

SANTA BARBARA

COMMUNITY CHURCH

The **WORD** of the Lord.

MINOR PROPHETS | summer 2019

MINOR PROPHETS: HOSEA

Week of June 9th

Guide for Reading Hosea

As you read, notice the cycles of accusations, punishments, and offers of hope.

- Monday: watch the [Bible Project video](#) on Hosea
- Tuesday: Read Hosea 1-3
- Wednesday: Read Hosea 4-6:3
- Thursday: Read Hosea 6:4-11:12
- Friday: Read Hosea 12-14

How would you summarize the message of Hosea?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

*For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.*

(Hosea 6:6)

Prayer for Missions

Thank You, Lord, that Your love and mercy are more powerful than any of our sins! Thank You that Paul and Allie Beeghly share that Good News with trafficked women and men in Phuket (pooh-KET), Thailand. Continue opening up hearts in Phuket to be transformed by Your forgiveness and New Life! Please help Paul and Allie discern how You're leading their family in this work. Bless and protect them as they spend the next several weeks traveling in the US; may their family times be sweet and may vision for the work in Phuket spread.

MINOR PROPHETS: JOEL

Week of June 16th

Guide for Reading Joel

As you read, pay attention to how God's character is described, what God asks of his people, and reasons for God's people to maintain hope in the midst of challenges.

- Monday: watch the Bible Project video on Joel: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/joel/>
- Tuesday: Read Joel 1
- Wednesday: Read Joel 2
- Thursday: Read Joel 3
- Friday: Read Joel 1-3

How would you summarize the message of Joel?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

*Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.*

(Joel 2:13b)

Prayer for Missions

Lord, our sin and failures lead to devastating destruction, but You long to show mercy when we own up to and confess our sin. Thank You for the hope we have that You will defeat evil in the world and us, as well as make all things new! Thank You for the hope that Ruben and Holly Gil share through the ministry of Querencia, here in Santa Barbara's Eastside. Use the summer camp running next week (6/24-28) to touch the hearts and lives of children in our own community, drawing many into a lifelong relationship with You. Guide each teen and adult counselor and provide opportunities for them to share the hope in their hearts with each child who participates. Bring about the transformation You want in the lives of each Querencia participant.

MINOR PROPHETS: AMOS

Week of June 23rd

Guide for Reading Amos

As you read, pay attention to how God's character is described, what God asks of his people, and reasons for why God's judgment is coming.

- Monday: watch the Bible Project video on Amos: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/amos/>
- Tuesday: Read Amos 1-3
- Wednesday: Read Amos 4-5
- Thursday: Read Amos 6-7
- Friday: Read Amos 8-9

How would you summarize the message of Amos?

How does the message of Amos challenge you personally?

How does this message point to the need for the good news of Jesus?

How does 9:14-15 provide hope for the future?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

(Amos 5:24)

Prayer for Missions

Thank You, Lord, for Your plan to rescue people from every nation, tribe, people, and language! We praise You that Your justice rolls on like a river and Your righteousness like a never-failing stream. Thank You for the work that Sports Outreach, International does around the globe, bringing Your hope and transforming power to countless people. Thank You that SOI workers are not complacent, but use Your power to fight for social justice, to bring about transformation, and to spread knowledge of Your Name. Please fill each SOI leader in Kenya, Uganda, Mexico, El Salvador, and the USA with Your Power, guiding them as they plan events and serve the needy people around them. Bless our own team heading down to El Salvador July 21-30; may they freely share Your Good News with all they encounter.

MINOR PROPHETS: OBADIAH

Week of June 30th

Guide for Reading Obadiah

James Hamilton writes in his book *The Glory of God in Salvation Through Judgment*, "The message of Obadiah is that Edom- and the nations- will be judged, and through that judgment Israel will be saved, while Yahweh is glorified for his justice and mercy." As you read this short prophetic book this, keep in mind these twin themes of justice and mercy.

- Monday: Watch the Bible Project video on Obadiah: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/obadiah/>
- Tuesday: Read Gen 25:19-34, Gen 27
- Wednesday: Read Numbers 20:14-21 and Obadiah
- Thursday: Read Obadiah
- Friday: Read Obadiah and Philippians 2:3-11

How would you summarize the message of Obadiah?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

...the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

(Obadiah 21b)

Prayer for Missions

Lord, we're grateful, so grateful, that Your justice and faithfulness will prevail and that You will bring about Your healing Kingdom and lasting peace! Thank You for the ministry of Young Life that takes Your Good News to the youth of our communities. Bless each camp counselor this summer as they prepare to welcome campers, some of whom are filled with pride and self-exaltation. Give Your wisdom to each counselor so they will know the words that will point each camper to You and Your life-giving gift. Draw many unchurched youth to the camps, prepare their hearts to receive You, and expand Your Kingdom.

MINOR PROPHETS: JONAH

Week of July 7th

Guide for Reading Jonah

Even as you allow yourself to get swept up in this great narrative, pay attention to the character of both God and Jonah and their respective attitudes toward those who aren't living for God and his kingdom.

