

Objective: Family members have confidence in God's Word knowing Christ fulfilled promises foretold about Him in the Minor Prophets.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The ministry and writings of the Minor Prophets took place between 840 BC and 400 BC.

Bible Basics: Review with family members the names and order of the first 27 books of the Old Testament (Genesis-Daniel).

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children about how fulfilled prophecy affirms the truth and accuracy of the Bible.



Key Truth: Jesus Fulfilled What the Minor Prophets Foretold of His Birth (Hosea 11:1; Micah 5:2; Haggai 2:20-23; Malachi 4:5-6)

- Hosea 11:1 says Christ would be called out of Egypt. This is fulfilled in Matthew 2:13-15.
- Micah 5:2 says the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. This is fulfilled and explained in Matthew 2:1-6.
- Haggai 2:20-23 speaks of Zerubbabel as God's servant, associating him with a restoration of the promised Davidic line. Many see this fulfilled in Christ, the One in whom the line of David would reign forever.
- In Luke 1:5-17 an angel shared things about John the Baptist that were prophesied hundreds of years before by the prophet Malachi (Malachi 4:5-6). These were fulfilled in Matthew 3:1-6; 11:10-14; and 17:10-13.



Key Truth: Jesus Fulfilled What the Minor Prophets Foretold of His Life and Ministry (Zechariah 9:9; Malachi 3:1; Zechariah 11:12-13)

- Zechariah 9:9 says that Christ would be just or righteous, and humble. This is fulfilled in John 5:30; Philippians 2:5-8; and Matthew 11:29.
- Malachi 3:1 says a messenger would prepare the way for the Messiah, the Messiah would suddenly appear at the Temple, and the Messiah would announce a new covenant. These are fulfilled in Matthew 11:7-10; 21:12-13; and Luke 22:20.
- Zechariah 11:12-13 speaks of a shepherd being valued at only thirty pieces of silver and that the thirty pieces of silver were thrown into the house of the Lord. Jesus was rejected and betrayed for thirty pieces of silver which were thrown into the house of the Lord. See Matthew 26:14-15 and 27:3-5.



Key Truth: Jesus Fulfilled What the Minor Prophets Foretold of His Death and Resurrection (Jonah 1:17; Zechariah 9:9, 12:10; Exodus 12:46; Hosea 13:14)

- Jonah 1:17 says Jonah was in the belly of a fish for three days and three nights. This foreshadowed Christ's resurrection after three days in a tomb (Matthew 12:38-41).
- Zechariah 9:9 gives a picture of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-5; John 12:12-16). Zechariah also prophesied that Christ would be pierced in 12:10. This is fulfilled in John 19:34, 37.
- Exodus 12:46 and Numbers 9:11-12 said that none of the bones were to be broken on the Passover Lamb. This was fulfilled for Christ, the Lamb of God, in John 19:36.
- Hosea 13:14 described the Messiah's power over death and asked where were death's victory and sting. Paul asked the same question in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- What made it possible for God's prophets to foretell the future?
- **How does fulfilled prophecy show that the Bible is true and accurate?**
- **Why does studying how Christ fulfilled prophecy strengthen our faith in Him?**
- **With whom could we share how Christ fulfilled promises about His birth at Christmas?**

Everyday Extras

Play a game of Yahtzee, but have your children predict the numbers on the dice before they roll their turn. How often are they correct? This twist may be more fun than the original game! Prophecies are not predictions. Though prophecies are about future events, they are a message from God. Talk together about the many prophecies that were fulfilled when Jesus came. Through many years, God gave His prophets messages about the coming Messiah. Jesus fulfilled all of them. Every prophecy was correct! You could also ask each family member to predict who will be the next person to knock on your door. Why did they make the guesses they did? It may take several days to know whose prediction was correct. Old Testament prophets described the coming Messiah in different ways. They were speaking for God, so their prophecies were more than predictions. Their prophecies came true after the prophets had been dead many years, but the Messiah came just as they said He would.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned while Jonah was in the fish's belly for three days and three nights, he prayed and told God he would go to Nineveh. God had the giant fish spit Jonah onto dry land. Jonah obeyed God and gave the people of Nineveh God's message. The people stopped sinning and followed God's ways. Jonah and the people learned **God's Ways Are Best.**