

**1. The work of the prophets**

- a) Who were some of the great prophets whose messages are recorded in the Bible?
- b) What type of message would you typically expect from a prophet? (call to repentance, prediction about the future)
- c) The prophets also showed great concern for the poor and oppressed. Why?
- d) How were the prophets treated by their own people? (ignored, persecuted, imprisoned, killed—see Jeremiah 38:6, Matthew 23:29–30, John 1:11)
- e) Why were the prophets so frequently ignored or mistreated?

**2. The prophet Amos—a prophet to Israel (8th century BC)**

- a) Amos 7:14–15—his background
- b) Amos 3:9–11—a prophecy of Amos
- c) What common social evils does the prophet condemn? Amos 4:1–2, 8:4–6
- d) What appeal does the LORD God make to the people of Israel through the prophet Amos? Amos 5:21–24
- e) What is your reaction to the harsh words recorded in Amos 5:21?
- f) Share a time when God delivered a harsh message to you in order to capture your attention

**3. The prophet Micah—a prophet to Judah (8th century BC)**

- a) Micah 3:9–12—what sins did Micah condemn?
- b) Micah 6:8—what impacts you the most about this appeal by the prophet Micah?
- c) What aspect of Micah’s appeal do you most need to hear today?

**4. The prophet Isaiah—prophet to Judah (8th century BC)**

- a) Isaiah is called the Gospel Prophet. What are some of your favorite passages in the Book of Isaiah? (Isaiah 9:6–7, Isaiah 53:4–6, Isaiah 61:1, etc.)
- b) Many are familiar with the words of the LORD recorded in Isaiah 1:18. But consider the context. Isaiah is crying out on behalf of the poor and oppressed. Isaiah 1:16–17
- c) Many who value the gift of Sabbath are familiar with the words of the LORD recorded in Isaiah 58:13–14. But consider the context: Isaiah 58:6–7, 10–12
- d) How can we become more sensitive to the needs of the poor and oppressed in our own communities?

**5. The prophet Ezekiel—in exile (6th century BC)**

- a) Ezekiel 34:2–4—a word of rebuke
- b) Ezekiel 3:7–15—a word of hope (see Psalm 23)
- c) How do these messages from the LORD relate to our lives today?