- Monday: watch the Bible Project video on Jonah: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/jonah/>
- Tuesday: Read Jonah 1 and Job 38
- Wednesday: Read Jonah 2 and Psalm 40
- Thursday: Read Jonah 3 and Romans 10
- Friday: Read Jonah 4 and Matthew 12:38-42

How would you summarize the story of Jonah?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

*Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God's love for them.
But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you.
What I have vowed I will make good.
I will say, "Salvation comes from the Lord."*

(Jonah 2:8-9, NIV)

Prayer for Missions

Thank You for being a gracious and compassionate God who is slow to anger and abounding in love— One who relents from sending calamity! Lord, You know the need for Your gracious compassion and peace in the Middle East. Thank You for the work that the Palestinian Bible Society does in that region, showing Your love and compassion to all they encounter. Use each summer outreach event PBS has planned to share Your love and forgiveness with the children and adults who participate. Protect Your workers so they can continue sharing Your goodness with hurting, traumatized people. Bring many people in the region into Your Kingdom!

MINOR PROPHETS: MICAH

Week of July 14th

Guide for Reading Micah

As you read, reflect on this quote from Andy Crouch: “God hates injustice and idolatry because they are the same thing: the introduction into God’s very good world of false images.... Whether making false gods (idolatry) or playing false gods (injustice) the result is identical... The truth about God, and the truth about God’s very good world, is exchanged for a lie.”

- Monday: watch the Bible Project video on Micah: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/micah/>
- Tuesday: Read Micah 1-2
- Wednesday: Read Micah 3-4
- Thursday: Read Micah 5
- Friday: Read Micah 6-7

How would you summarize the message of Micah?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

*He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

(Micah 6:8)

Prayer for Missions

Lord, You long to forgive sin and have all nations find true peace through Your people sharing Your love and blessings. Thank You for HOPE International, working to shine Your Light among the poorest of the poor, many of whom have suffered great social injustice. Guide all savings group leaders as they disciple the members in their groups and share Your love and hope with them. Protect those living in hard places and give them Your hope. May Your Kingdom expand throughout the world so that people will do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

MINOR PROPHETS: NAHUM

Week of July 21st

Guide for Reading Nahum

Though the imagery in Nahum can be tricky, try to keep in mind as you read that this prophecy was written to people suffering great injustice. Imagine a situation in which you are longing to see the Lord bring his perfect justice.

- Monday: watch the Bible Project video on Nahum: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/nahum/>
- Tuesday: Read Nahum 1-3
- Wednesday: Read Nahum 1 and Psalm 35
- Thursday: Read Nahum 2 and 2 Peter 3
- Friday: Read Nahum 3 and Revelation 19

How would you summarize the message of Nahum?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

*The Lord is good,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;
he knows those who take refuge in him.
But with an overflowing flood
he will make a complete end of the adversaries,
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.*

(Nahum 1:7-8)

Prayer for Missions

Thank You, Lord, for judging evil in Your perfect time and way. Truly You are slow to anger, great in power, and You won't leave evil unpunished. Lord, You know the suffering taking place in Venezuela, the injustice and the taking of innocent lives. Raise up righteous leaders for this hurting nation! Please work Your justice for the people there, especially the P people Merrill and Teresa worked with for decades. Continue to protect Merrill and Teresa's health and guide them as they prepare Bible study materials; give them Your wisdom and ideas so that the beloved P believers will grow in their faith, shine Your light brightly, and spread Your Kingdom.

MINOR PROPHETS: HABAKKUK

Week of July 28th

Guide for Reading Habakkuk

Perhaps, like Habakkuk, you have had seasons of wrestling with questions of God's justice and his love. Look for signs of God's trustworthy character as you read this message this week.

- Monday: watch the Bible Project video on Habakkuk: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/habakkuk/>
- Tuesday: Read Habakkuk 1
- Wednesday: Read Habakkuk 2
- Thursday: Read Habakkuk 3
- Friday: Read Habakkuk 1-3

How would you summarize the message of Habakkuk?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

*Though the fig tree should not blossom,
nor fruit be on the vines,
the produce of the olive fail
and the fields yield no food,
the flock be cut off from the fold
and there be no herd in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord;
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.
God, the Lord, is my strength;
he makes my feet like the deer's;
he makes me tread on my high places.*

(Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Prayer for Missions

Lord, we long for the time when the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. We praise You, Lord, that we can participate in getting that knowledge spread here on earth! Thank You for Larry and Linda Whiting and the work they do with Mission Aviation Fellowship. Bless their efforts to train up more workers for Your Harvest field. Grant Your wisdom to all the pilots and mechanics working around the world to get Your people in and out of difficult-to-reach locations. May Your Kingdom spread because of the efforts of MAF.

MINOR PROPHETS: ZEPHANIAH

Week of August 4th

Guide for Reading Zephaniah

As you read through this book, be on the lookout for evidences of God's righteousness as well as God's heart to restore wayward people.

