

Name _____

Date _____

The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith & Justice
Directed Reading Worksheet
Chapter 7, *God's Prophets At the Heart of the Journey*

Directions: Read carefully through Chapter 7 and then use the text as a reference to locate answers for the questions. All questions in this *Directed Reading Worksheet* are taken in sequential order from the chapter – first questions from the early sections of the chapter; last questions from the end of the chapter, etc. Answer **True or False** questions by circling the word True or False at the beginning of the question. **Fill-in-the-Blank** questions must often be answered with one than one word per blank. (Refer to your text often!) Write your own **Short Answers** for other questions.

Page 156 Introduction

1. The Hebrew word associated with _____, *nabi*, is connected first with _____ because he was the prophet who _____ God's message of liberation and _____ it with the people enslaved in Egypt.
2. Who are the prophets of the Deuteronomistic History, also known as the "former prophets"?
3. Prophecy became a _____ movement when the _____ of selected prophets were repeated and kept, just as the sayings of _____ were kept by the earliest Christians.
4. Who are all the so called "latter prophets"?
5. True or False. The major prophets have a more important message to share than do the minor prophets.

Pages 157-161 Marks of the Prophets

6. Explain the two common marks or roles of the prophets.
7. True or False. The call to prophecy always came the same way to each prophet.
8. What was the general message of the prophets?
9. Explain the similar pattern of the "call narratives" of Isaiah and Jeremiah, and even Moses!
10. What was the basis of the prophet's criticism of Israel? How does this connect them to Moses?
11. What is the textual evidence throughout the Old Testament to support the identification of the judges as prophets also?
12. What does it mean to refer to the judges as "warrior-prophets"?
13. True or False. The call to prophecy always came the same way to each prophet.
14. God communicated his choice of kings through the _____ as we see when Samuel anointed _____ and later _____ as a sign to the community of God's choice.

15. The Old Testament supports the idea that prophets once had a _____ in early Israelite society such as when the prophet _____ prayed for the appearance of a “heavenly _____.”
16. The Old Testament prophets showed passionate concern for the _____ whenever they suffered oppression by the _____. The strongest of the prophets _____ precisely during the time when there was the worst _____ and treatment of the poor.
17. Many prophets announced that God would judge Israel by a single “measuring stick.” What was the measuring stick?
18. The religious concern of the prophets --- to _____ --- was always accompanied by their _____.
19. A crucial element to understanding both Jesus and the Old Testament prophets can be summed up in one word: _____.
20. What is the “messenger formula?” Give an example.
21. Besides being messengers of God, the prophets were also classified as _____ of God.
22. Even though the historical books often condemned the _____ of ancient Israel, the _____ were revered, at least by the time their stories were _____.
23. Explain the evolution of the prophetic books that we are familiar with today --- how did they come to be?
24. What is an oracle?

Pages 161-169 *The Servants, the Prophets*

25. The prophets of the ninth and tenth centuries B.C. fulfilled their roles as God’s _____ by continually calling the people back to _____.
26. What were the three main teachings about God promoted by the four prophets in the northern kingdom?
27. How do scholars believe the stories of Elijah and Elisha made their way into the Deuteronomistic History?
28. The name *Elijah* means “_____” which was also his central message. He is considered the _____ of all the prophets and lived in the northern kingdom in the ninth century B.C. under the rule of King _____.
29. True or False. The key to understanding Elijah is understanding the tension between the worship of Yahweh and the influences of the ancient Canaanite religion.
30. We are introduced to Elijah in 1 Kings when he is suddenly thrust into history by his _____ with Ahab, when he announced that there would be no _____. After this announcement Elijah fled across the _____ where he was miraculously fed by _____.
31. What good news did Elijah bring to the humble widow in Zarehath?
32. Describe the three events in Elijah’s ministry that helped to demonstrate that Yahweh was more powerful than the Canaanite god, Baal.

