



# WEEK 1

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

### BREAKING NEWS

### THE BIG IDEA

When things go wrong, I can choose what's right.

### THE BIBLE

**Micah:** Micah 3:5-12;  
(I Thessalonians 2:9-13)

## LARGE GROUP TIME

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

### MUSIC | Eyewitness Praise

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play the video and invite the kids to sing along to "[You Make Me Brave](#)" by Bethel Kids.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Play the [lyric video](#) to help with retention and make it easier for kids to sing along.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids who might get overstimulated when there are loud noises or music playing, provide shakers or small instruments.

### ACTIVITY | Hilarious Headlines

- Hey, friends! Are you ready for some news? We're going to be hearing about a fascinating job given to some fascinating people. **Does anyone know what a prophet is?**
- A prophet brings people the news, kind of like a person you might see on TV who shares what's happening in the world, or a person who writes for a newspaper or blog and shares all that's happening we may have missed.
- But a prophet doesn't bring just any news. A prophet brings news from God. Sometimes, that made them really unpopular, but they had to be truthful about what God had to say . . . which was like breaking news coming straight from Heaven!
- Sometimes, the breaking news was exciting! Other times, it was a bit intense. Before we get into today's story, let's write our own breaking news stories!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide the kids with pieces of white paper and something to write with – pencils for the older kids, crayons for the younger kids. Tell each kid to write or draw a news story about something silly or crazy happening! For example, “Breaking News: Children are Now In Charge of Grownups!” or “Breaking News: Salads Will Now Be Replaced with Ice Cream at All Restaurants!”
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Write out each of the following questions – “Who?” “What?” “When?” “Where?” “Why?” and have kids call out random responses. Write the responses down, then have a volunteer read what you’ve written in a newscaster’s voice, as if it were a breaking news story. You could also do this activity in teams (see your Week 1 Preteen Hacks document for more detailed instructions).
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Pre-write some funny headlines with some simple, corresponding images (preferable line drawings) and have the kids choose the one that they would like. They can color these headlines you provide for them and make it their own.

### ACTIVITY | Making the News

- Prophets were people who would hear from God and share what they heard with others. Let’s play a fun game about sharing news!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into smaller groups. Provide each group with one strip of banner paper (with a funny headline written on it along the short edge) and a pencil. The first person draws a picture about the headline and then folds the paper back to hide the headline. Pass the paper to the next person who then writes a headline for the picture. Continue folding and passing, alternating headlines and pictures until the page is full. When finished, share the end result with the group.
- Has everyone had a chance to make your headline or picture? Now, let’s take a look at the news your group made together!

### QUESTION | Live Reaction

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using the same groups from the previous activity, invite the kids to share their reactions to the following questions. Tell them to “freeze” with their facial expression and/or gestures after you ask each question.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Instead of asking kids to freeze their facial expressions, have volunteers come up to the board and draw the emoji(s) they’d react to these questions with. Then, ask them to share more about why they chose those emojis.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Print out some facial expressions for kids to choose from. Turn each question below to statements (e.g., “If I noticed a friend cheating on a test, I would feel mad.”). Then ask the kids to show you the emotion.
- **How would you react if you saw someone doing something that may not be very good for them or the people around them?**
- **How would you react if you noticed a friend cheating on a test?**
- **How would you react if you saw an older person struggling to carry their groceries and people were just walking by without helping?**

- **How would you react if you saw someone get picked on?**
- **What if you saw some kids in your class at school were being disrespectful to the teacher?**
- When we see people making poor decisions around us, it can be hard to know what to do. Maybe we get influenced by their actions and just follow what they're doing. Maybe we know we should speak up and share the right thing to do, but we're afraid.
- Things happen every day that require us to make good choices and do the right thing, even when it's hard to do. And the right thing is whatever God would want us to do.

### SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

#### SCRIPTURE | Micah 3:5-12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Recruit two adult helpers to play the parts of the reporter and Micah, or you can play the different parts yourself. If you are playing both parts, find some way to distinguish each character you are playing by position and/or tone of voice. If using volunteers, provide a handheld microphone – real or pretend – for the characters to use.*
- Today, we're going to hear about a prophet named Micah.
- Micah was a prophet who lived during Bible times way before Jesus was born. Here's a fun fact: Micah actually brought the news about where Jesus would be born! That's pretty cool, huh?
- Micah lived in Israel, near a city called Jerusalem. Micah had some "breaking news" for the people, and it wasn't good. Let's hear an interview with Micah. I take you now to our news reporter.
  - **Reporter:** Good day. This is *[Insert name.]* here with breaking news from the prophet, Micah. Micah has heard from God and is sharing what he's been told. Micah, what message do you have from God today?
  - **Micah:** Well *[reporter's name]*, God wants to let us know about some prophets who are leading people in the wrong direction. When they get what they want, they call for peace. But when they don't, they're ready to call for war!
  - **Reporter:** Oh, my! That sounds like the prophets are speaking out of self interest.
  - **Micah:** Indeed. And this is what God has to say about that. Those prophets will soon be unable to hear from God at all because they do as they like instead of following the things God says.
  - **Reporter:** But what about you, Micah?
  - **Micah:** Oh, God still speaks to me and uses me to share the news because I am willing to tell everyone the hard truths. So listen up, rulers and leaders in Israel! There are some things that need to change around here. There are those of you who are unfair to people who need your help, and instead, only help people who bribe you with money! If you keep that up, our nation is doomed! Doomed, I tell you!
  - **Reporter:** Wow. You have really given us a lot to think about. Until next time, this is *[reporter's name]* leaving you with this sobering news from the prophet, Micah.
- Micah had some pretty big breaking news from God! He probably became the most unpopular person around. You see, the people of Israel – especially the rulers and leaders – had become dishonest and were treating people badly. Instead of pointing people to God, they were turning them away.

