

Sample Lesson- LEVEL 6

A Divided People (Sessions 11 & 12)

Prayer

Lord God,
You are always faithful, even when we are not.
Open our hearts to hear Your word,
and help us to trust You in times of division and struggle.
Amen.

Background: A Kingdom Divided

After King Solomon

After the reign of King Solomon, the united kingdom of Israel split around 930 BC.

Why did it divide?

- Heavy taxes and forced labor under Solomon
- Political tensions between northern and southern tribes
- Spiritual decline and idolatry

Two Kingdoms

- **Northern Kingdom:** Israel (capital: Samaria)
- **Southern Kingdom:** Judah (capital: Jerusalem)



The Fall of the Northern Kingdom

Elijah

Elijah confronted corrupt rulers like King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.

- Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18) – Elijah proves the Lord is the true God over Baal.

Main Message:

- There is only one true God.
- God is faithful and powerful.
- God calls His people back to covenant faithfulness.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiKY5kxnws>

Elisha

Elisha succeeded Elijah. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qz3BG13yECk&t=762s>
(***please make sure you let them know its Elijah and Elisha- The CC'ing using Elijah for all*** start at 2:00- 8:35 min mark)

Key Themes of Elisha:

- Miracles showing God's authority and compassion.
- Healing (e.g., Naaman the Syrian). <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/7Y0s5RJw07w>
- God cares for both Israel and even foreigners.

Catholic Insight:

God does not abandon His people, even when they sin. He sends prophets to call them back.

ISRAEL DID NOT REPENT OR LISTEN TO THE PROPHETS-

Because Israel refused to repent:

- Continued idolatry
- Social injustice
- Rejection of God's covenant

In 722 BC, the Assyrian Empire conquered Israel.

Consequences:

- Samaria (capital) destroyed
- Many Israelites exiled
- The "Ten Lost Tribes" dispersed
 - Reuben, Simeon, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Manasseh, and Ephraim



Theological Meaning:

This was not simply a political defeat. It was the consequence of breaking a covenant with God.

Other Prophets to know: Amos and Hosea

Amos



Amos preached justice.

- True worship requires justice.
- God rejects empty rituals.

Famous theme:

“Let justice roll down like waters.” (Amos 5:24)

Amos condemned:

- Exploitation of the poor
- Corruption
- Religious hypocrisy

Hosea



Hosea used his own marriage as a symbol.

- Israel is like an unfaithful spouse.
- God is like a faithful husband.
- God desires mercy, not sacrifice.

Hosea emphasizes:

- God's love is steadfast.
- God longs to forgive and restore.

Discussion:

- Are we divided from God?
- Do we practice justice and mercy?

Timeline Activity

Students create a timeline:

- Solomon's reign (970-930 BC)
- Division of the kingdom (930 BC)
- Elijah (870-850 BC) & Elisha (860-800 BC)
- Amos (760-750 BC) & Hosea (755-715 BC)
- Fall of Israel (722 BC)

Southern Kingdom

King Asa: A Reforming King

Asa of Judah



- Reigned in the 9th century BC
- Removed idols and pagan altars
- Encouraged covenant faithfulness
- Initially trusted in God

However:

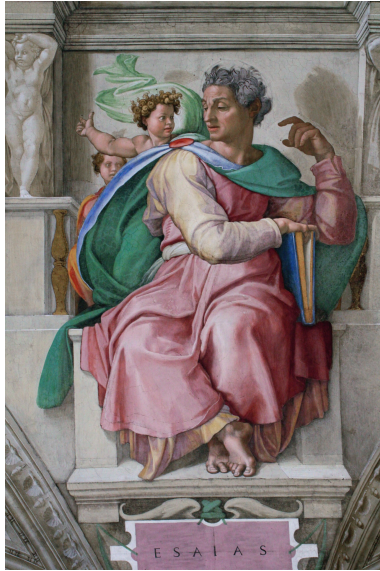
- Later relied on foreign alliances instead of God
- Was rebuked by a prophet for lacking trust

Teaching Point:

Even good leaders can struggle with full trust in God.

The Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah



Isaiah preached in Judah during political instability and foreign threats.

Main Themes:

1. **Call to Holiness**
 - “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.” (Isaiah 6)
2. **Warning Against Injustice**
 - Worship without justice is meaningless.
3. **Promise of the Messiah**
 - A child called Emmanuel (“God with us”)
 - The Suffering Servant

Catholic Connection:

Isaiah’s prophecies point clearly to Jesus Christ.

The Prophet Micah

Micah



Micah preached during the same period as Isaiah.

Key Message:

“What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)

Micah condemned:

- Corrupt leaders
- Exploitation of the poor
- False prophets

He also foretold:

- The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

The Fall of Judah

Video- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZiF-K0Tm_Rw



Judah eventually repeated Israel's mistakes:

- Idolatry
- Social injustice
- Political alliances instead of trusting God

In 586 BC, the Neo-Babylonian Empire:

- Destroyed Jerusalem
- Burned the Temple
- Sent many Jews into exile

This event is called: **The Babylonian Exile**

The Prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah



Known as the “weeping prophet.”

His Mission:

- Warn Judah to repent
- Tell the people exile was coming
- Encourage trust in God even in suffering

Jeremiah faced:

- Rejection
- Imprisonment
- Persecution

Jeremiah foretold:

- **A New Covenant**
- God’s law written on hearts (Jeremiah 31:31–34)

Catholic Connection:

This New Covenant is fulfilled in Jesus Christ and the Eucharist.

Finish Timeline Activity

Students create a timeline:

- King Asa (911–870 BC)
 - Isaiah (740–680 BC)
 - Micah (740–700 BC)
 - The Fall of Judah (586 BC)
 - Jeremiah (650–580 BC)
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Takeaways from today-

1. God Is Just

Sin has consequences.

2. God Is Merciful

Even in exile, God promises restoration.

3. Suffering Can Purify

Exile strengthened Jewish identity and faith.

4. Hope in the Messiah

Isaiah and Micah prepare the way for Christ.

[Slides](#)