33. Because _____ threatened his life, Elijah fled to Mount _____, the same place where Moses received the _____ and encountered _____. This place was fitting because it was Elijah's mission to restore _____ and the pure faith among the people.
34. For what reason is Elijah considered to be among the greatest prophets of the Old Testament?
35. True or False. There is no miraculous story to mark Elijah's birth or his passing.
36. Explain the significance of the fact that some events in the life of Elisha parallel the life of Elijah. How does Elijah ritually symbolize this?
37. The stories of Elijah and Elisha _____ for the prophetic books that made up a large section of the Old Testament. Their major concerns were _____ and _____ to Yahweh, which they saw as closely connected. These two _____ carried through all of the prophets of the Old Testament.
38. The prophetic ministry of the prophet _____ took place in the _____ (*careful!*) kingdom during the rule of _____. He was the first prophet for whom there was a _____.
39. Just like other books of the prophets, the book of Amos was probably _____ by the prophet's _____. And like Elisha's relationship with Elijah, it seems clear that prophets almost always had disciples who participated in their _____ travels and _____.
40. True or False. Because of his background as a Temple priest, Amos was often associated with the elite of society.
41. What were the social justice issues that Amos spoke against in the northern kingdom?
42. The passage from Amos 6 described some of the excesses of the wealthy: indulgent _____, furniture inlaid with imported _____, feasting on young _____, drinking wine acquired with taxes and fines imposed on the _____ and drunk not from cups, but from _____.
43. Why was Amos especially angry about the excess money used for Temple worship?
44. Just like other prophets, Amos' message was often one of _____, however, most of the time prophetic warnings were intended to _____.
45. True or False. Amos knew that God always intended to destroy the people for their sinfulness because they would ruin his plan for salvation.
46. True or False. The last words in the book of Amos are hopeful about the future and God's continued blessings.
47. Describe the similarities between the prophets Amos and Hosea.
48. Describe the differences between the prophet Amos and Hosea.

49. In the opening verses of Hosea we learn that God called him to _____ a known _____ named _____. She was accused of _____ which refers not only to illicit sexual behavior but also the practice of _____ along with Yahweh.
50. Hosea was a prophet who must be both _____ and _____ because he _____ part of his _____ in his own life. The reader had to pay attention to what his strange actions may _____.
51. Explain the meaning of the names of Hosea's three children.
52. In the sections that follow, it's clear that Hosea was "acting out" the role of _____ and that his controversial _____ symbolized God's relationship with _____.
53. True or False. The second chapter of Hosea is all about the prophet and his wife.
54. True or False. Although Hosea is very critical of Israel, his message suddenly changed to a message of God's forgiving compassion.
55. The remainder of the second chapter of Hosea reads like a _____ as God proposed marriage to his _____ partner, _____, as a way to reestablish their relationship.
56. In the third chapter God told Hosea to _____ which symbolized God's _____ for his people. After a period of dissolution of the _____, the people will fully _____.
57. Hosea compared the love of God with the two most powerful passions in human existence. What are these?
58. Explain what we know about Gomer?
59. What are two themes of the prophets of the ninth and eighth centuries B.C.?
60. True or False. A major difference between Amos and Hosea was that Amos was nearly unrelenting in his message of judgment and doom while Hosea portrayed God as loving, compassionate and forgiving.
61. Explain how all the prophets of this time were very similar.
62. True or False. The response of King Pekah of Israel and King Ahaz of Judah to the growing Assyrian threat was a mutual failure.
63. When the Assyrian king, Shalmaneser V ascended to power in 726 B.C., Israel's king, _____, sought out the help of _____. His plan failed when Assyria invaded _____ and captured the city of _____ in 722 B.C. The Assyrians _____ many of its upper-class residents and landowners to upper Mesopotamia.
64. The kingdom of Israel ended in _____ B.C. even though a majority of the population was left there to continue to _____ for the Assyrians.