- Micah called them out on their unjust ways and warned them that terrible things would happen if they continued disobeying God and kept mistreating people.
- Here's the awesome thing about Micah and his news: Micah still followed and listened to God, and wanted others to obey, too. No matter what others did, Micah chose to stand up for what's right.
- **What can we learn from Micah's breaking news?**

### THE BIG IDEA | When things go wrong, I can choose what's right.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask for the help of two volunteers to run across the front carrying a banner that says, "Breaking News" and play the sound effects from [this video](#). Enlist another volunteer to play the role of the breaking news reporter every week.
- We interrupt these activities to bring you some breaking news. This is [name of volunteer] with today's Big Idea that everyone needs to remember: **When things go wrong, I can choose what's right!**
- We'll now return to your regularly scheduled programming.

### VIDEO | Breaking News, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

### STORY | Right and Wrong

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a story (or have another leader share a story) about a time when you saw people around you doing what was wrong, and you didn't stand up for what was right. For example, you didn't stand up for someone who was getting picked on. Or a group of your friends made an unwise decision that you went along with. Keep the story age appropriate, and focus on how you wished you would have been brave enough to do what was right.
- **Have you ever wished you would have said something about something going wrong around you?**
- It isn't always easy to say something about the things you know are wrong. But whatever you do – or don't do – remember that you are making a choice.
- **When things go wrong, I can choose what's right.**

### OBJECT LESSON | Thermometer Vs. Thermostat

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Project images of a [thermometer](#) and a [thermostat](#) or bring in a thermometer and talk while standing next to the thermostat in your room.
- On the screen, you'll see a picture of a thermometer and a thermostat. Both of these things have to do with the temperature in a room. However, there's one difference between them. A thermostat's temperature doesn't change – but it changes the temperature of a room so that it is only as hot or cold as it's supposed to be. A thermometer changes itself anytime the temperature changes in the room.
- The people of Israel were all like thermometers: they seemed to adjust themselves to what everyone else was doing. But Micah chose to be a thermostat. He stood up for what was right and decided the "temperature" needed to change.

**SCRIPTURE | I Thessalonians 2:9-13**

- The news Micah shared with the people of Israel is news for us, too. We need to do what God expects us to do, not what everyone else is doing.
- **When things go wrong, we can choose what's right.**
- There are many places the Bible talks about this. Let's take a look at some verses that remind us to follow God, be brave, and set an example for those around us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read I Thessalonians 2:9-13.*
- Let's focus on verse ten for a moment. It uses a special word: "witnesses." **Does anyone know what a witness is?**
- A witness is somebody who sees something happen. In news stories, reporters will often try to find and talk to eyewitnesses – people who personally saw something happen and can give a description of it.
- We have to remember that no matter what, there will always be witnesses in our lives. **When things go wrong, we can choose what's right.**

**NOW WHAT?** *What does God want us to do about it?***REFLECTION | Stick Up For You Stickies**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a sticky note and something to write with. Tell each kid to write on their sticky note and place it in the front of the room on a wall or a board.*
- It can be easy to do what everyone else is doing around us. But I hope that you'll follow Micah's example and stand up for what is right. Wake up each day and ask God to help you do what's right, even when things around you are going wrong.
- Think of one way that you can choose what's right this week. Maybe you want to stand up for someone getting made fun of. Maybe you want to stick around after dinner and wash the dishes, even after everyone leaves the kitchen.
- Write a prayer on your sticky note asking God to give you the strength to do the right thing you just thought of.

**RESPONSE | "Who I Wanna Be"**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the song, "[Who I Wanna Be](#)" by Kids on the Move.*
- Right now, I want us to sing and dance along to a song all about choosing to live for God! Let's get up and move!

**MEMORY VERSE | Memory Mirrors**

- Sometimes, news gets repeated often so you will be sure to remember it. Repeat the memory verse after me first, then let's try it with a partner.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pair the kids for this mirroring activity. They will first repeat the verse after you then face their partner and say the verse together. For added fun while reciting the verse, have the kids copy each other's movements like they're looking in a mirror!*

**PRAYER**

- God, thank you for the example of the prophet, Micah. When things are going wrong around us, help us to choose what is right. Help us to be brave so that we can do the things you want us to do, even when it seems like no one else is.

**SMALL GROUP TIME****DISCUSSION**

- **What are prophets and what did they do?**
- **What are some of things that were wrong around Micah's time?**
- **How did Micah stand up for what was right?**
- **Let's look at I Thessalonians 2:10 again. Why is it important to remember that we have "eyewitnesses" in our lives?**
- **If it were your job to bring news to your friends from God like Micah did, how would you feel delivering it?**
- **As people who follow God, why is it important to remember that people notice how we live?**
- **How will you choose to do what's right this week?**

**ACTIVITY | Eyewitness Account**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a pretend microphone to interview the kids. When they volunteer to share an eyewitness account, ask questions to get more information.
- We have to remember that no matter what, there will always be witnesses in our lives. Whether it's our classmates at school, a younger sibling, or our friends at church, there will always be someone watching our actions.
  - **Can any of you give an eyewitness account of a friend or family member choosing to do what is right?**
  - **Who did you witness choosing to do what is right?**
  - **What did you witness? What choices did they make?**
- Thank you all for your eyewitness accounts. Those people have certainly set an example of how we can follow God. They help us to remember **when things go wrong, I can choose what's right.**

**MEMORY VERSE | I Corinthians 16:13 (NIV)**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.