

Kings & Prophets; Exile & Return

Lesson 4



Scripture: 1 Samuel 10–Malachi










Bible Memory: 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

Focus: ♥ Study God’s Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Thank God that He didn’t leave us in the dark about salvation. His Word sheds all the light on the subject that we need. We know whom God wants to save—each of us! We know why God wants each of us to live with Him forever—He loves us! We know how this can happen—through Jesus! Thank God for His Word and His plan.

Lesson 4 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>learn about the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return eras.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step People and Events</p> <p> Option Who Am I?</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheets 1–4, Resources CD People and Events Cards printable file • Resources sheets 1–4, Resources CD Who Am I? printable file 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors • whiteboard, dry-erase marker
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>explain how God prepared for salvation during the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return eras.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration 1 Samuel 10–Malachi</p> <p> Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 4, Resources sheets 1–4 • Resources sheet 5 • Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 4 printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils • Bibles • Bibles
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>understand why it’s important to know about the Old Testament eras of Bible history.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step The Missing Piece</p> <p> Option The Old Testament Eras</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Missing Piece reproducible page, Activities for lesson 4 • Resources CD The Old Testament Eras printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors, pencils • scissors
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>plan to study God’s Word to know more about His plan of salvation.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step My Plan of Action</p> <p> Option Bite-Size Messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheets 1–4, Activities for lesson 4 • none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils, Bibles • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, small strips of paper, pencils, wrapped candy, clear tape, resealable plastic bags

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these activities to help students **learn about the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return eras.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step People and Events

Before class, cut apart the cards on the printable file and keep each set separate.

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the third and fourth Bible time lines. **These time lines represent the eras of the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return. These eras, or periods of time, are when God continued to prepare for salvation.** Have volunteers read the text under each icon. Tell preteens that these are major events that happened and important people who lived during this time period. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a set of the People and Event Cards. **Each team has a set of cards listing some of the events and people in these two eras, along with two title cards. Work as a group to put the cards in chronological order under the correct title, either Kings & Prophets or Exile & Return. If you need help, you may send two team members at a time to look at the Bible time lines. Ready? Go!** When teams are done, review how they ordered the cards.

ASK: **Which event or person do you know a lot about?** Accept responses. **Which event or person don't you know much about?**

SAY: **A lot happened during these eras. What ties all the events and people together is their place in God's plan of preparing for salvation.**

Option Who Am I?

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the third and fourth Bible time lines. **These time lines represent the eras of the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return. These eras, or periods of time, are when God continued to prepare for salvation.** Have volunteers read the text under each icon. Tell preteens that these are major events that happened and important people who lived during this time period.

Divide the class into two teams. Tell preteens that they're going to play a game of Who Am I? You will read a statement about someone who lived during the Kings & Prophets or Exile & Return eras. They decide who it is and give an answer. If correct, they get 20 points. Keep score on the board. If not correct, the other team gets another hint and can give an answer. If correct, they get 15 points. If not correct, the first team gets another hint and can give an answer. If correct, they get 10 points. When done playing, SAY: **What ties all these people together in these eras is their place in God's plan of preparing for salvation.**

Focus

♥ Study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4,
2 copies of the Resources
CD People and Events Cards
printable file, scissors



Since some students worry about winning and might be disappointed by losing, remind preteens that it's just a game.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4,
Resources CD Who Am I?
printable file, whiteboard, dry-
erase marker



Since some students worry about winning and might be disappointed by losing, remind preteens that it's just a game.

Focus

♥ Study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **explain how God prepared for salvation during the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return eras.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Beginning in 1050 BC, Saul, David, and Solomon each reigned 40 years. Saul failed in God's sight as Israel's first king. God instructed Samuel to anoint young David to succeed Saul. The kingdom of Israel rose to its peak under the reign of David's son Solomon. Solomon received from God the gift of wisdom. But Solomon taxed the people heavily, and by the end of his reign, the kingdom was ready to divide.

Solomon's son Rehoboam became king of the southern kingdom of Judah, but 10 northern tribes rebelled and Jeroboam became their king. The northern kingdom of Israel had 19 kings before they were carried away to Assyrian captivity in 722 BC (2 Kings 17). These tribes never returned to the nation of Israel. Judah had 20 rulers before they submitted completely to Babylonian captivity under Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC (chap. 25).

After Solomon's reign, people heard about God through prophets. One of the greatest prophets of Israel was Elijah, who courageously faced the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. He was succeeded by Elisha, who was known for his deeds of kindness. Literary prophets associated with Israel during this period were Jonah, Amos, and Hosea. Those associated with Judah before the fall of Jerusalem were Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah. The southern tribes (Judah and Benjamin) were released after the Medes and Persians defeated their Babylonian captors. In 537 BC, about 50,000 Jews returned to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel led the rebuilding of the temple. The prophets at this time were Haggai and Zechariah. During this same time period, Esther became queen of Persia.

