

December 29, 1996
4' s, 5' s & K
God Is the Just Judge

Micah
3MIC16PK

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - *Micah*

The Principle - *God is the just judge who punishes wrong.*

The People - *Israelites living around Jerusalem*

God's Attribute - *God is just and right.*

Aim Questions:

1. What things were some of the Israelites around Jerusalem doing that God said was wrong? (Wanting things that belonged to someone else and plotting to take them away)
2. What were the prophets called who told the Israelites it was all right to covet and take things that didn't belong to them? (False prophets)
3. What does God say about coveting? (It is wrong and a sin.)
4. Who did God send to tell the Israelites the truth? (True prophets like Micah)
5. What did Micah say God would do with the sinning Israelites? (He would make things "just" and right and would punish them.)
6. What did Micah say for the Israelites to start doing? (Do the right, fair thing as they waited for the "just" Savior to make things right.)

Hook:

- The "Prophet Micah" Center: (3MIC16PKGF1)** Enlarge the picture of the prophet Micah and play "Pin the Mouth on the Prophet" as you would play "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Use the name Micah over and over throughout the game. Micah used his mouth to tell the Israelites God's true words.
- The "People" Center: (3MIC16PKGF2 & 3MIC16PKGF9 Stickers)** Let the children color the page of the Israelites who lived in Jerusalem listening to God's words. Talk about names of people we have studied so far who lived around Jerusalem. Amos was a farmer who lived close by before he went to Samaria to prophesy. Add an Amos sticker from the GF9 page. King Hezekiah grew up there and the prophets took God's message to the people who lived there. Let the children add the stickers and remember what the prophets said about God. Add a Micah sticker. Micah is today's prophet to the Israelites in Jerusalem.
- "Jerusalem" Center: "Cotton Ball Toss" (3MIC16PKGF5)** Use the large map of Israel. Place double stick tape near Jerusalem. Have children say the name of the city and try to toss a cotton ball so that it sticks on the tape. Applaud all efforts. If the cotton ball lands close to another city, review the events that happened there, but always end with "I wonder if the Israelites in Jerusalem will obey God?"
- "Who Is God?" Center:** Put a pile of cereal between two children. Ask one to divide the cereal so that it is fair for both. This may take some trial and error, but that is all right because they will get to hear the words "fair" and "just" often. Many times things don't seem quite fair to us. God is always

just and God is always right, even if things don't seem quite fair to us. We can trust God to have the best plan and eventually make things right.



“I Want More” Center: Bring in catalogs that have lots of toys and things to buy. Ask the children to look through and think of what they wish they had. Talk about how seeing things we want can lead to coveting. Coveting can lead to stealing, taking what you want. Contrast the catalogs with the Bible. “What does God say about coveting and stealing? (Exodus 20) What do you think the prophet Micah will say about coveting and stealing?” Emphasize the idea that God always does what is just and right even though it sometimes seems that we don't get our fair share. God always has the best plan and gives us what we need, not what we covet.



“Where Are the Israelites?” Center: Designate four areas of the room in the approximate locations that Edom, Nineveh, Samaria and Jerusalem would be in relationship to each other. Ask one or more children (depending on the class size) to go to the Edom area and shout, “I'm from Edom. Then they say, “Obadiah went to Edom (and said that God is loyal to His children.)” Ask two or more children to go to Nineveh. They shout, “We're from Nineveh!” One group says, “Jonah went to Nineveh (and said that God is full of mercy.)” The other group says, “Nahum went to Nineveh (and said that God is slow to anger but will punish sin.)” Send 2 groups of children to Samaria. They shout, “We're from Samaria!” One says, “Amos went to Samaria (and said that God is righteous.)” The other one says, “Hosea went to Samaria (and said that God is faithful to His children.)” Send two groups of children to Jerusalem. They shout, “We're from Jerusalem!” One says, “Joel went to Jerusalem (and said that God does great things in nature.)” The other one says, “Isaiah went to Jerusalem (and said that God is the Savior.)” It would help to have a teacher in each of the groups, generating enthusiasm and holding the review pictures of those particular prophets. Repeat as interest allows. A teacher could go to the Jerusalem location and introduce himself as the next prophet, Micah.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



Dress in pajamas for the Bible Adventure today. The Israelites were laying in their beds coveting and planning how to get fields and lands away from their neighbors.



Look through the folder of big-sized pictures at the Children's Table and choose pictures that could be used for the Bible Adventure.



Use small felt figures to tell the Bible Adventure. Place them close together in the center of a board. End by putting the Isaiah picture of the Lord over all the wrong things the Israelites did.



Bring a small toy that can be put in your pocket to use as an example of how we are tempted to steal.

Bible Adventure -

Here are some pictures of God's prophets. Who remembers what a prophet's job is for God? This is Isaiah. His prophet job was to tell the people living around Jerusalem that God would be the Savior for anyone who looks to Him for help. God gave them signs to help them recognize the Savior. What were the signs? Who can tell me the Savior's name? (Jesus is God the Savior.)

About the time that Isaiah lived, God had another prophet for the Israelites living around Jerusalem. His name was Micah. He was a true prophet with God's true words for the people. Say this with me, "Micah, Micah, he's our man! A true prophet of God, what a fan!"

Let's find out what the people living around Jerusalem were doing at this time. In the past, they have been worshiping idols. If we were to peek at them through binoculars, we would find that some of them believed God and His true prophets and some of them didn't. Some didn't believe that God was their Savior and continued to worship idols. They continued to think only of themselves. God had said that punishment was coming. Do your parents ask you to do something and then have to ask you again or do you obey the first time you are asked? If your parents have to say, "If I have to ask you again to clean

up your room, you will have to give up some TV time," that is your punishment. This is just what God was saying to the Israelites who didn't listen and obey the first time.

