

Week 3 - The Prophets

Hear the Word of the Lord

A Lent course for the Diocese of Chichester's
Year of the Bible

For youth



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CHICHESTER

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YEAR OF THE BIBLE 2017

Week 3 - The Prophets

○ Aim

To help understand what the books of prophecy are and how we came to have them. What are prophets and why do they feature in our Bible?

○ Learning outcomes

- The Israelites messed up and God repeatedly tries to bring them back on track.
- The prophets were called by God to prophesy and often couldn't help it.
- The prophets often were not popular.
- The prophets gave direction to turn back to God when their focus wandered.

○ Materials Needed

String.

Rubber bands.

Paper cups.

Small models (lego people or similar).

Playdoh or plasticine.

○ Video - 5 mins

Week 3 - Alice Whalley

This video can be found online at youth.chichester.anglican.org/lent/videos

It's up to you where in the session you use the video but either right at the start or after the icebreaker are both good places.

Start with prayer...

○ Bible Passage - 5 mins

The Bible passage can be read aloud from the front by the session leader or by one of the young people. Alternatively you may want young people to read a verse each around a circle or do something completely different, that's fine.

It might be fun to start with a game of **Bible cowboy**. You will need every young person to have a physical Bible. Every young person stands up with a Bible balanced on their head and takes the cowboy duel stance. The Bible reference is read out or placed on a screen where everyone can see it. When the leader shouts DRAW it's a race to be the first person to find the passage and bring their Bible to the front to prove it.

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It's also worth having a prize for the winner. So perhaps some mini chocolate bars are worth keeping on standby.

Isaiah 2:5-22



Icebreaker - 15 mins

Young people need to work together to build a temple that crushes (covers over) idols.

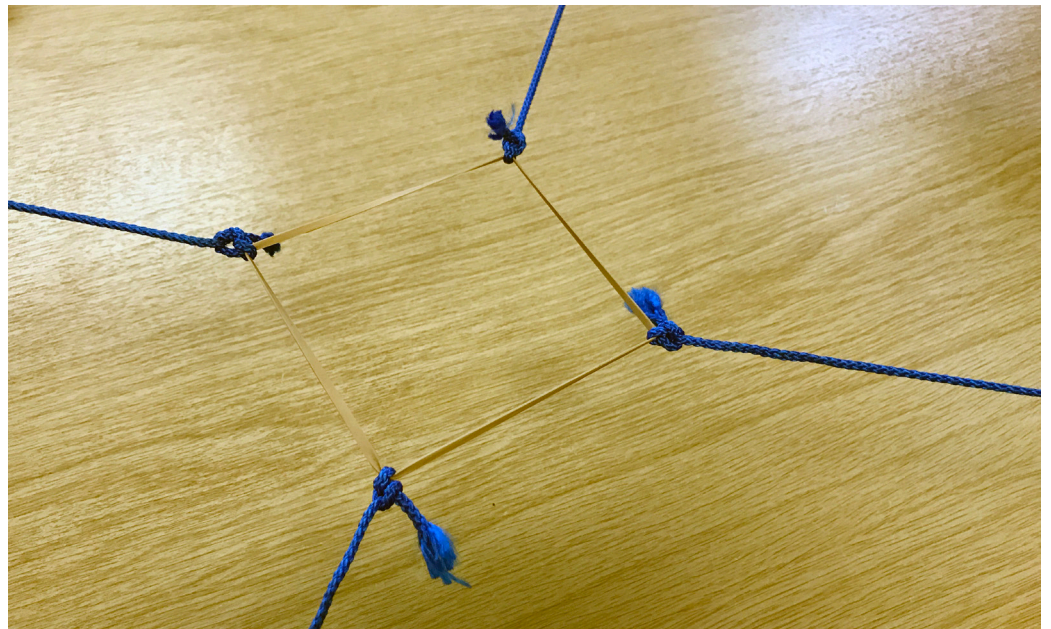
Young people are split into teams. Each team has one rubber band and some string. The team must tie pieces of string to their rubber band allowing them to stretch it open by pulling on the string in different directions.

Three idols (lego people) for each team are laid out on a table or on the floor spaced a couple of inches apart.

Each team must use their rubber band, controlled only by the string to grab paper cups, transport them to the idols and cover them up.

When the three idols are covered they begin to build the cups upward. The winning team is the first to complete a paper cup tower three stories tall.

This image (Right) is the contraption that you build from string and rubber bands used to pick up the paper cups, cover the idols and build a tower.



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○ Discussion - 15 mins

In black are questions to read out to start discussion, in red are some pointers for guiding your discussion.

In Jeremiah 20:8-9 Jeremiah complains that he cannot hold the words that God has given him inside. Many times he had words to share that would have made him unpopular.

How would you cope if God gave you a word for someone that would make you unpopular?

Is there anything that the Bible teaches that would be unpopular with your friends or people you know? Do people ever ask you difficult questions about your faith? How do you respond?

Why did God use prophets to talk to the people of Israel?

What would be the alternative? There wasn't the same understanding of a personal relationship with God, instead the relationship was between God and the nation. Is this different now?

Does God still use prophets today and what role do they have in the church?

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 mentions the gift of prophecy, what is this? Is this gift of prophecy different to the gift the prophets of the Old Testament had?

The prophets communicated with the people about the relationship between God and Israel, what do you think God's message for the church is today?

○ Creative Worship - 15 mins

Using playdoh or plasticine get the young people to make an object or a shape that represents an idol in their life, something perhaps they feel they hold in a higher priority than God.

Take a moment in quiet and pray that God would take his place as number one.

Get the young people to remould their object into a heart or a cross or another object that represents Jesus. As they do, encourage them to pray in their hearts offering their individual idols to God.

○ Takeaway - 5 mins

Have a discussion to find out what the young people can't live without. Encourage them to spend a day in the week fasting something that they will find it challenging to give up. It could be their mobile phone, Facebook or Instagram.

Find out how they did next week and get them to share.