

Minor Prophets

Answer Key

Lesson 1:

1. Where on the cycle of Israel's history is your nation? Where are you?
Student Answer
2. How do you see the balance of judgment and hope portrayed in the gospel?
God's Word is always balanced. Offering both admonition and encouragement. Messages warned of judgement, but they also offered hope and restoration.
3. What is the meaning of the word prophet?
Comes from the Hebrew word nabi, which means "to bubble forth as a fountain. The Greek word pro-phemi means "to speak forth truths for another."
4. Tell about a time when you felt God message "bubble forth as a fountain" out of your lips?
This could be any type of healing, when people get the Holy Ghost, when he provided.
5. Because a man is a prophet, does that mean that everything he says is right? Explain
The prophets are human and did not have 24/7 inerrant inspiration.

Lesson 2:

1. In one sentence describe Hosea.
He was a man of intense mercy, and forgiveness with added disciplines.
2. Describe Gomer in one sentence.
She was a selfish human who was not content in her life.
3. Why did God tell Hosea to marry a prostitute?
"To give Israel a picture of their unfaithfulness to Me."
4. Being in the will of God brought Hosea much pain. Name other biblical characters who also suffered while obeying God
Abraham, Noah, Daniel
5. Why did God keep extending mercy to Israel?
God never stopped loving Israel. Love endures all things; it is tough.

Lesson 3:

1. Quote Joel 2:28-29
"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see vision: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."
2. How did the sins of the people affect the land and the animals?
Sin caused droughts, streams and rivers dried up, wild fires, and dust storms. Animals shrunk to skeletons. Nothing was available for sacrifices.
3. Agree or disagree: As the people, so the land. (Be prepared to defend your answer.)
Agree. People represent the land. Frequently if the people sinned the land was affected by the judgment.
4. Why were the priests commanded to weep between the altar and the porch?
It was a time for them to lead the people back to the Lord with fasting, weeping and mourning. It was time for the people "to rend their hearts and not their garments."

5. What effect did Joel say it would have upon the land if the priests and people repented?
How does this apply to your nation today?
Their reproach would be taken away, the army from the north would be defeated, fields and meadows would provide food for the animals, the former and latter rains would come, barns and vats would be filled, what had been lost in the locust plague would be restored, empty stomachs would be filled, and they would never be ashamed.
6. Where did Peter get his text on the Day of Pentecost?
Joel 2:28-32.
7. Why were the Jews surprised when God poured out His Spirit upon all flesh?
The Jews thought they were God's "chosen people," they developed a mentality we've got it and you cant have it.

Lesson 4:

1. Why did Amos feel unqualified to be a prophet? Have you ever felt this way?
He did not inherit his position as a prophet. He was a simple shepherd and gatherer. He was called of God.
2. Why do you think God often chooses those who seem most unlikely to declare His Word?
Most unlikely people might be humble but strong to deliver an unpopular message
3. Name some of the sins of Israel.
Israel was rotten. Idolatry, injustice, greed, hypocrisy, oppression, arrogance
4. How did the rich treat the poor?
Oppressed the poor and crushed the needy.
5. What are the dangers of prosperity?
Abandoned real faith in God, they pretended to be religious. Superficial religious exercises and insincere worship.
6. What current events are the fulfillment of Amos's prophecies?
Jews from the north, south, east, and west have returned to the land God gave their forefathers, becoming a nation again.
7. Explain this statement: It is not far from Bethel, the house of God, to Bethaven, the house of vanities or emptiness.
No matter where the people fled, judgment would follow. There would be no escape.

Lesson 5:

1. What were God's two main charges against Edom?
Pride and their mistreatment of Israel and their brothers.
2. What were the two main sources of Edom's pride?
Centered on their geographical stronghold, and their wisdom.
3. Read Revelation 3:14-19 and relate Edom to the lukewarm church of Laodicea.
The Edomites were proud and profane, having nothing to do with the God of their forefather Abraham. They glorified in their knowledge and were proud of its academia. God hates pride.
4. Why did God tell Israel not to meddle with Edom?
Thy were proud and profane, having nothing to do with the God of their forefather Abraham.
5. What was Moses' request to the king of Edom?
Moses was requesting permission to pass through their land on the main trade route.
6. What was the king's reply?
That Moses shall not pass lest the king comes out against them with the sword.

