



Exploring the Prophets

1. Share with the children the information about each prophet below.
 - **Isaiah**

The name Isaiah means “Yahweh is helper” or “Yahweh is salvation.” Most biblical scholars consider Isaiah the greatest Old Testament prophet. His dad was probably a rich and important person, used to being with other aristocrats because Isaiah seemed at ease both with the nobility and the king. He is famous for his prophecy about Immanuel. He’s also the prophet that emphasized the great holiness of God.
 - **Jeremiah**

When Jeremiah was a young man, God called him to prophecy. However, Jeremiah was not interested. He did not want to tell people that foreign armies were going to conquer them because they had no faith in God. When he did begin to prophesy disaster, he made lots of enemies! The people beat him, put him in stocks, imprisoned him. The hostility toward him was terrible. But he just kept on trying to get the Israelites to turn back to God. What an example of faith!
 - **Ezekiel**

Ezekiel’s name means “God Is Strong.” He was a priest who lived with the Israelites when they were in exile in Babylon. He had visions and told the people about them.
 - **Joel**

Joel’s name means “Yahweh is God.” Not much is known about him, but scholars believe he lived in Jerusalem. His short book is exciting to read. Although he speaks of disaster, his book ends with hope for the messiah.
2. Divide the group into fours. Call each group by one of the following names: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Joel. Distribute Bibles.
3. Assign each group the following readings from their prophet: Isaiah 60:19; Jeremiah 24:7 and 31:31-34; Ezekiel 37:11-14; Joel 2:21-27 and 3:12. Write the citations on the chalkboard so the children can see them.
4. Ask each group to read its passage, to draw and cut out a symbol for its prophet, and to write the biblical citation on the symbol.
5. Provide time for the each group to explain its symbol.