

Old Testament

Zephaniah

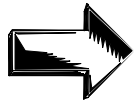
Zephaniah 3:8-20

Younger Verse

We tell you the good news: what God promised our fathers. Acts 13:32

Older Verse

We tell you the good news: what God promised our fathers. Acts 13:32



Teachers: This unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever forgotten something? Maybe it just slipped your mind or you couldn't find it. Today's lesson is a reminder to God's people and to us that we must follow and obey God all the time.

Bible Study time

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

Did you know that all the books in the Old Testament are not in time order? That's right. God gave messengers His words to write on paper. Years later, some special people assembled the papers into our Bible. When they put the books together, they were not all assembled in time order. They put them together in order of the kind of book they were.

Today's lesson is about a man named Zephaniah (Zef-a-n-i-a). He lived at the same time as King Josiah (Joe-sigh-a). Do you remember what King Josiah found while he was cleaning out God's temple? He found God's Word (the Bible) written on sheets of paper called scrolls. We read about it in 2 Chronicles chapter 34.

At that time the people were not following God. They had forgotten all about Him. Can you believe it? They were doing what they wanted instead of doing what God wanted. God was very upset with them.

When Josiah saw the scrolls, he asked Zephaniah to read them and explain what they said. Zephaniah talked to God and God told him that He had been very upset with the people. They weren't following Him and didn't care about loving Him. Zephaniah also said that God planned on punishing the people. But, He decided to let them live in peace

Lesson Goals

**Understand what it means to follow and obey God
Always remember God and do what He says daily**

because they were sorry for the way they had done wrong and sinned against God.

Josiah gathered all the people together and went to the temple. He had the priest open the Bible and read as all the people listened. Josiah made an agreement that he would always love God and do what God said. He would love God and obey all His rules and laws no matter if others did or did not. He also made the people obey the agreement and follow God.

After this, Josiah had a big party to worship God. All the people gave gifts to God to show how much they loved Him.

God shows us today that He loves us, too. He sent His son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus gave us a gift. What was it? It was a way for us to go to Heaven. How do we get there? We must believe Jesus died and came back to life. We must trust Him and ask Him to be our best friend. Then, we must obey God and do what He wants us to do—like pray and read His Word—the Bible, just like Josiah did.

Learning Activities

Use the activities that will be helpful in teaching your kids. Try the belief (faith) in Jesus paperclip trick. It's sure to get the kids excited.

Memory Verse Activities

Ask the kids what gift God has given us. (Jesus) Make a little square gift box from paper and write the verse on it. Let each child share one with a friend or family member.

Prayer Time

Josiah and Zephaniah were thankful for God's Word. Have each child complete the sentence: God, I am thankful for _____. Use this in your prayer time.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Be sure to thank the children as they help you clean up. Serve treats and thank them for coming today! Fruit roll-ups are fun snacks that remind the kids of what scrolls look like.

Planning for Lesson 102
Haggai: God is powerful
Haggai 2:1-19

Preschool Lesson
For
Zephaniah

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When Josiah saw the scrolls, he asked Zephaniah to read them and explain what they said. Zephaniah talked to God and God told him that He had been very upset with the people. They weren't following Him and didn't care about loving Him. Zephaniah also said that God planned on punishing the people. But, He decided to let them live in peace because they were sorry for the way they had done wrong and sinned against God.

Josiah gathered all the people together and went to the temple. He had the priest open the Bible and read as all the people listened. Josiah made an agreement that he would always love God and do what God said. He would love God and obey all His rules and laws no matter if others did or did not. He also made the people obey the agreement and follow God.

After this, Josiah had a big party to worship God. All the people gave gifts to God to show how much they loved Him.

Thank God for caring for us and loving us.

Hands-On Activities For Zephaniah

Look up Zephaniah 3:15. It says, “The Lord has taken away your punishment.” The Lord took our punishment away when Jesus died on the cross for all our sins. He did this to bring us to God. How do we get to God? We must believe that Jesus died and came back to life. We must ask Him to forgive all our wrongs and ask Him to come into our heart. Jesus promises to stay with us forever and help us do things God’s way.

This is a fun and interesting experiment to try with your kids to help them see what it means for someone else to take your punishment. If someone is acting up in class, instead of disciplining them, ask another student if **THEY** will take the other person’s punishment. You will definitely get some weird looks! Share that Jesus took our punishment for us. Explain why He did such an amazing thing!

Bring something like a silver dish, brass, or copper container that needs to be cleaned. Bring special cleaner and a rag (be sure that no kids touch the cleaner as it is toxic). Share how dirty the item is. Now spread cleaner on the rag and clean the item. Now see how it sparkles. Explain that when Jesus is in our heart, He cleans out our lives and makes us sparkle like the item.