Not only were these people not listening and obeying God, they had another problem. God chose Micah to help them with this problem. As Micah traveled around Jerusalem, he had these words to share, "God sees you. He knows you are coveting and wanting things that aren't yours to have right now. He knows you are making evil plans to get these things by stealing." If an Israelite wanted a field or a house, he would lay on his bed and think and think and plan how to get it away from the owner. (Micah 2:1-2) He might stay awake all night thinking and planning. In the morning, he would do the bad thing he had planned. Maybe he thought of a plan to kill the owner of the farm so he could get the land or maybe the plan was to go to the judge and pay him money (a bribe) so the judge would let him have the land or house. (Micah 7:2-3) This is wrong, isn't it?

Can you think of any times that you have wanted something that someone else had? This is what we call coveting. This is what the Israelites were doing when Micah was the Prophet. It makes me think of someone that I know who was just your age when he visited a friend. There he played with a "transformer guy" that he like a lot. He really liked this toy and wanted to take it home for himself. He thought about putting it in his pocket. He thought about hiding it in the car. He thought and thought until he decided to put it in his sister's book bag. That is where it was when he got home. Oh, what fun he had playing with it until he was called to the phone and on the other end of the line he heard, "Have you seen my transformer? I can't find it since you were at my house." The boy told the truth and promised to return it as soon as possible. He said, "I am very sorry. I was wrong to take your transformer." Was that the right thing to do and say? Yes, it was!

We might be tempted to covet when we see someone with a pair of shoes just like we want. You might say to your parents, "Can't I have a pair of shoes just like Aaron's? Please, Dad and Mom, can't I have a bike just like Jennifer's?" The next day you might whine and say the same thing again. Is this what God would want you to do? God's right way is to be content with what you have. God's just and right way is not to want something that belongs to someone else. God knows just what you need! God knows when we want something that isn't ours. God wants us to do what is just and right, to listen to and follow Him.

Micah had more to tell the Israelites. Let's pretend to listen to Micah talking to people around Jerusalem. "Don't listen to false prophets who tell you it is okay to covet and steal. They are not telling you God's words. (Exodus 20) The false prophets did wrong things themselves and encouraged others to do wrong, too. Do you know anyone like that? Has a neighbor of yours ever tried to get you to do something that is wrong? Maybe he or she lives close to a busy street but you have been told to stay away. The neighbor knows that but he still tries to get you to do the wrong thing. Maybe a neighbor tells you it is okay to watch a bad TV show that you have been told not to watch. That is what the false prophets were doing. They didn't help people to do the right thing. The right thing was to listen to God, doing what He says is right.

Micah was a true prophet from God. He said, "God will punish you Israelites living around Jerusalem. Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble and the "holy hill" will be overgrown with weeds. If you want to start doing right, then treat people with respect and kindness, not coveting and taking things from them. If things seem unfair and you want to do right, ask God and wait patiently for God to help you with what you need." (Micah 2:11, 2:6, 3:11-12, 7:7)

How could the Israelites know which prophets were true and which were false? How could they know who was speaking the truth and who was telling them lies? They would know the same way we would know today. You can ask yourself, "Is this person teaching God's Word, the Bible, or are they telling their own ideas?" Is Pastor ___ teaching us God's words? Yes! Was Micah teaching God's words? Yes! Do false prophets teach words that are in the Bible? No! Some of their words are true and some are false. God's words are all true and teach us to live in God's just, right way.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for being a just, right and fair Savior. You help us to be content with what we have rather than coveting what someone else has. Thank you for Micah who was a true prophet who told the Israelites the truth about who You are. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Look:



“Coveting and Stealing” Coloring Page: (3MIC16PKGF3) In the picture sequence, explain that a child sees a toy and wants (covets) it, he keeps thinking about the toy as he lays on his bed, and then he takes the toy the next day. Make sure the children understand that badly wanting something that belongs to someone else and constantly thinking about it, are coveting. Taking something that belongs to someone else is stealing. God punishes coveting and stealing because He is a “just” God who punishes wrong. Instead of showing the punishment that the boy deserves, we see the boy repenting and doing the right thing. He gives back the toy and says he is sorry. The Israelites living around Jerusalem were not changing to God’s “just” and right ways. They kept coveting and stealing houses and farms from their neighbors. Micah told them that God would punish them because He is a just and fair God. As the children color, talk about the Aim Questions. After they have colored the pictures, let the children cut them apart and put them into a book. They can make covers from gift wrap. (Request four 4 1/4” x 5 1/2” pieces of construction paper per child for the books. If you want more for covers, request those also. The pages can be stapled together.)



“Israelites” Cup Puppets: (3MIC16PKGF4) Before class, cut a slit in the bottom of each paper cup. Give each child a craft stick and let them tape or glue a small picture of the Israelites on the end. The children may color the paper cups brown to represent Jerusalem, the holy hill. Help the children insert the craft-stick “Israelites through the slits in the bottoms of the cups. Let them practice moving their Israelites up and down. Tell the children that the Israelites liked to listen to false prophets who told them they could covet and take things that belonged to someone else. Have the children stick the Israelites’ heads out of the cup while they are listening to false prophets. Each child can have his or her cup puppet say they want something. “I want that house, I want that field, I want a little more land,” etc. God sees them and will be “just.” He will punish them for changing God’s words to selfish wants. Pull the sticks down so that the Israelites are inside the cup. God is still just and sees the Israelites who are not being just. Have the children look in their cups. God sees each person and has the best, right plan for each one. Ask the children what the Israelites should start doing if they want to be just and fair. “The Israelites should be thanking God for what they have rather than always wanting more.” During the Took time, let the children use their cup puppets to thank God for specific things He has given them. Keep a cup puppet to use in future lessons, to see if the Israelites have started doing the just and right thing.



