

Haggai and Malachi

The Prophets Lesson 7

Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe the messages of Haggai and Malachi.
- The students will state how God feels when people withhold their best from him.
- The students will tell one way that they will give their best to God this week.

Lesson Text

Haggai 1-2
Malachi 1-4

Scripture Memory Verse

This is what the LORD Almighty says:
"Give careful thought to your ways."
Haggai 1:7

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Prophet Report

Welcome and Singing

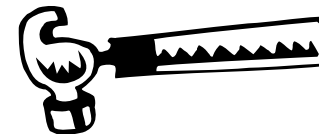
Centers:

Bible Story: To Build and To Honor

Craft: Best Is Blessed

Scripture Memory: Be Careful

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



Haggai and Malachi

Prophet Report

The students will preview today's lesson as they look up different aspects of the books of Haggai and Malachi.

Materials

For each student:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page A.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Tell them that today they will learn about two more prophets, Haggai and Malachi. Explain that this is the last of the lessons on the prophets and they will be doing some review of previous prophets throughout today's activity.
2. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page A and pencils. Have the students find a partner or small group to work with. Make sure that each pair or small group has a Bible.
3. Circulate among the students to offer help and encouragement.
4. When students are finished, encourage them to try and read the book of Haggai, which is two chapters long.

Teacher Tips

- If available, provide a Children's Bible for the students who wish to read the book of Haggai in an easier translation.

Prophet Report

Instructions: Look up each of the Bible books listed below and answer the questions.

Haggai

- How many chapters are in this book? 2
- How many verses are in chapter 1? 15
- How many verses are in chapter 2? 23
- What is the first word of chapter 1:6? You
- What is the last word of chapter 2:6? land
- Look up Haggai 1:7 and fill in the missing words below:
This is what the Lord Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways."

Malachi

- How many chapters are in this book? 4
- How many verses are in chapter 1? 14
- How many verses are in chapter 2? 17
- How many verses are in chapter 3? 18
- How many verse are in chapter 4? 6
- Fill in the blanks with the first seven words of chapter 1: 2:
"I have loved you, says the Lord
- Fill in the blanks with the first six words of chapter 3:6:
"I the Lord do not change."
- Look up Malachi 4:4 and fill in the missing words below:
Remember the law of my servant Moses,
the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel

The Name Game

Instructions: Draw a line from the Bible name on the left to the description on the right.

Darius (Haggai 1:1)	prophet
Haggai (Haggai 1:1)	high priest
Joshua (Haggai 1:1)	King

Unscramble the following names found in Haggai 1:1:
Sheetilla Shealtiel
Zabebbrule Zerubbabel

Haggai and Malachi

To Build and to Honor

The students will learn about the prophets Haggai and Malachi as they consider their warnings to honor God.

Materials

For the teacher:

- toy tool kit
- gift box
- wrapping paper
- bow
- tape
- household cleaning rag

Preparation

1. Place the rag in the gift box and wrap it as a gift, putting the bow on top.
2. Practice leading this activity with great energy.

Introducing the Bible Story

Have the students open their Bibles to the Old Testament books of Haggai and Malachi. Tell the students that God chose these two men to preach powerful messages to his people and to give them severe warnings about their sin.

Haggai: The Man and the Message

Take out the tool kit and hold up a tool as you tell the story of Haggai. *God called Haggai to preach to his people. At that time, the people were saying that it was not time to build God's house. Instead, they were building their own houses and making themselves comfortable. Listen to what God said to the people in Haggai 1:7-11:*

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD. "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house. Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the

new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands."

God told the people that because they neglected his house, he stopped the rain and caused their crops to fail. God wanted the people to understand that he was not happy that they were ignoring him and his house.

Haggai preached the word of the Lord and the people listened. They realized what they had done was wrong and they obeyed and began to rebuild God's temple.

Pass the tool around and ask the students: *What did Haggai tell the people?* Set the tool kit aside when you are finished.

Malachi: The Man and the Message

Show the students the gift you prepared as you tell the story of Malachi. *God called Malachi to speak to the people and tell him that he was not happy with them. God's people did not honor him anymore. They did not bring him gifts that were special anymore. Instead, they brought gifts that were leftovers and not even acceptable to other men! The people said that serving God was a burden and they complained. Listen to what God said to the people in Malachi 2:2:*

"If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honor my name," says the LORD Almighty, "I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honor me."