When Ezra took a group to Jerusalem, he led the people in a spiritual revival. Nehemiah left the wealth of the court to oversee the rebuilding of the walls in Jerusalem. Malachi prophesied at this time. Old Testament history closed about 100 years after the Jews' return from captivity. The Persians fell to Alexander the Great, and the world came under Greek influence. God had prepared His nation; soon He would send salvation.

Materials

Activities for lesson 4,
Bibles, pencils, *Resources*
sheets 1-4



Teaching Tip

If you have a small class, you may want individual students to look up the Scriptures and answer the questions.

Bible Exploration 1 Samuel 10–Malachi

Distribute the leaflets and have students turn to the activity The Preparation for Salvation Continues. Divide the class into groups of two or three preteens. Assign each pair or group one or more of the statements to read, along with the Scriptures listed. They should work together to decide whether the statement is true or false. If it's false, students should be ready to say how they would change it to make it true.

Call preteens' attention to the third Bible time line. SAY: **When the era of the Judges was over, the people of Israel asked God for a king. During the era of the Kings & Prophets, God worked in the lives of the kings to grow a family from which Jesus would eventually come. And God worked in the lives of the prophets to remind the nation to be faithful to God.** Ask the students with statements 1-9 to read them and say whether they're true or false. If a statement is false, they should say how they would change it to make it true. (Answers: 1=F, did not always obey God; 2=T; 3=T; 4=F, only Isaiah did; 5=F, the temple; 6=T; 7=F, to Assyria; 8=T; 9=T)

Call preteens' attention to the fourth Bible time line. SAY: **During the era of the Exile & Return, God worked through the people and events to**

lead the Israelites to be faithful to Him. Ask the students with statements 10–16 to read them and say whether they’re true or false. If a statement is false, they should say how they would change it to make it true. (Answers: 10=T; 11=F, did not worship it; 12=T; 13=T; 14=F, was not afraid; 15=T)

ASK: How did God use the era of the Kings & Prophets in His preparation for salvation? (God used David’s royal family to be the family of Jesus. Some godly kings and prophets led the people to repent and return to God.)

What part did the era of the Exile & Return play in God’s plan for salvation? (Daniel and Esther led the people back to God and saved the nation from being totally destroyed. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah led the people to rebuild Jerusalem.)

SAY: This brings the Old Testament to a close. Approximately 400 years separate the time of Nehemiah from Jesus’ birth. This time between the testaments is sometimes called the “silent” years. During this time God did not speak to the Jewish people, but God’s preparation for salvation continued. When we ♥ study God’s Word to know about His plan of salvation, we come to realize how great and awesome God is. It also helps us realize how important we are to God and how much God loves us and wants each of us to be saved.

Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Continue to display the 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Ask students to turn to 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

Ask preteens to stand and form a circle. Give a Bible to one of the students. Tell that student to say the first word of the Bible Memory and then respectfully pass the Bible to the person on her right. That person should say the next word of the Bible Memory and respectfully pass the Bible to the next person. Tell preteens to keep going like that until the Bible Memory has been said. **SAY: God’s Word has been passed from one generation to the next, and today we can continuing passing His Word from one person to the next. Let’s not break the chain, but ♥ study God’s Word to know about His plan of salvation so that we can pass it on to others.**

Materials

Resources sheet 5,
Bibles



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources CD*.

Tech Tip

Record students saying the Bible Memory. Then let them watch themselves in action!

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the *Resources CD* Optional Bible Skills 4 printable file.



Focus

♥ Study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help students **understand why it's important to know about the Old Testament eras of Bible history.**

Materials

copies of The Missing Piece reproducible page (each student needs 2 puzzle pieces, 1 OT and 1 NT), scissors, *Activities* for lesson 4, pencils



Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also provided on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

2 copies of *Resources* CD
The Old Testament Eras printable file, scissors



Teaching Tip

If you have more than 10 preteens, let some pair up to do this activity. If you have fewer than 10 preteens, let some take more than 1 card.

Quick Step The Missing Piece

Before class, cut out the puzzle pieces. Keep the Old Testament pieces separate from the New Testament ones.