Relay Game: Put lots of fun toys in a bucket. Play a relay race where children take something they want out of a bucket, go back and touch the next person in line.



True and False: Think up true and false statements and let the children tell you if they are just and right like God or if they are false and wrong. Examples might be: It is all right to wait until your dad asks you go to bed three times before you obey, you deserve more TV time than your parents allow, all the other kids get to play at the park alone so I should be able to, I will ask God for a new shirt and wait for Him to help us, I want that toy but instead of coveting and stealing, I will thank God for the things I have, etc. Let the children make up situations as well. Let them practice hearing something on radio, TV or from a friend and picking up the Bible to see if it is right.



“Mirror” Game: The teacher and children sit in a circle. The teacher makes hand and feet motions and the children copy the motion, just like the teacher. Be sure that the children understand the meaning of the word “just.” It means right, doing the right thing. After the children copy the motion, the teacher asks, “Did you do it right?” After several motions, the teacher pretends to grab something from a child. The children try to copy the motion. The teacher asks, “Is it right to grab

from someone else?" No, it isn't just and fair. Sing one of the Just and Fair songs under Song section.

Songs:



Don't Go Wanting a Little More (Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

Don't go wanting a little more
Better toys, a higher score.
More fun, more stuff, give me more!
I'd be happy with one more.
Don't go running after more.
God is just, that's for sure!



Take My Life and Let It Be

Verse 6: This reminds me of the wise men who brought their treasures to the Lord Jesus.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee. Ever, only, all for Thee.

Verse 3: This verse reminds me of the prophets whose voices were filled with God's

message.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee, Filled with messages from Thee.



Who Is Always Just and Fair? (Tune: "London Bridge")

Who is always just and fair, just and fair, just and fair?
Who is always just and fair? God, my Savior.

I want to be just and fair, just and fair, just and fair.
I want to be just and fair, just like Jesus.



God Is Fair (Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star")

God is fair and God is just
He's a God that we can trust
He will scold us when we're bad (Wag your finger, frown and shake your head "no")
When we're good, He will be glad. (Smile and shake your head "yes")
So be like God and show you care
Learn to be just and fair.

Discussion ideas to go along with the song: Explain that "just" means "right," doing the right thing. Ask, "Is it fair to take another child's toy?" Wag your finger and shake your head as you sing "He will scold us when we're bad." Ask, "What does God say about stealing?" Sing "He will scold us..." Ask, "Is God fair and just?" Sing the song again or at least the first two lines.




Took:




"Remember the Prophets" Review: (3MIC16PKGF6) Tape the faces of each of the prophets we have learned about so far on the tips of wooden clothes pins that open and close. Let the children match the face with the correct face on the "Prophet" board. The children take turns reaching into a bag, pulling out a clothes pin and hooking the clothes pin to the matching face. The child who is finding the matching face tries to remember the name of that prophet. The other children can help if he or she can't remember. Review the attribute of God that was associated with that particular prophet.

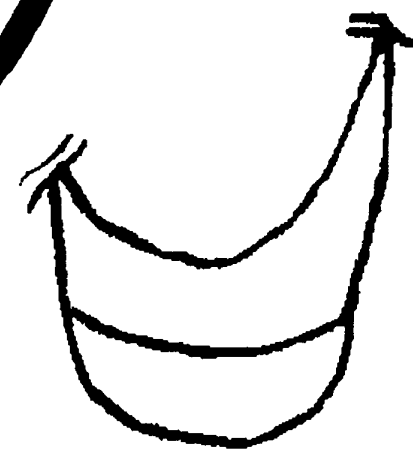
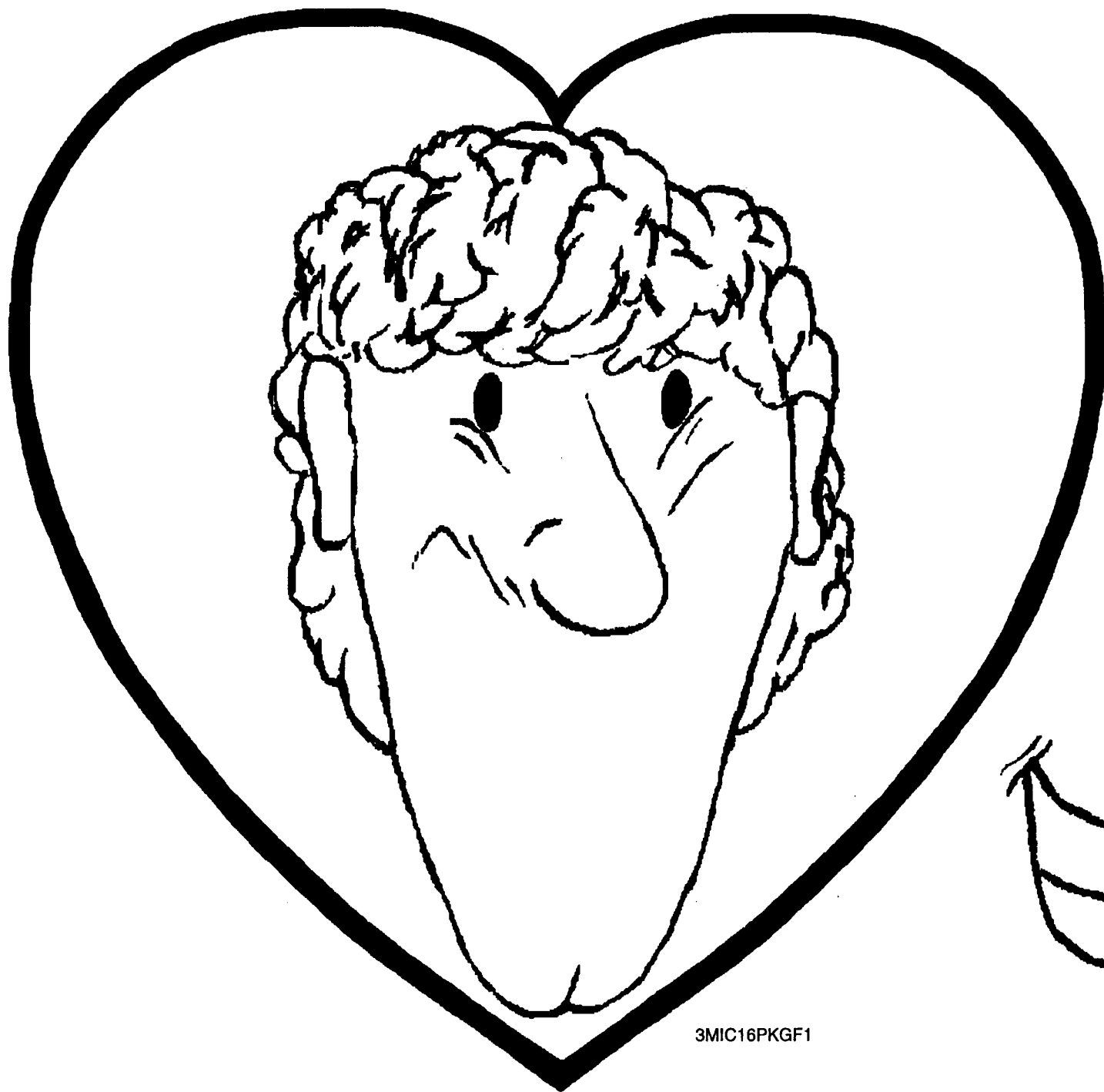


