



LESSON 15: THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

Objective (Learning Outcomes)

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

- To understand the promises and prophecies about Christ in the Old Testament and their fulfillment in New Testament through Jesus.
- To know about some of important prophecies about Messiah
- To understand God's faithfulness in fulfilling promises
- To reinforce their Faith and live in hope and trust in God.

Starter

The teacher will take a recap of Lesson no 14 through a quick quiz.

The teacher can then share the below story or a story on similar lines to introduce the concept of Prophecy to the students.

The Story of the Wise Old Man and the Village

Once upon a time, in a small village nestled between green hills, there lived a wise old man named Eli. Eli was known throughout the village for his ability to see things that others could not. He often had dreams and visions that helped the villagers prepare for the future. One day, Eli had a dream about a great storm coming to the village. In his dream, he saw dark clouds gathering and heard the wind howling. He woke up and knew he had to share this message with the villagers.

Eli gathered everyone in the town square and said, "Listen closely! I had a dream that a great storm is coming."

We need to prepare our homes and gather supplies to stay safe.” Some villagers listened carefully and began to prepare, while others laughed and said, “Oh, Eli is just being silly. There’s no storm coming!” Days passed, and the villagers who listened to Eli prepared their homes, while those who didn’t went about their usual business. Then, one afternoon, the sky darkened, and the wind began to blow fiercely. Suddenly, a huge storm rolled into the village, just as Eli had warned.

The villagers who had prepared were safe and dry in their homes, while those who hadn’t listened found themselves caught in the storm without shelter. After the storm passed, the villagers realized how important Eli’s warning had been.

From that day on, they understood that sometimes, wise people can see things that others cannot, and it’s important to listen to their words. Eli was not just telling them what would happen; he was helping them prepare for the future.

The teacher can follow it up with how the sinful lives of Israelites led the prophets to prophesy about God and his plans of redemption through Christ – the anointed one.

Presentation (15 minutes)

Promises about the saviour:

The teacher will ask the students about the sin committed by our first parents and its consequences. She will explain the students, the first promise made by God in the garden of Eden. God promises an offspring who will crush the head of the serpent, signifying the ultimate victory of the Messiah over evil. God promised a saviour to the people of Israel through Moses. She will conclude this topic by asking them about the saviour whom God had promised.

In the Old Testament, many prophets foretell the coming of a saviour and a redeemer. The teacher will explain the prophecies of some of these prophets.

1. Prophecies of Isaiah: The teacher will explain the 'Immanuel Prophecy' of Isaiah which specifically predicts the virgin birth of a child named Immanuel. *'Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel' (Isaiah 7:14)*

The word 'Immanuel' means God with us. This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was born on earth. Jesus began his public life by reading and explaining the prophecy of 'Isaiah'.

(The teacher should give references of the verses that mention about the coming of Jesus)

2. Prophecies of Jeremiah:

The prophecy of Jeremiah speaks of a future leader from the line of David who will be righteous and will save Israel. This prophecy points out to Christ's lineage to David. Several other prophets also point out Christ as the saviour. Teacher should explain some other prophecies by prophet Micah, Prophet Zechariah and prophet Ezekiel that describes Christ, helping the students to understand God's promise.

3 Witness of John the Baptist:

John the Baptist is presented as a prophet because he fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy by preparing the way for the Lord. He preached repentance and baptized people in the Jordan river calling them to prepare their hearts for coming of the Messiah. The people who awaited a redeemer mistook John the Baptist for Christ. John said, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal" (John. 1:26-27). The next day, seeing Jesus coming towards him. John the Baptist declared: "Here is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, after me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me" (John. 1:29-30).

John the last of the prophets, ended the mission of preparing the way by the prophets centuries ago, after revealing that Jesus is the lamb who is to sacrifice his own life in propitiation for all the sins of the world.

4. Fulfillment of the Prophecies:

All the prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus liberated mankind from the bondage of darkness and gave rise to the New Israel. Thus, the plan of salvation that started in the Garden of Eden continued through the Old Testament and reached completion in the New Testament.

Habit Formation

- To be witness to Christ and share his values through acts of kindness, compassion and charity.
- Lead our lives with the awareness of freedom that we are the children of God.
- To practice trust in God and remain Faithful to Him at all times.
- Stay away from sins and lead a good life.

Bible Verse

Read and learn- John 3:30

Activities

1. Group activity: Form groups and ask the students to find bible verses that prophesize about Messiah or Saviour and share them with the class.
2. List out different ways to be good children of Jesus.
3. Write a note on 'Jesus our Saviour'

Conclusion

The teacher may conclude the lesson by stating that God planned our redemption for years and willingly sent his Son, Jesus Christ to liberate us from sin. We should be forever grateful to Him for the love and mercy he showered on us through His son Jesus Christ. We should live with pride as children of this merciful God and lead our lives with utmost faith and hope in Him.