God wanted the people to know that he was not happy with the way they were treating him. God told them that they were treating him with hatred and disrespect. Malachi told the people that God was their king, their leader, their father, their Lord and their master!

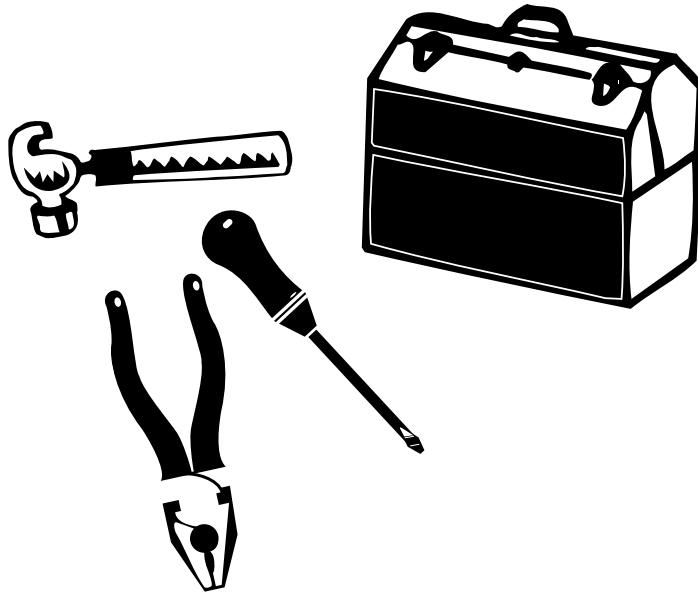
Ask the students what kinds of things would make them feel special and honored. Ask them what kinds of things would make God feel special and honored. Tell the students that you wrapped the gift inside especially for this class, and just for them. Tell them that it is something that belongs to you and you wanted them to have it because you know it will help them understand this Bible Story. Choose a few students to help unwrap the gift. After they have opened it, ask the

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following questions:

- *Do you think I did my best to give you a gift that would make you feel special?*
- *Did this gift make you feel special or honored?*
- *How did it make you feel?*
- *Would you give this gift to your mother? To your teacher?*
- *Do you think that God would be pleased with a gift like this?*

God felt that the people were giving him damaged gifts—things they would not even give their own leaders! What gift could I give you that would make you feel special and honored? (Take responses.) What gift can we give to God, the Lord and Master, to make him feel special and honored? (Take responses.)

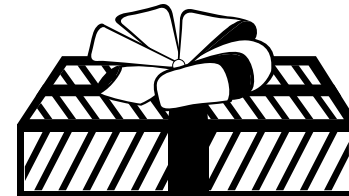


Sharing with Others

Tell the students that one of the greatest gifts they can give is their time and attention. Each time that they pray and read the Bible with a great attitude—it is like a gift to God. Each time they are happy to tell a friend about God—it is like a gift to God. Ask the students who they can share their Bible lesson with this week. Close with a prayer for the students to want to honor God and make him feel special this week.

Teacher Tips

- The rag can be substituted with another household item. Make sure the item is clean, even if it is worn or stained.
- If you do not have a toy tool kit, use a safe and non-sharp tool that the students can pass safely.



C

R

A

F

T

Haggai and Malachi

Best Is Blessed

The students will identify some ways that they can do their best to please and honor God.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 empty coffee can, standard size (about 13 ounces)
- glue stick
- scissors
- crayons and markers
- magazines with pictures of children in school or church, at home and at play

For the teacher:

- large writing surface
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page B, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. For each student, cut out the panels from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
2. Cut a two inch slit in the cover of each coffee can for the students to put coins in.
3. Make a sample craft to show the students.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you are learning about two more prophets, Haggai and Malachi, who preached the word of God to the people. Both of these men had a very strong message. Haggai warned the people not to care more about their own houses than they did about God's house. God saw that the people cared more about their own homes than they did about building God's house, the temple. Today, we need to be sure that we do not care more about taking care of ourselves than we do about God and his house. God wants us to give our very best to him, and he will bless everything else that we need to do.*
2. Show the students the sample craft you made. Read the words on the panel. Tell the students that they will give careful thought to their ways as they make this craft.