Know and Do: We KNOW God is just. We DO want to be "just," just like Him. Draw a picture of something they really would like to have. Draw a picture of themselves doing the just and right things if they are listening to the one true God. Encourage them to draw a picture of themselves on their beds praying because we always ask God for what we need. We always thank God for what we have. Sing a "thank-you" song to God.

 **Justice Teeter Totter: (3MIC16PKGF8)** Let the children put together their craft page according to the instructions. As the children move their teeter totters up and down on their pages, sing “Who Is Always Just and Fair?” Then explain that the two children are sitting balanced on a teeter totter. “When we covet something that belongs to someone else, we fall toward temptation. We want something a little more.” Add a “covet” square to one side of the teeter totter and it becomes unbalanced. “We want something a little more.” Add another covet square and the teeter totter becomes very unbalanced. Add a “steal” to the unbalanced side and the teeter totter crashes to the ground. God’s justice let the Israelite people fall and crash until they would give up their coveting and stealing.

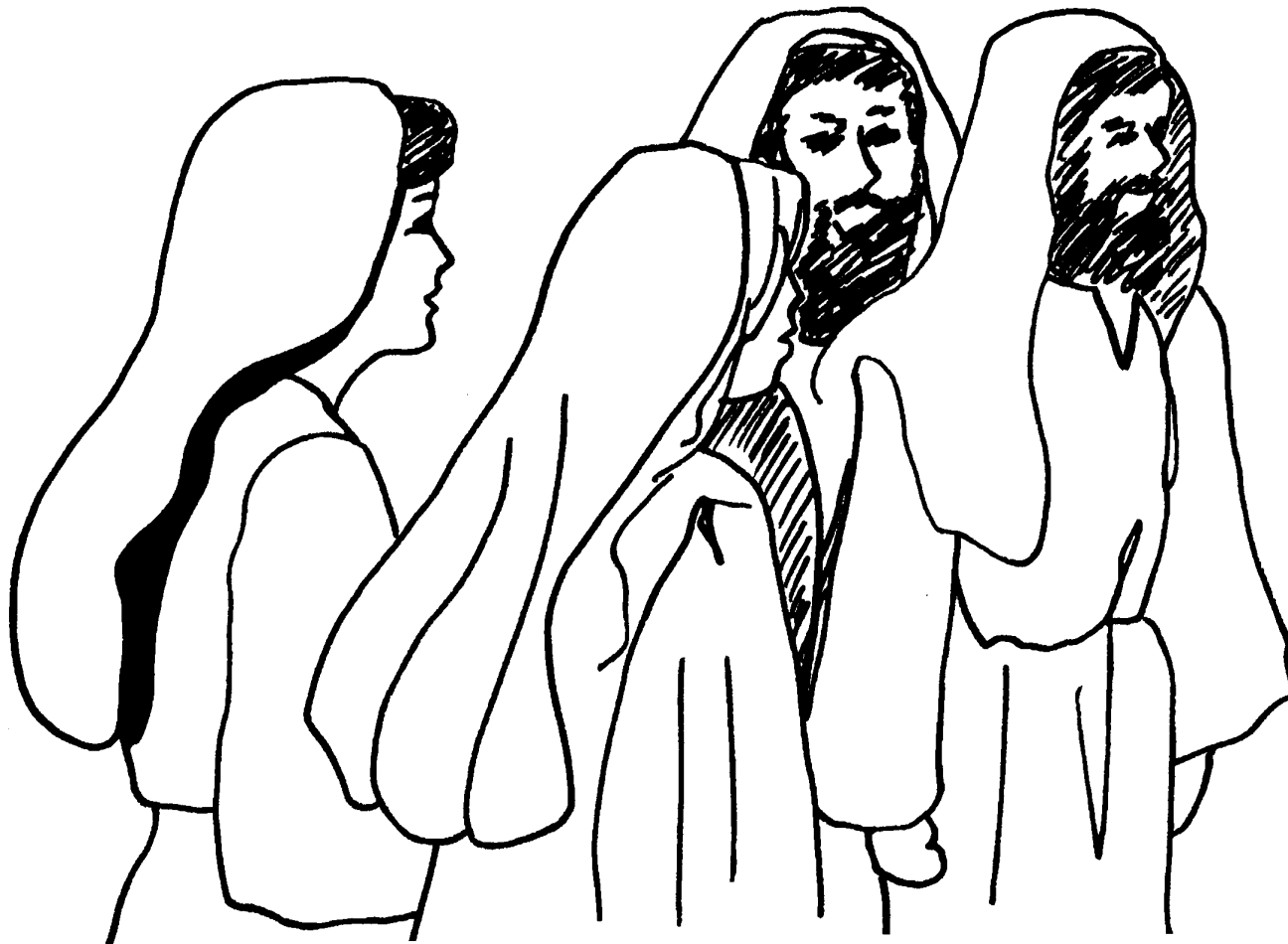
 **“Casey, the Greedy Young Cowboy” by Michael P. Waite:** Request the book from the Children’s Department. It is a simple book about a boy who always wants more than he has. In the end, he is thankful for his home and family.