7. Why is it important that we treat our brothers respectfully?
Because God warned against showing disrespect against your brothers.
8. What is God's promise to those who love the Jews?
They will be blessed.
9. How were the Edomites eventually wiped out?
They were raided and left desolate by the same Babylonians whom they had aided against Jerusalem.

Lesson 6:

1. What did you learn from Jonah (1) in a fix, (2) in a fish, (3) in a revival, and (4) in a rage?
Jonah threw temper tantrums and had a pity party. He was all about himself and what people thought. He preferred judgment over mercy, but he was lucky God showed mercy on him and not given up on him.
2. Name the steps of Jonah's downward progression.
Down to Joppa, down into the ship, down into the sides of the ship, down into the sea, down into the fish's belly and down to the bottom of the mountains.
3. What does Jonah's reluctance to preach to the Assyrians tell you about his mindset?
That Jehovah God belonged to Israel and Israel only; no one outside of Jacob's family deserved God's mercy.
4. How was Jonah a sign to the people of Jesus' day?
Comparing it to His burial and resurrection.
5. If Jonah wrote the Book of Jonah, as most commentators believe, what does that tell you about Jonah's character?
His character lets me know that he wanted it written correctly. He was a rule follower and didn't feel like mercy should be shown to the Assyrians yet God showed Jonah mercy many of time.

Lesson 7:

1. Discuss the hypocrisy that existed in Israel. Is it possible for our worship to become a hypocritical show? How can we avoid this?
Hypocrisy was a pompous show of publicly observing sacred days and season. They offered sacrifices, all the while privately living immoral lives and worshipping idols.
2. Discuss how the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah affected the nation of Judah. Relate this to how the leaders of the church affect the spiritual condition of the congregation. How does this make you feel about your responsibility as a minister of the gospel?
Jotham ruled with luxury. Ahaz worshiped Moloch, the god of Ammon, offered his sons as sacrifices, and erected altars to idols. Hezekiah began with reformation. He tore down idols and cleansed the temple. However, in the sixth year, the tribes fell and Hezekiah bowed to Assyria's demands and paid tribute.
3. How do you feel when you see God extending mercy to your enemies? How quick are you to extend mercy to those who offend you?
I want mercy to be shown to my enemies because I know much more has been shown to me. At times it is hard to show mercy to enemies but so much mercy has been shown to me.
4. Why do you think God was so longsuffering and merciful to Israel and Judah?
God never leaves his people without hope and He often delays judgment. God's mercy reached out to them, and still does.

5. Discuss how mercy covers the Law. Share a time when mercy was extended to you.
Mercy did not change the Law, but mercy covered it. Mercy was soft and forgiving where the law was hard and unchanging.
6. Memorize Micah 7:8. Share a time when you fell and got up, or a time when you “{sat} in darkness and the Lord was a light” to you.
Answers could include, disappointing people by making wrong choices, misunderstandings in relationships ect...

Lesson 8:

1. Jonah was reluctant to offer Nineveh mercy. How do you think Nahum felt about pronouncing judgment on them?
He wouldn't be the favorite around by pronouncing judgment. Jonah would probably much preferred to give the message of judgment rather than mercy.
2. How do you feel when you preach about the judgment of the wicked? What does this tell you about your passion for the lost?
Answers could include: sad, depressing, urgency, eagerness. That the lost must be reached no matter how the message is delivered. The message must go forth.
3. Relate a sermon you preached (or heard) that brought both comfort and doom. What made the difference?
I have no examples of this. Teacher would know what to look for in this question.
4. If God were to judge you today, what do you think He would say?
Along the lines of everyone can do better. Probably something with I could have tried harder and done more. Teacher would know what to look for in this question.

Lesson 9.