3. Ask the students if they can think of some way that they can help to take care of God's church. Take responses and write them on the large writing surface. (Answers may include: help with a clean-up project; serve some single mothers, elderly, or leaders; raise money for world missions and/or HOPE Worldwide; offer to help the Bible teacher with clean-up at the end of class; offer to baby-sit for people who are studying the Bible; etc.)
4. Distribute the panels and the crayons. Have the students write one way that they want to help take care of God's church in the space provided on the panel. When they are finished, distribute the cans and glue sticks. Have the students glue the panels to the cans, as shown in Figure A.
5. With the time that remains, have the students cut out a picture that illustrates their idea and glue it to the can.
6. Make sure they write their names on their cans.

Conclusion

Encourage the students to use their cans to help them save up money to do some of the things talked about in the class today. Suggest that the whole class plan a special project and combine the money they raise to give a special gift to the church. Talk with your local leader for project ideas. Close with a prayer for the students to see how they can build up God's house, the church.

NOTE: If you start a project with these students, make sure that you are prepared to follow through with it. This age group is sensitive and will be disappointed if they begin something but do not get to complete it.

Teacher Tips

- To save time: write some ideas on the large writing surface in advance and cut out pictures for the students to choose from.
- Ask the parents to help contribute the coffee cans.

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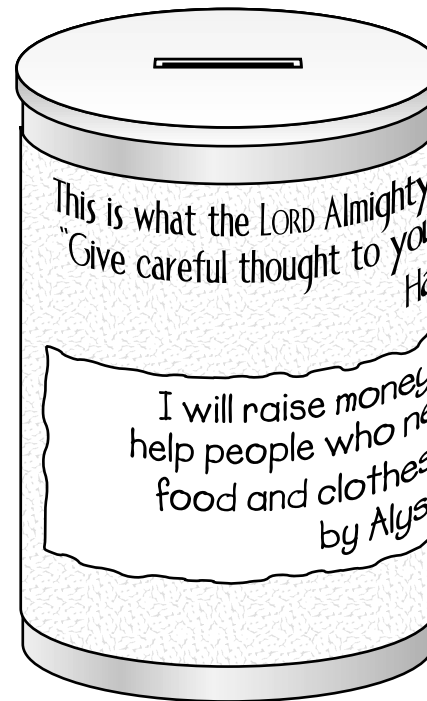


Figure A

Haggai and Malachi

Be Careful

The students will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse as they do this fun puzzle activity.

Scripture Memory Verse

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways."

Haggai 1:7

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 piece of foam board, 8" x 12"
- scissors
- glue stick
- watch or timer with a second hand

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for the teacher

NOTE: Reproduce Page C on pastel-colored paper, if available.

Preparation

1. Glue your copy of Reproducible Page C onto the foam board.
2. When it is dry, cut out the pieces, trimming the excess from the page.
3. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week you are learning about two more prophets, Haggai and Malachi, who preached the word of God to the people. Both of these men had a very strong message. Haggai warned the people not to care more about their own houses than they did about God's house, which was the temple. God saw that the people cared more about themselves than they did about God. In your Scripture Memory Verse, you will learn the message from God that Haggai preached to the people.*
2. Tell the students that you are going to start some sentences and you want them to finish them: *Be nice to _____. Be kind to _____. Be gentle with _____. Pay attention to _____. Be careful to _____.*

3. Show the students the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Say it to them three times as they listen. Ask them to say it together with you three more times. Ask each student to say it together with you to the rest of the group. Ask for volunteers to say the verse from memory.
4. Show the students the puzzle pieces that you prepared. Explain that these are the words from the Scripture Memory Verse. Pass out the words to the students. Say the verse slowly as the students place the words down in order to make the verse.
5. Collect the pieces, mix them up and pass them out again. This time have the students place them in order without your help. When they are finished, collect them and repeat.
6. Tell the students that they will do this three more times and you will keep time. The goal is for them to beat their time with each round. Keep track of their times.

Conclusion

Encourage the students to think about what this verse means. God wants them to give careful thought to everything they do. Ask the students if they can think of anything in their lives right now that would not make God happy. Close with a prayer for the students to have hearts to love and please God.

Teacher Tips

- Foam board can be purchased at most office supply stores. If this is not available, glue your copy of Reproducible Page C to heavy cardboard or Styrofoam.
- This activity can be used for extra activities during this unit.

This is what the LORD
Almighty says: "Give careful
thought to your ways."

Haggai 1:7

Lesson Objectives

- The students will describe the message of Haggai and Malachi.
- The students will state how God feels when people withhold their best from him.
- The students will tell one way that they will give their best to God this week.