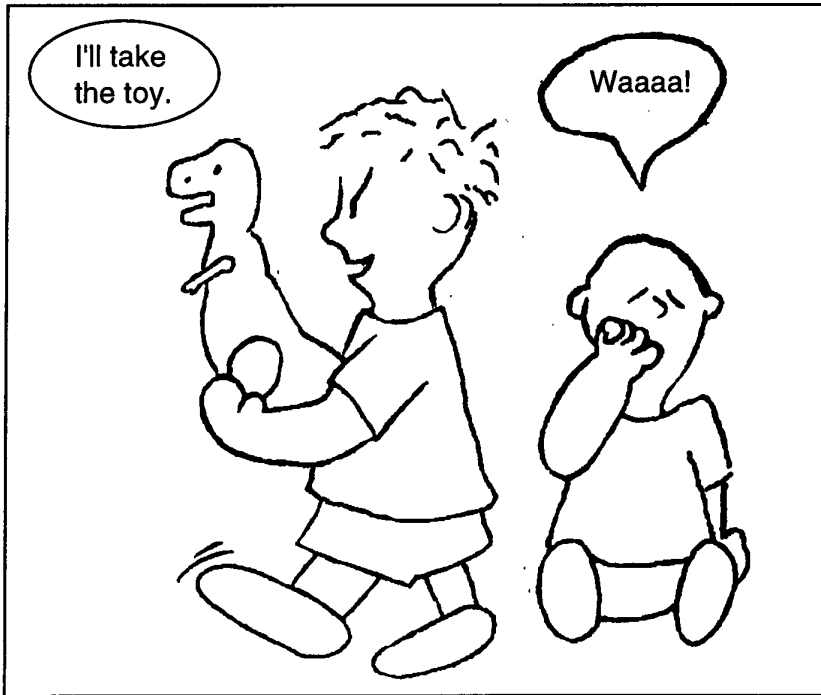
**Pin the Mouth
on Micah**

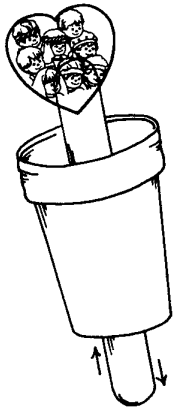


3MIC16PKGF1

**These are Israelites living around Jerusalem.
Add pictures of prophets and kings who lived in Judah. What did these people say about God's Word?**

