youtu.be/JJZ3q76hkig>

3.Jeremiah: God called Jeremiah to be a prophet when he was quite young. He initially felt unworthy and afraid, but God reassured him that he would be with him and give him the words to say (Jeremiah 1: 4-10) This shows that God can choose anyone, regardless of age or ability, to fulfill his purposes. Jeremiah urged the people to repent and return to God, warning them that their disobedience would lead to destruction.
<https://youtu.be/zy6kJACpMAk>

4.Ezekiel: Ezekiel was a prophet in the Old Testament who lived during the Babylonian exile. He was among the Israelites taken captive to Babylon and served as a prophet to the exiled community. Ezekiel's prophetic ministry began with a vision of God's glory (Ezekiel 1). Ezekiel's messages included both warnings of judgment and promises of hope. Ezekiel also had visions about a future temple and the proper way to worship God. (Ezekiel 40-48) <https://youtu.be/6u8X34Gd5VQ>

Teachers of the church

The prophets tried to guide the people of the Old Testament. In the same way the children of the church are supposed to abide by the teachings of Jesus in whom all prophecies came to their fulfillment. The teacher will explain the students about the doctors and fathers of the church and the important role they played when false teachings and ideas were distorting the Faith. Explain how they guided the people and led the believers along the right way through their writings and speeches. (Please share the names of some of the doctors and fathers of the Church and their important teachings)

- Teacher will then help the students to understand how the Pope's Letters and encyclicals aim to strengthen our faith and clear our doubts.

Habit Formation

- 1.Habit of reading Bible: Develop the habit of reading bible regularly and understand the teachings of Jesus.
- 2.Knowledge about different Prophets: Read about different prophets. The prophets were messengers of God who spoke for Him and guided the people on the right path.
- 3.Living a moral life: Following the church's teachings also means striving to live a moral life according to the Ten Commandments and the teachings of Jesus.
- 4.Develop your Prayer and spiritual life: Develop your prayer life by attending Holy Mass, going for confession, praying the rosary and engaging in personal prayer.
- 5.Engaging in Parish activities and attending catechism regularly: Engage yourself in parish activities, catechism activities. Attend catechism classes regularly.

Bible Verse

Read and learn

Amos 5:15

Activities

- 1.Skit: Students can be divided into groups and asked to perform skit on any of the prophet's life or depict a significant incident from their life (for e.g. Skit on King Ahab and Elijah.)
- 2.Chart Making: Draw the visions of Prophet Ezekiel.

3. Ask students to list out the Encyclicals from Pope St. John Paul II

Conclusion

The teacher will conclude the topic by stating that there were many who lived and strived solely to guide us, define and give clarity to our Faith teachings. We should be always thankful to them, follow these teachings of the church and grow as the children of the church. Teacher will make the students understand the importance of following the church rules to stay away from sins and lead a life which pleases God.