Lesson Text

Haggai 1-2; Malachi 1-4

Scripture Memory Verse

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways."

Haggai 1:7

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Haggai and Friends

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: How Does It Feel?

Game: Prophet Sharing

Bible Skills: Prophet Relay

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

Haggai and Friends

The students will review the names of the minor prophets as they play hangman.

Materials

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Preparation

Prepare the large writing surface with a hangman gallows.

Instructions

1. Greet the students as they arrive. Tell them that they will review the names of the minor prophets as they play hangman.
2. Have the students join the game as they arrive. If you have a large number of students, have more than one game going on at the same time.
3. For each round, have the students try and guess the name of each of the following minor prophets:

Hosea	Jonah	Zephaniah
Joel	Micah	Haggai
Amos	Nahum	Zechariah
Obadiah	Habakkuk	Malachi

4. When the students guess Haggai, Malachi, Habakkuk or Jonah, ask them to tell one thing that they remember from their lessons about these prophets.

Teacher Tips

- If you are unfamiliar with the game of hangman, ask someone to help you; and/or review the instructions in Unit 5 Lesson 2 Supplement Game.

How Does It Feel?

The students will review this week's Bible Story as they consider ways that they can give God their best.

Materials

For the teacher:

- one extra large pair of boots or rubber shoe protectors
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the four situations from your copy of Reproducible Page D.
2. Read the books of Haggai and Malachi to acquaint yourself with this week's Bible lesson.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Haggai and Malachi. *In your Bible Story this week, you learned about the prophets Haggai and Malachi. God called them to preach some strong warnings to the people. Haggai told the people to love God and build his house before they took care of their own houses. Malachi told the people that God was their Master and not to treat him with disrespect and hatred. Today, we need to think of ways that we can build God's house and treat God as our Master—with love and respect.*

Life Application

Show the students the boots. Explain that these big boots should remind us that God is very big and we need to think about how he feels—or what it is like to be in his shoes. Tell them that they will take turns thinking about how God feels when we don't give him our best, and then think of how they can give God their best this week.

Choose a student to begin. Have him put on the boots and read situation #1 to the rest of the students. Give the students a chance to answer the questions. Choose another student to stand in the boots and read the next situation to the group. Continue until all the situations have been discussed. Be prepared to help students who have difficulty reading.

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Conclusion

Ask the students if they can think of one way—time, effort, money or prayer—that they can give God their best this week. Let the students respond. Close with a prayer for God to encourage the students as they do their best this week.

Teacher Tips

- For sanitary reasons, do not have the students take off their shoes. Use something they can wear over their shoes.



3rd and 4th Grades



Prophet Sharing

The students will review important ideas about the prophets as they play this guessing game.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 8 index cards, 5" x 7"
- pen
- paper

Preparation

1. Write the name of one of the following prophets on each of the index cards: Isaiah; Jeremiah; Daniel; Ezekiel; Jonah; Habakkuk; Haggai; Malachi.
2. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story this week, you learned about the prophets Haggai and Malachi who both preached a strong message from God to the people. Haggai told the people to love God and build his house first—before they took care of their own houses. Malachi told the people that God was their Master and they should treat him with respect and honor. All the prophets had important messages from God—warnings, encouragement, teaching and correction. The prophets were radical men with radical faith and trust in God.*
2. Show the students the cards you prepared. Say each name as you go through the cards. Tell the students that they will have to try and guess which prophet you are describing in order to receive points.
3. Divide the students into two teams, being careful to balance students who have heard the Bible Stories with those who have not. Line them up in two rows facing each other. Between them place the eight index cards about one arm's-length from both teams.



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4. Tell the students that you are going to share some information (provided on the back of this Lesson Card) about one of the prophets written on the index cards. The first student to identify the prophet should take the card and hold it up. If the student identifies the prophet correctly, his team receives five points. If he is wrong, the other team may guess. If neither team is right, you tell them the correct answer and remove the card.
5. Read all eight descriptions on the back of this Lesson Card, making sure to write down the points received by each team.
6. Total the points. Encourage both teams for their efforts.

Conclusion

Ask the students who their favorite prophet is and why. Close with a prayer thanking God for such great examples of faith, courage and boldness.