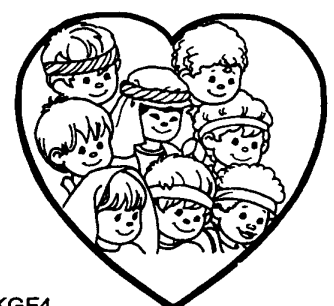
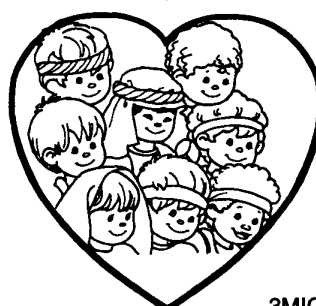
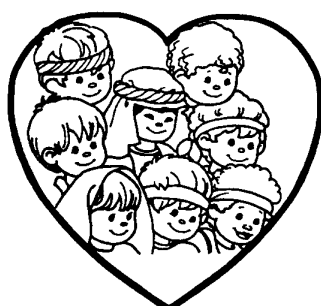
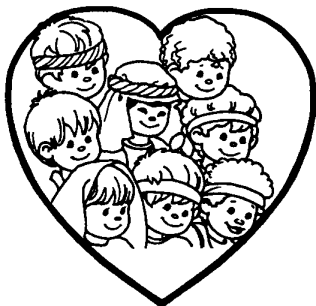
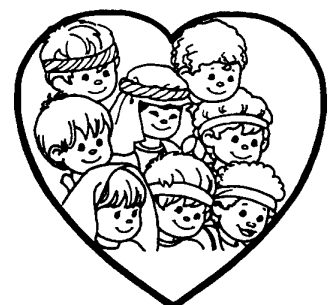
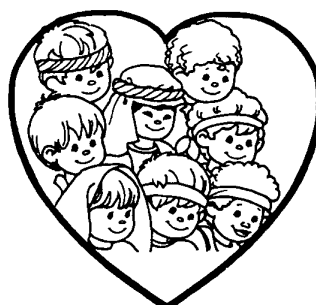
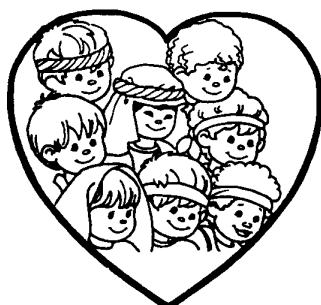
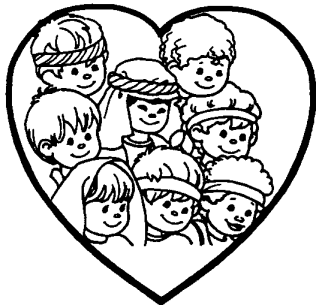
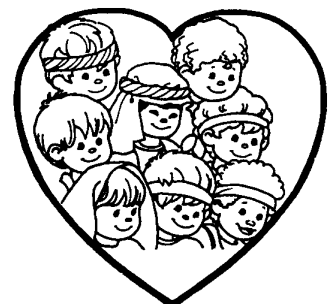
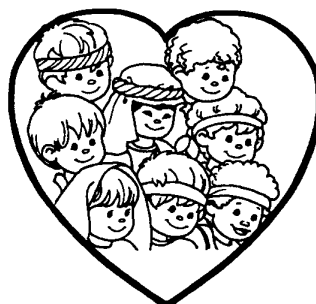
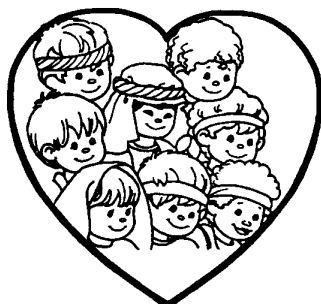
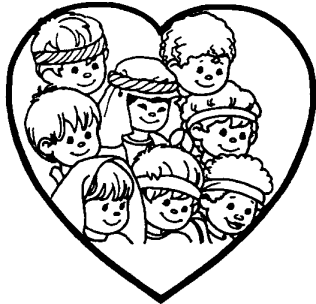
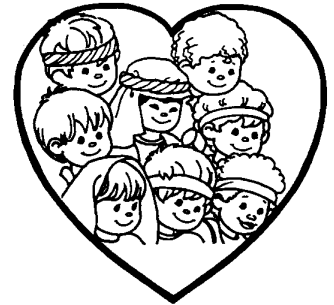
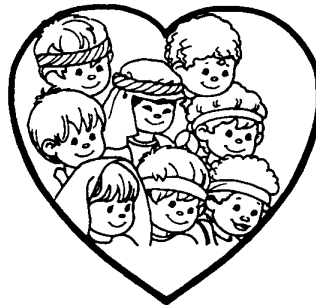
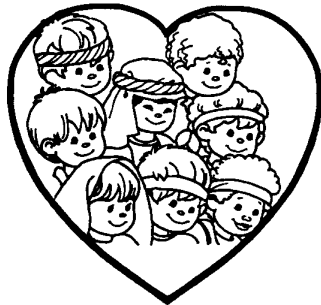
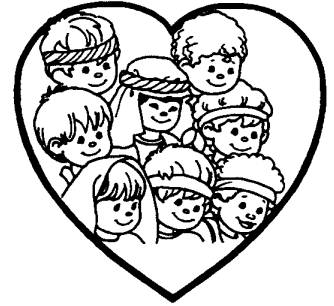
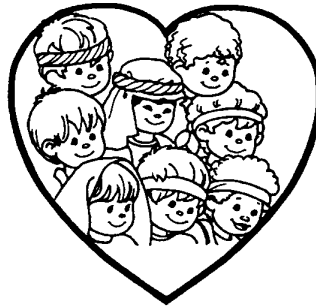
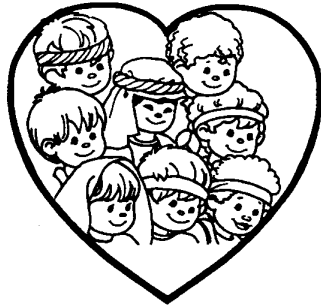
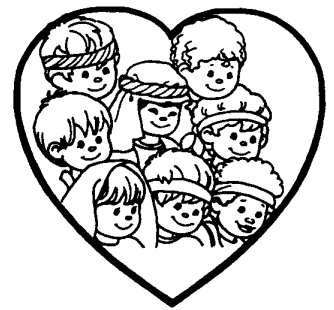
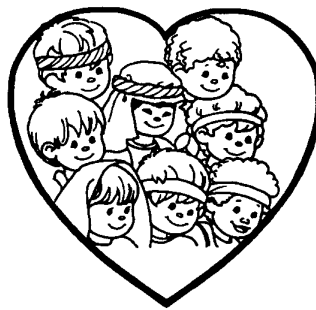
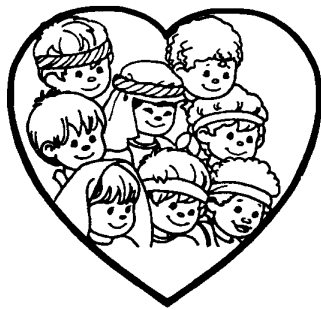