1. Compare your world to Habakkuk's.
Answers could include that the Babylonians were building the Tower of Babel trying to reach heaven. It could be said that people are trying in the world today to become a superpower by building their own empire.
2. Recall Habakkuk's questions and God's answers.
“How long?” “Why?” “Wherefore?”
3. What is meant by “the just shall live by faith”?
Basically, put your hope and trust in God through everything and your faith shall ensure eternal life.
4. If it is impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6), is doubt a sin?
Doubt is a human characteristic defined as having a lack of confidence in a person or situation. It think where doubt becomes a sin is when you don't put your faith in God to help. But to just doubt is not a sin unless it relates to not having faith in God.

Lesson 10:

1. Imagine Zephaniah preaching a revival in your city. Which verse from his book would he use for his text? Give his sermon a title. Decide on his three main points.
“None will Escape God's Judgment” Zephaniah 1:1-3.
1. Show that judgment will come to everyone and everything thing
2. A time of repentance
3. A time of restoration
2. Describe Zephaniah's and Josiah's roles in Judah's revival. How do you think Zephaniah's ministry affected Josiah?

Zephaniah's blistering messages combined with Josiah's repentant heart brought forth revival.

3. What is the danger of being settled on our lees?
You become stagnant and bitter.
4. How do the indictments God made against Judah apply to our world?
His call to repentance is universal.
5. Describe the Day of the Lord as seen by Zephaniah.
It will be a day of total destruction, it is at hand, the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, guests are invited, royalty (leaders) and those who wear strange apparel will be destroyed, it will cause mighty men to weep bitterly, it will be a day of trouble, distress, waste, desolation, thick darkness, and gloom. It will be a day of trumpets and alarms, men will stumble like blind men, it will day of great bloodshed, corpses will be dung, and the land will be devoured by fire.

Lesson 11:

1. Compare Haggai's preaching and the people's responses to I Corinthians 1:18 and Romans 10:13-17. Share a time when the preaching of God's Word stirred your spirit and motivated you to action.
I Corinthians states that you must have preaching to be saved. And Romans backs that up and states that how can people hear the message if not by a preacher.
2. Discuss how people today give the same excuses as the Jews for not working on God's house.
Today we become distracted in taking care of ourselves and postponing God's work.
3. Does seeking first the kingdom of God guarantee that we will always prosper materially? Explain.
Not necessarily. You will be blessed but it may not always be materially.
4. Is it important that believers have a building in which to worship? Why or why not?
The first thing the Jews did when they reached their homeland was rebuild the altar. This should say something. Building a building brings people together to worship.

Lesson 12:

1. Compare the ministries of Haggai and Zechariah.
Haggai was a hands-on, feet-on-the-ground man. Zachariah was a visionary with his head in the clouds.
2. Discuss how the sins of past generations are affecting your nation and your lives today. Name some ways that your generation's actions can affect future generations
A few would be racism, corruption in politics, abortions. If we don't take care of these problems history has a tendency to repeat itself. We will be dealing with this problem on a greater scale.
3. Which of Zechariah's visions speaks loudest to you? Why?
The Woman in the Basket: It represented a large container carried by two women storks. The woman were representing wickedness of the world power.
4. Quote three prophetic phrases/verses that refer to the last days.
Nations will gather against Jerusalem. The Lord will fight for Israel. The Messiah's feet will stand on the Mount of Olives.
5. Why do you think God has chosen Jerusalem as the place from which He will reign over the earth?
This is where His chosen people are from. It is where the prophesies happened.

Lesson 13:

1. In reading the Book of Malachi, which phrase or verse spoke the loudest to you?
Malachi 3:7—Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.
2. Explain “Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated” (Romans 9:13).
Gods’ feelings did not determine their lifestyles; their lifestyles determined God’s feelings
3. How had the priests in Malachi’s day violated the Levitical covenant?
They were careless, irreverent, and neglectful. They lost their respect in God.
4. How did the Jews’ attitude and actions turn their blessings into curses?
They had defiled the priesthood and the covenant of the Levites, they had married idolaters, they withheld the Lord’s portion.
5. Compare the sun and Son.
The sun set on the dispensation of the Law. The son of righteousness brings life and death to those who fear God’s name.
6. The Old Testament ends with the word “curse.” What is the significance of this?
The transition comes from the word curse to Jesus Christ in the New Testament who brought blessing and hope.