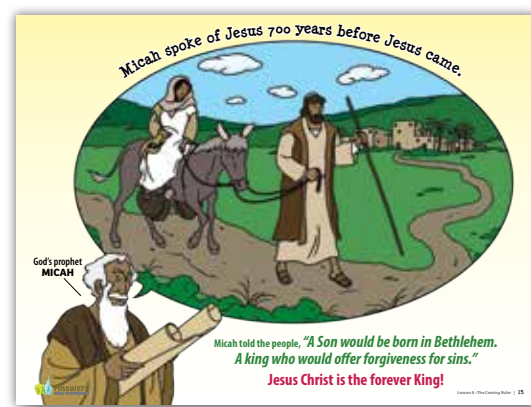


The Coming Ruler



Key Passages

Micah 5:2, 7:18–19; Luke 2:4

Lesson Focus

God's prophets spoke of Jesus.

Memory Verse

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.



Circle Time

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

Begin with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated throughout the year. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Who made you? *God.*
- ? What else did God make? *All things.*
- ? Why did God make you and all things? *For His own glory.*
- ? Can you see God? *No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- ? Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

Bible Pass Around See the Teacher Guide for details about this activity.

Continue lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.

We have talked about a few of God's prophets. These were men in the Bible who spoke for God. God used these men to give the people warnings and messages. Refer to Lesson 2 Flip Chart. Let's see, we have talked about Amos, who warned the people to obey God, or God would punish them. God is just. He must punish sin. Refer to Lesson 3 Flip Chart. Then there was Hosea. God used Hosea and his love for his wife to show just how much God loves His people. Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart. And then there was the prophet Nahum. He went to the city of Nineveh and warned the Assyrians that God would punish them for their sin! Because God loved His people, He always gave them warnings and told them to stop sinning.

Refer to Lesson 7 Flip Chart and the Isaiah Coloring Sheet. Last week we talked about God's prophet Isaiah. The prophet Isaiah told King Hezekiah that God would save the people from the king of Assyria. King Hezekiah prayed to God. God answered King Hezekiah's prayer and saved the people! God answers prayer!

All of these prophets had important messages for God's people. They spoke God's very Word! This was a very long time ago, before the Bible was even written! There were many prophets over a long period of time. When God had something to tell His people, He would send a prophet with the message.

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. Today, we are going to talk about another prophet. His name is Micah. God used Micah to tell the people that one day Jesus was going to be born.

Micah 5:2

Let's open the Bible to the book of Micah now! Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Here it is in my Bible. As we go through our lesson today, we are going to see that God used Micah to tell the people about Jesus a long, long time before Jesus was even born! Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle. Read Micah 5:2.

Did you hear that? Micah said that a king would be born in Bethlehem! But not just any king! This king would be special. This king would rule forever and ever! God was telling His people the special plan He has for saving them from their sins! He would send a new king who would love and care for His people! This king would be strong and powerful. No other king would be stronger or more powerful than Him.

- ? Who do you think this special king is? This picture on the Flip Chart should give you a hint. *Jesus.*
 - ? Who do you think these people are? *Mary and Joseph.*
 - ? What special day does this picture remind you of? *Allow discussion.* This picture reminds us of Christmas!
 - ? Whose birthday do we celebrate on Christmas? *Jesus's.*
- Micah was talking about Jesus! Jesus is God's Son. Let's find out more about this special message God had for His people. I'm going to read this to you again. Re-read Micah 5:2.
- ? Where did Micah say Jesus would be born? *In Bethlehem.*
 - ? Does this verse say Bethlehem is big or small? *Small.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. Bethlehem is a small town. One of the smallest of all the cities in Israel. And this is where Micah said Jesus would be born! God's special king would be born in a tiny little town!

This was God's plan! But unlike the messages the other prophets spoke, these things did not take place right away. In fact, Jesus would not be born for another 700 years! 700 years is certainly a long time!

- ? Do you think the people remembered this special message for 700 years? *Allow discussion.*

Luke 2:4

I want to read something to you. This is from the book of Luke, which is in the New Testament. This is about Mary and Joseph. Where were they? Listen carefully. Read Luke 2:4 emphasizing "Bethlehem."

- ? Where did Joseph take Mary? *Bethlehem.*

Yes! They went to Bethlehem. That is where the Bible tells us Jesus was born. God wanted the people to know that Jesus, the Savior, would be

born in Bethlehem. And God used the prophet Micah to tell the people about Jesus a long, long time before Jesus was ever born.

Micah 7:18–19

But Micah also told them something else about Jesus. Something wonderful! Let me read this to you. Read Micah 7:18–19.

Let me explain this. This is good news! Micah told the people that no one is like our God. And even though God hates sin, He will not be angry forever! He would give us all a way to be forgiven of our sins!

- ? How would God take our sins from us? *Allow discussion.*

God had a plan. He made this plan from the very beginning. Refer to Lesson 3 Flip Chart. God knew His people would run away from Him. Refer to Lesson 4 Flip Chart. He knew they would disobey Him by worshipping idols. But God greatly loves His children. He would do the hardest thing ever to get His people back.

God is just, and He must punish sin. And someone had to take the punishment for that sin. There had to be a sacrifice. And that sacrifice had to be perfect. But no one is perfect because everyone sins.

- ? Who do you think God would send to save sinners from God's punishment? *Allow discussion.*

God planned that Jesus—the baby born in Bethlehem—would be the one to take the punishment for sins. Jesus never sinned. He was perfect, and the perfect one to take our sins from us!

God wanted His people to hear this special message, so He used Micah to speak for Him. Remember, God's prophets spoke about Jesus. Micah told the people where Jesus would be born. He also told them that Jesus would come someday and die for sinners who believed in Him.

Micah told the truth about Jesus's birth. We can look in the Old Testament and see God's Words through the prophet Micah. We can look in the New Testament, in the book of Luke, and see that what Micah said did happen! God showed His great love through sending Jesus. And God will forgive the sins of everyone who turns to Jesus and asks for forgiveness.

SONG TIME

- Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning. Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and on the Song Sheet at the back of the Teacher Guide.

Micah was one of the prophets who spoke for God. Micah had good news to share with everyone! He told of God's great love in sending His only Son Jesus to take away the sins of His people. I have a new song for us to learn about Micah the prophet. Sing "Micah the Prophet."

That was great! Let's finish this time singing our Memory Verse Song. We should treasure God's Word in our hearts. Songs help us learn God's Word in a fun way! Our memory verse is from the book of Isaiah. It is Isaiah 53:6. Show the children where the verse is in your Bible.

Let's sing it now! Sing the Memory Verse Song.

- Refer to the Teacher Guide for the activities to be continued in Circle Time.
- Oversee an orderly way to get the children back to their seats, especially if the chairs were moved for Circle Time.

Micah spoke of Jesus 700 years before Jesus came.



God's prophet
MICAH

Micah told the people, *"A Son would be born in Bethlehem.
A king who would offer forgiveness for sins."*

Jesus Christ is the forever King!