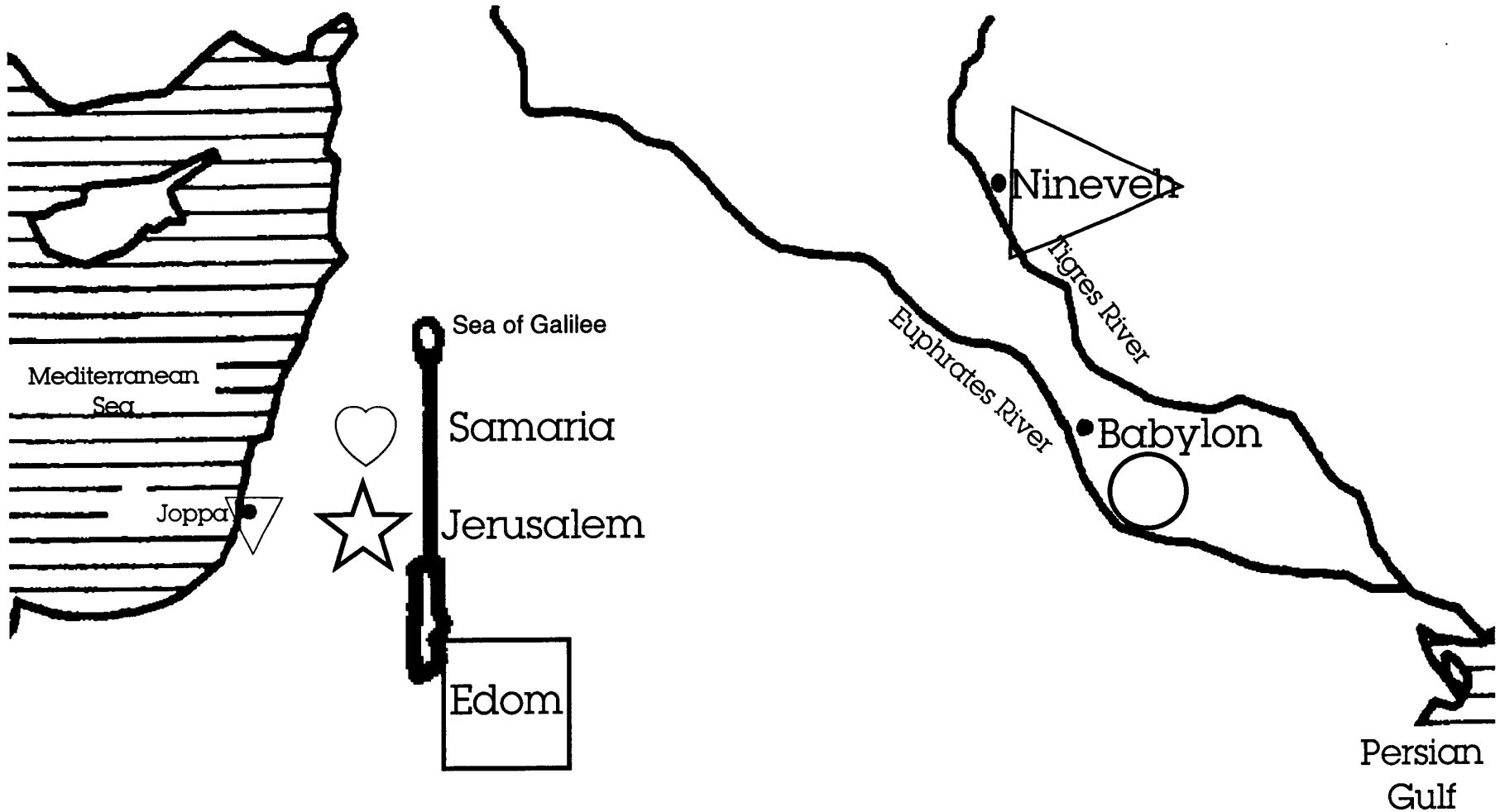


Israelite Cup Puppets

Tape or glue the pictures of the Israelites living around Jerusalem to the ends of tongue depressors. Insert the tongue depressors into slits in the bottom of small cups. The Israelites stick their heads out of the cups to "listen" to false prophets. God sees them even when they are hiding in the cups.



Map of the Middle East during the time of the Prophets



Review of the Prophets Game



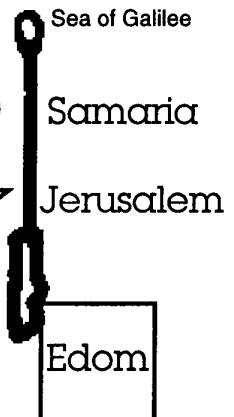
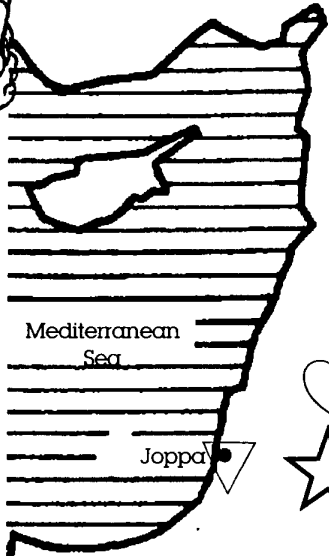
Obadiah
Edom
God is loyal
to His children



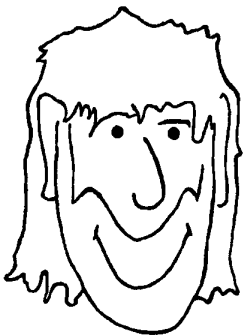
Jonah
Nineveh
God is
full of mercy



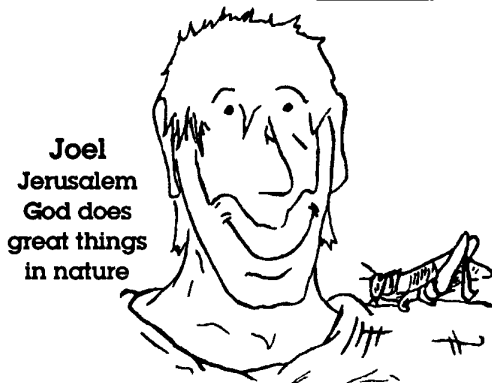
Micah
Jerusalem
God is just
and fair



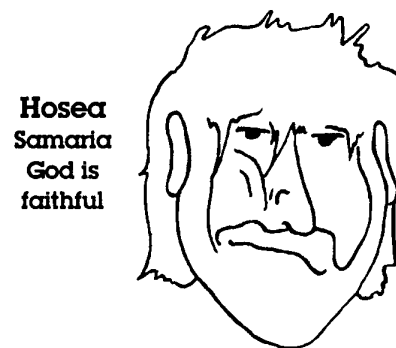
Nahum
Nineveh
God is slow
to anger
but will
punish sin