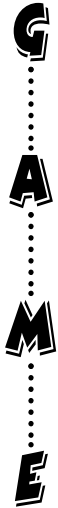
Teacher Tips

- If your space permits, seat the students in two lines facing each other at a table, with the cards lined up down the middle.



3rd and 4th Grades

Prophet Report



- I was a very young man when God called me to preach.
- The people threw me into a well because they did not like what I told them.
- Jerry could have been my nickname.
(*Jeremiah*)
- My book is known for the prophecies about Jesus.
- I am the first book of the Major Prophets in the Old Testament.
- My name sounds like something you see with.
(*Isaiah*)
- I ran away the first time God called me.
- God sent a giant fish to swallow me.
- I repented and went to Nineveh to preach the word and help the people repent.
(*Jonah*)
- I warned the people to treat God with honor and respect since he is their Master.
- I told the people that they were robbing God.
- I am the last book of the Old Testament.
(*Malachi*)
- God called me to be a watchman for Israel.
- I warned the leaders that they were not being good shepherds.
- My nickname could have been Zeke.
(*Ezekiel*)
- God helped me to be the best student in my class.
- I prayed to God three times a day.
- Because of my conviction, I ended up in the lion's den.
(*Daniel*)
- At first, I complained to God about all the wicked people.
- But God showed me that he was in control.
- I repented and decide to wait patiently and trust God.
(*Habakkuk*)
- I warned people to stop building their houses and start building God's house.
- God told me to tell the people to give careful thought to their ways.
- The first half of my name sounds like tag.
(*Haggai*)



3rd and 4th Grades

Prophet Relay

The students will test their ability to locate the prophets they have studied in this unit.

Materials

For the teacher:

- 2 pencils
- 1 table (or 2 chairs)

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 2 copies for the teacher

Preparation

1. Place two Bibles on the table (or one Bible on each chair).
2. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story this week, you learned about the prophets Haggai and Malachi. They both preached a strong message from God to the people. Haggai told the people to love God and build his house first—before they took care of their own houses. Malachi told the people that God was their Master and to treat him with respect and honor. All the prophets had important messages from God—warnings, encouragement, teaching and correction. The prophets were radical men with radical faith and trust in God.*
2. Divide the students into two groups. Have them sit in two lines beside each other, about three feet away from the table with the Bibles. Explain that they will do a Bible search relay.

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3. Show the students the two copies of Reproducible Page E. Explain that each team will try to be the first to find all the prophets on the list. As each student comes to the table, one at a time, he must find the prophet listed, show it you, close the Bible and then sign his name on the line. Then he will go back and sit at the end of the line and the next student will go and find the next prophet on the list. The team to complete the list and be seated is the winner.
4. Place yourself behind the table or chairs so you can verify that the students have found the correct prophet and to make sure they close the Bibles and sign their names.

NOTE: For new or visiting students, have them go as a pair with a student who is more confident about finding the prophets in the Bible.

Conclusion

Encourage the students for their work. Tell them that they now possess the ability to find some of the most exciting and radical messages in the entire Bible! Close with a prayer for the students to understand how truly radical the prophets were.

Teacher Tips

- In groups with large numbers of new or visiting students, have them go in pairs with students who are confident in their Bible Skills.

Prophet Relay

1. Isaiah _____ Paul _____
2. Jeremiah _____ Beth _____
3. Ezekiel _____ Bill _____
4. Daniel _____ Joan _____
5. Jonah _____ Dan _____
6. Habakkuk _____ Audrey _____
7. Haggai _____ Gary _____
8. Malachi _____ Larry _____
9. Hosea _____ Rhonda _____
10. Joel _____ David _____
11. Amos _____ Barbara _____
12. Obadiah _____ Joe _____

Prophet Report

Instructions: Look up each of the Bible books listed below and answer the questions.

Haggai

- How many chapters are in this book? _____
- How many verses are in chapter 1? _____
- How many verses are in chapter 2? _____
- What is the first word of chapter 1:6? _____
- What is the last word of chapter 2:6? _____
- Look up Haggai 1:7 and fill in the missing words below:
This is what the LORD _____ says: "Give _____
thought to your _____."

Malachi

- How many chapters are in this book? _____
- How many verses are in chapter 1? _____
- How many verses are in chapter 2? _____
- How many verses are in chapter 3? _____
- How many verse are in chapter 4? _____
- Fill in the blanks with the first seven words of chapter 1: 2:
" _____ , _____ "
- Fill in the blanks with the first six words of chapter 3:6:
" _____ "
- Look up Malachi 4:4 and fill in the missing words below:
"Remember the _____ of my servant _____,
the decrees and _____ I gave him at Horeb for all
_____."

