

Grades 3, 4, and 5
Session 14

Begin with the prayer that your child has the most need to practice.

This session will be about the Prophets, but we will focus mostly on Isaiah. In our last 2 sessions, we learned about two of the kings of Israel, King David and his son King Solomon. God had made a covenant (or a special promise) with King David. God promised that no matter what, David's sons would be the kings of Israel forever. That means the crown goes from King David to one of his sons, and then to one of that son's sons, and down the line.

To Solomon, God repeated the promise that He had made to King David, but he added "if" to the statement. He was saying that Solomon needed to act in the way the Lord required of him or things would go badly. King Solomon did a pretty amazing job for a long time, but by the end of his rule, King Solomon stopped listening to God and did as he pleased. His son that came after him as king did even worse, and the one after that was bad too. Things kept going bad for the kings and all of Israel because the kings did not turn to God and listen to what they needed to do. They were very stubborn and proud and it tore the whole country apart.

So what was God doing about all of this? He was sending lots of help. These were called the Prophets. Prophets are people especially chosen and inspired by God to deliver messages for Him. Unfortunately, Israel didn't pay enough attention to them.

God calls prophets in different ways. Some through a dream, some by allowing them to see spectacular things, some by actually calling out to them. Here is a story about Isaiah and how he was called by God to speak to the people.

Read Isaiah 6:1-13

If you did the Jesse Tree project, you will remember the stump of Jesse reading. This is not the same reading in Isaiah as that one, but here it is again! God asks Isaiah to talk to His people but also tells him that they won't listen. God still loves the people of Israel, but they will not listen. God warned King Solomon that he would love Israel like a son. A good parent punishes his son when they behave badly, but still loves his son no matter how badly he behaves. Isaiah and all the prophets are supposed to remind the people of this promise.

Quick discussion

1. Does God sound like a mean parent or a good parent for punishing Israel?
2. No matter what, will Mom and Dad love you?
3. No matter what, will God love you?

(This is an important point to re-assure your child that there is nothing that they can do that can make God not love them. Remind them that even if we decide to not love God, that He still loves us. God only asks us to do the things that He says because they are good for us and make us really happy)

The good news is that the prophets remind the people and the Kings of Israel that even though things look really rotten now, that there will be a King to come from King David's family that will fix everything.

Read Isaiah 9:2-7 (page 1101)

Together go over pages 1102 and 1103

Do the activity on page 1103 in the yellow box

(if you text your picture of Jesus to 419-905-8472, I'll put it up on our parish Facebook!)

So even though things don't look so good for the nation of Israel since they stopped listening to God, God is not going to stop wanting them to behave well and be happy because He loves them. God promised King David that He would love them forever and that his own son would be King. God kept His promise to King David and King Solomon because Jesus came from King David's family and is still the Son of God, our King Jesus.

Jesus is one of the members of the Holy Trinity. When we make the sign of the cross and say "the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" we are calling on the 3 beings that are God. When God the Father sent his Son, Jesus left his throne in heaven to come down for us and remind us again how He wants us to live. Sometimes we humans still do bad things but God still loves us, but he does not punish us as harshly because King Jesus took our punishment for us when He was sent to the cross. This shows you that God loves YOU so much that there is nothing that you can do to stop Him from wanting you to love Him.

Finish the lesson with a prayer from your prayer booklet and add petitions of thanks to God for keeping his promise to King David to send us a perfect King.