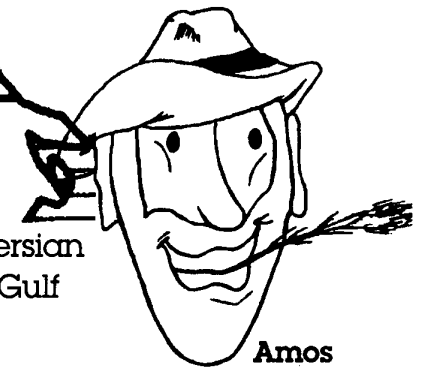
Isaiah
Jerusalem
God is
the Savior



Joel
Jerusalem
God does
great things
in nature



Hosea
Samaria
God is
faithful

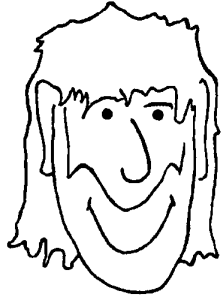
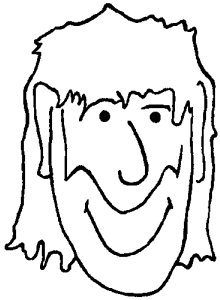


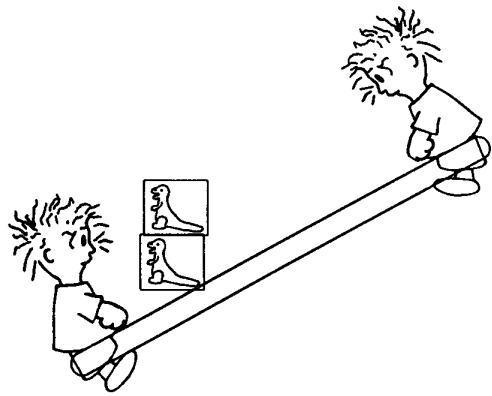
Persian
Gulf

Amos
Samaria
God is
righteous

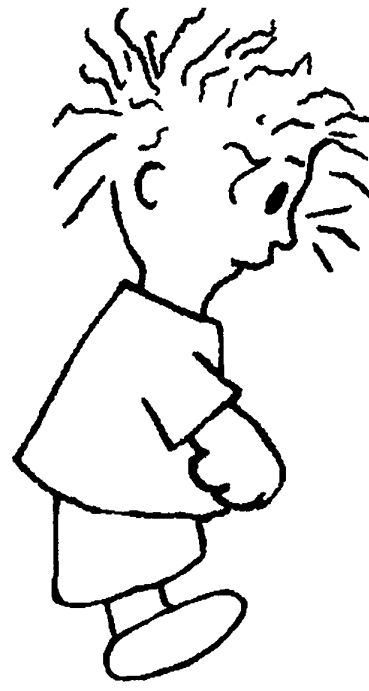
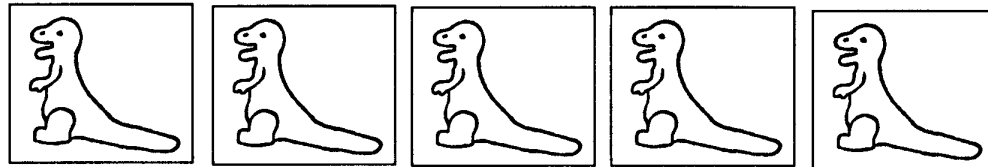
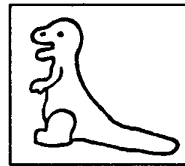
Review of the Prophets Game

Tape the faces of the prophets to the tips of wooden clothes pins.





Justice Teeter Totter
Cut 2 boys and 2 toys per craft.
Add a construction paper teeter totter secured with a brad.



Joel said that
God does great
things in nature.



Joel said that
God does great
things in nature.



Joel said that
God does great
things in nature.



Isaiah said
that God is
the Savior.



Isaiah said
that God is
the Savior.



Isaiah said
that God is
the Savior.



King Hezekiah
prayed to
the Savior.



King Hezekiah
prayed to
the Savior.



King Hezekiah
prayed to
the Savior.



Micah said
that God is
the just judge.



Micah said
that God is
the just judge.



Micah said
that God is
the just judge.



Amos lived by
Jerusalem but went
to Samaria to say
that God is righteous.



Amos lived by
Jerusalem but went
to Samaria to say
that God is righteous.



Amos lived by
Jerusalem but went
to Samaria to say
that God is righteous.



Joel said that
God does great
things in nature.



Joel said that
God does great
things in nature.



Joel said that
God does great
things in nature.



Isaiah said
that God is
the Savior.



Isaiah said
that God is
the Savior.



Isaiah said
that God is
the Savior.



King Hezekiah
prayed to
the Savior.



King Hezekiah
prayed to
the Savior.



King Hezekiah
prayed to
the Savior.



Micah said
that God is
the just judge.



Micah said
that God is
the just judge.



Micah said
that God is
the just judge.



Amos lived by
Jerusalem but went
to Samaria to say
that God is righteous.



Amos lived by
Jerusalem but went
to Samaria to say
that God is righteous.



Amos lived by
Jerusalem but went
to Samaria to say
that God is righteous.