Give each preteen a New Testament puzzle piece. SAY: **Stand up and find the puzzle piece that matches yours.** Students will soon realize that no one has a match. Ask students what pieces they think they are missing. If someone says the Old Testament, give each student an Old Testament puzzle piece. If no one says it, go ahead and hand out the puzzle pieces. **The New Testament isn't a complete story without the Old Testament eras of Bible history. Let's find out why.** Have students look in their leaflets at the activity *The Whole Story*. Read the instructions, and do the page together as a class. Have volunteers read a phrase from Column A and then match it to a phrase from Column B. (Answers: 1=d; 2=c; 3=a; 4=f; 5=b; 6=h; 7=e; 8=g)

ASK: **Which of these reasons for knowing about the Old Testament eras means the most to you? Why?** Accept responses.

SAY: **The awesome creator of the universe cares so much about us that He planned from the beginning to save us. That should certainly help us realize how important we are to God! And that should also help us want to ♥ study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation, not only for ourselves, but to share it with others.**

Option The Old Testament Eras



Before class, make two copies of the printable file. Keep one copy intact for your use. Cut apart the cards on the other copy. Be sure to keep the cards in the left column separate from those in the right column.

Give each preteen one of the cards from the left column. Do *not* hand out any from the right column. SAY: **Find the person who has a card that matches yours.** Students will soon realize that no one has a match. **That reminds me of when we study the New Testament without studying the Old Testament; it just isn't complete, and we don't know the whole story. In fact, we don't know how the story started!**

Give each preteen one of the cards from the right column. SAY: **Now the cards will have matches. Keep trading cards until you find a set or two that match; then hold up your cards. We'll keep going until all cards have been matched.** When all the matches have been found, tell students to read their cards. Remind preteens that these are all great reasons why it's important to know about the Old Testament eras of Bible history. **The awesome creator of the universe cares so much about us that He planned from the beginning to save us. That should certainly help us realize how important we are to God! And that should also help us want to ♥ study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation, not only for ourselves, but to share it with others.**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help students **plan to study God's Word to know more about His plan of salvation.**

Focus

♥ Study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Quick Step My Plan of Action

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan for our salvation. During the eras of Old Testament history, God prepared for that salvation, for the coming of Jesus.**

ASK: **How can we know about God's plan of salvation?** (study the Bible, listen to people teach from the Bible, learn from other Christians)
If someone told you that God's plan of salvation includes our having to do at least 10 good things a month, would you believe it? Why or why not? (no, because the Bible doesn't teach that)

SAY: **It's important to know what God's Word says about salvation because you're going to hear lots of things about it, some of which are in the Bible and some of which are not. God gave us the Bible, but it's up to us to ♥ study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.**
Ask preteens to turn in their leaflets to the activity My Plan of Action. Read the instructions. Encourage the preteens to take time each day to read what God's Word says about salvation. **Think about what these Scriptures mean. If you're not sure what something means, ask someone or look it up. You could also write down things that come to your mind as you read these verses.** Close with a time of prayer. Invite preteens to turn to 1 John 4:9, 10 in their Bibles. **Use these verses to help you silently pray something like this: Dear God, thank You for showing us Your love. Thank You that You sent Your Son, Jesus, that we might live through Him. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.** Invite preteens to silently pray. After a brief time of silence, close in prayer.

Option Bite-Size Messages

ASK: **How can we know about God's plan of salvation?** (study the Bible, listen to people teach from the Bible, learn from other Christians)
If someone told you that God's plan of salvation includes our having to do at least 10 good things a month, would you believe it? Why or why not? (no, because the Bible doesn't teach that)

SAY: **It's important to know what God's Word says about salvation because you're going to hear lots of things about it, some of which are in the Bible and some of which are not. God gave us the Bible, but it's up to us to ♥ study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.**
Write the following Scripture references on the board: Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16, 17; 1 John 4:9, 10; Romans 5:6-11; Acts 4:10-12; 1 Timothy 2:3-5; Hebrews 5:7-9. Give each preteen seven strips of paper. Tell them to write a Scripture reference on each strip. Then give each preteen seven pieces of candy. Tell them to tape one candy to each strip. Because preteens will want to eat some candy, be sure to give them a few pieces to eat while they work. Provide resealable plastic bags for students to put their papers and candy in. Encourage the preteens to take time each day to enjoy a treat while they read what God's Word says about salvation. Close with prayer, thanking God for the salvation He offers.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, Activities for lesson 4, pencils, Bibles



Teaching Tip

You may have some preteens interested in learning more about or accepting the salvation God offers through Jesus. See the Resources CD Leading Young Hearts to the Lord printable file for help in discussing this with your students.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, small strips of paper (7 per student; or index cards), pencils, wrapped candy, clear tape, resealable plastic bags



Be sure to check the ingredients of the candy for allergens.

Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