The Name Game

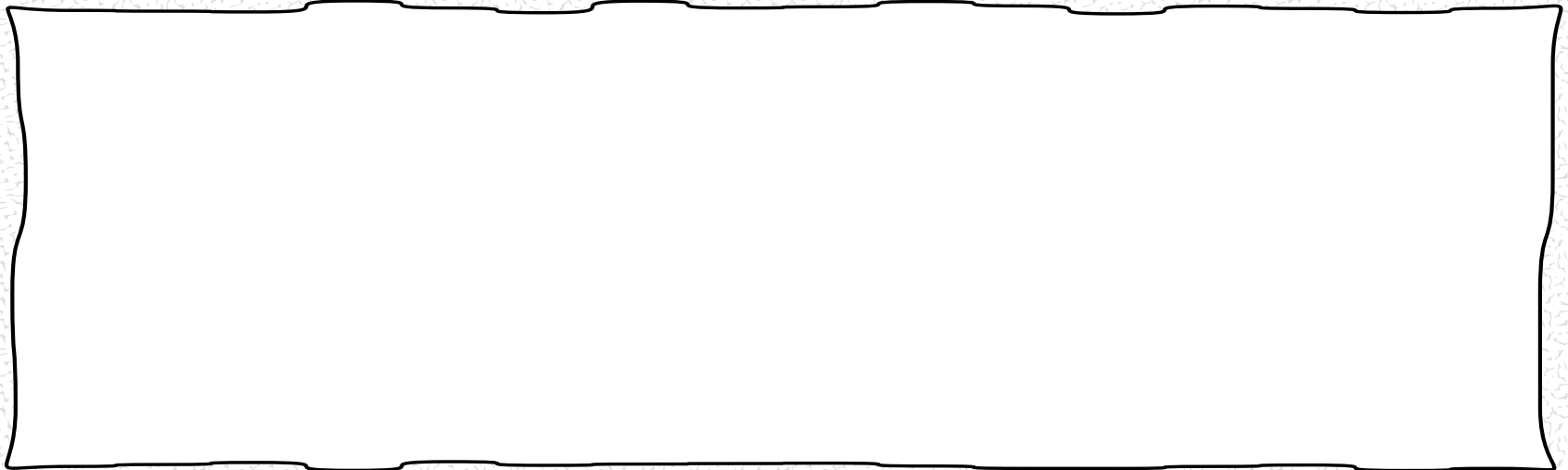
Instructions: Draw a line from the Bible name on the left to the description on the right.

Darius (Haggai 1:1)	prophet
Haggai (Haggai 1:1)	high priest
Joshua (Haggai 1:1)	King

Unscramble the following names found in Haggai 1:1:

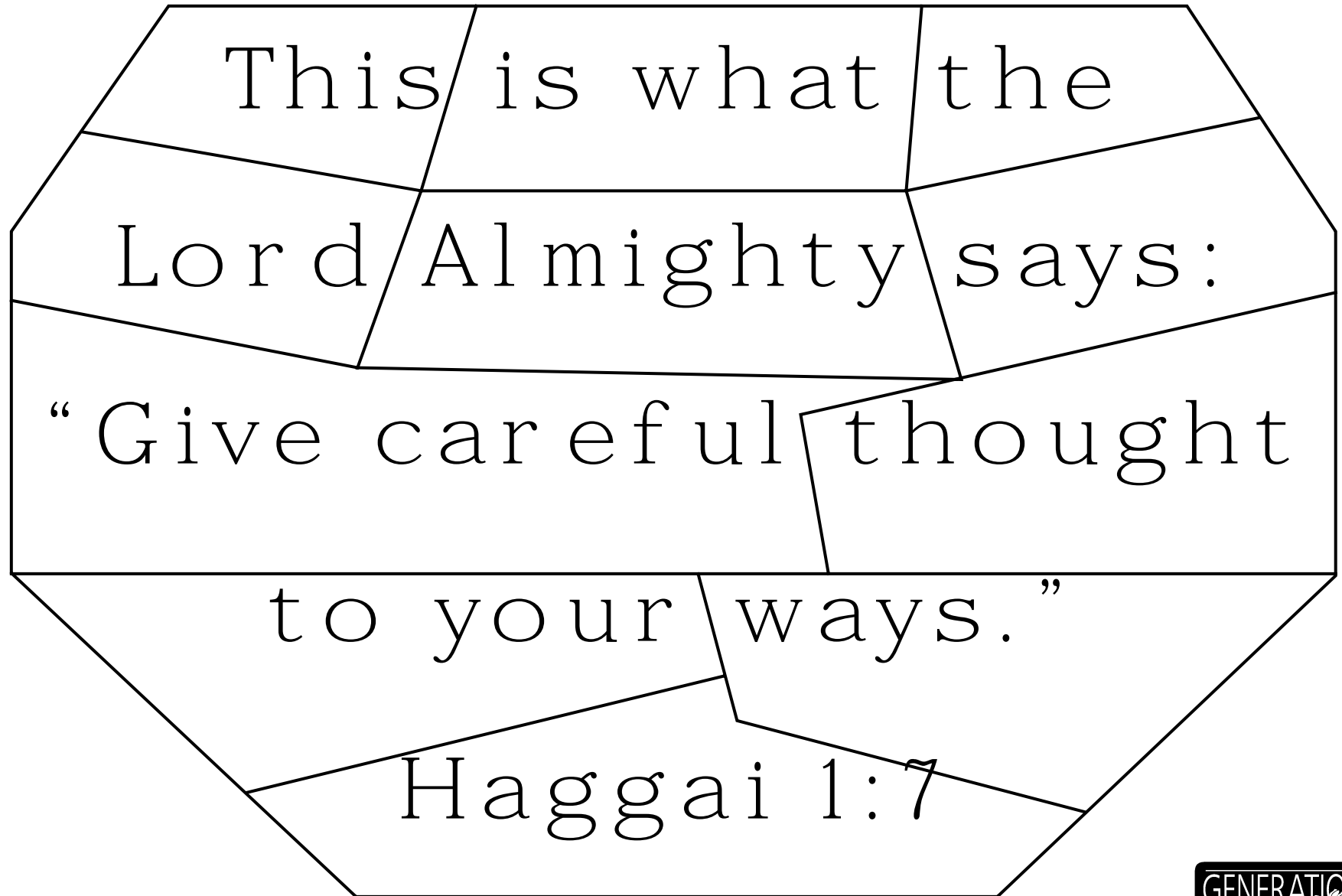
Sheetilla _____
Zabebbrule _____

This is what the LORD Almighty says,
"Give careful thought to your ways."
Haggai 1:7



Core/Scripture Memory

1 copy for the teacher (Optional - pastel-colored paper)



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Supplement/Life Application

1 copy for the teacher

Situation #1

Imagine that there is a terrible storm and the roof of your house collapses. Your father asks you to come and help him fix it. You tell him you are too busy building a fort in your room.

- How do you think your father would feel?
- How do you think God feels when people in church need help and we won't stop what we are doing to help them?

Situation #2

Imagine that your parents have just spent a lot of money to buy you a brand new bicycle. They even gave up buying a new computer this year so you could have your bicycle to start school. One day, you are at the store and your father asks if he can borrow some money to buy a newspaper. You say, "No."

- How do you think your father would feel?
- How do you think God feels when he has given us every good thing in our life and we will not give back a little to him?

Situation #3

Imagine that your mother is sick in bed. Normally, she would be driving you to sports activities and school events, but the doctor told her she must rest to get better. One afternoon, she asks you to come tell her about your day in school. You tell her you are too busy spending time with your friends.

- How do you think your mother would feel?
- How do you think God feels when he asks us to come to spend time with him in church and we say we are too busy doing other things?

Situation #4

Imagine that you are visiting your best friend at the hospital. He was in a terrible accident that almost killed him. He is so glad to see you. He asks you to pray for him because he is afraid that he could be paralyzed. You tell him you will and then forget. Later, he asks you if you prayed. You say you did not.

- How do you think your friend would feel?
- How do you think God feels when we do not pray to him about people who are sick or having a lot of problems?

Prophet Relay

1. Isaiah _____
2. Jeremiah _____
3. Ezekiel _____
4. Daniel _____
5. Jonah _____
6. Habakkuk _____
7. Haggai _____
8. Malachi _____
9. Hosea _____
10. Joel _____
11. Amos _____
12. Obadiah _____