- Monday: watch the Bible Project video on Zephaniah: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/zephaniah/>
- Tuesday: Read Zephaniah 1 and Deuteronomy 30
- Wednesday: Read Zephaniah 2 and Psalm 46
- Thursday: Read Zephaniah 3 and Revelation 21
- Friday: Read Zephaniah 1-3

How would you summarize the message of Zephaniah?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

*The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.*

(Zephaniah 3:17)

Prayer for Missions

Truly, Lord, You are mighty to save! You desire that all nations know about You and Your great gift of salvation. Thank You for longing to restore people into right relationships with You. Please guide and equip Julie Day Harber during her year of sabbatical study; may she learn new ways to lead and train the InterVarsity staff and students she works with in the San Diego area. You know Julie's desire to see Your justice come and for You to heal the broken, outcast, and poor around her so that Your Kingdom will continue to expand. Bless her marriage to Jordan and keep using both of them to raise up more workers for Your Harvest.

MINOR PROPHETS: HAGGAI

Week of August 11th

Guide for Reading Haggai:

As you read, pay attention to the four messages from the Lord Almighty. What does God ask of his people, and what does He promise them.

- Monday: watch the Bible Project video on Haggai: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/haggai/>
- Tuesday: Read Haggai 1:1-15
- Wednesday: Read Haggai 2:1-9
- Thursday: Read Haggai 2:10-19
- Friday: Read Haggai 2:20-23

How would you summarize the four messages of Haggai?

How do these messages challenge you personally?

How do these messages point to our need for a savior?

How does 2:20-23 point to hope in Jesus (see Matthew 1:12-16; Luke 3:27)?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

'Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore,' thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Consider your ways.' (Haggai 1:4-5)

Prayer for Missions

Thank You, Lord, for Your promise to be with us, your call to build your house, and your power to do it. We're so grateful that we can work in hope despite disappointing circumstances. Lord, You know the hard soil in Croatia that Antun has been working for decades. Bless and encourage him as he seeks to spread Your Kingdom and encourage the nominally Catholic inhabitants of the land to live in full obedience and faithfulness to Your Word. Guard Antun's health and give him the energy he needs to serve the various churches he shepherds. Continue to grant favor to his son, Samuel and wife Valerie, as they try new ideas to spread Your Gospel. Use daughter Tabitha's singing abilities to draw more and more into Your Kingdom. May the prison ministries and writing projects encourage many to seek a living relationship with You, that Your Name will be glorified in all the nations!

MINOR PROPHETS: ZECHARIAH

Week of August 18th

Guide for Reading Zechariah

There's no two ways about it- this can be difficult material! One challenge is the genre. A series of dream oracles can make your head spin. Another challenge is that we are removed from the context into which it is written. Many of the references that would have been obvious to the original readers are obscure to us. But these obstacles to understanding should not keep us familiarizing ourselves with its content. Zechariah is one of the most quoted books in the New Testament. With a little work, we can grow in our appreciation of God's masterful plan to redeem his people by sending his Son.

- Monday: Watch the Bible Project video on Zechariah: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/zechariah/>
- Tuesday: Read Zechariah 1-4
- Wednesday: Read Zechariah 5-8
- Thursday: Read Zechariah 9-11
- Friday: Read Zechariah 12-14

How would you summarize the message of Zechariah?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

*Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the Lord of hosts.
(Zechariah 4:6)*

Prayer for Missions

Thank You for faithful servants, working to see Your Kingdom come here on earth among all nations! Thank You for the MissionNannys who go to serve Your workers in foreign lands, and for using them to free up Your laborers for the work You've called them to. We ask that You will raise up many more men and women to serve as nannies* so that all the families who have requested help will receive it. Get the needs out to those who can serve as a Nanny; may the advertising be effective so that Your workers will be freed up for the jobs You've called them to. Provide all the funds needed to get these servants to the field. Help each one fit in to their families well, so that Your Work will proceed and Your Kingdom move into all people groups.

*If interested or you know someone who might want to serve, please visit the MissionNannys website at <https://missionnannys.org/>.

MINOR PROPHETS: MALACHI

Week of August 25th

Guide for Reading Malachi

As you read through the series of disputes between God and his people, consider the ways in which our hearts are prone to believe similar untruths about God, his work, and his character.

- Monday: watch the Bible Project video on Malachi: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/malachi/>
- Tuesday: Read Malachi 1 and Leviticus 4
- Wednesday: Read Malachi 2:1-16 and Ezekiel 34
- Thursday: Read Malachi 2:17-3:5, 4:1-6 and John 1:1-34
- Friday: Read Malachi 3:6-18 and Acts 5

How would you summarize the message of Malachi?

How does it challenge you personally?

How does it point to the good news of Jesus?

Find someone to share with how you answered these questions!

Memory Verse

"A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the Lord Almighty.

(Malachi 1:6a)

Prayer for Missions

Lord, Your heart desire is that all nations come to You. You want to rid Your world, all the nations, of corruption and injustice. Thank You for bringing the nations here to us through the various international students who come to study in Santa Barbara. Bless the work of International Students, Inc. (ISI) that Tim and Kim Notehelfer head up here in town. Guide Tim and Kim as they strategize the best ways to match interested international students with Friendship Partners who can share their love for You by simply showing interest in these students. Raise up many believers to reach out to these students! May each Friday night outreach and Bible study draw students into Your Kingdom. Use the Conversation Café and the various outreach events to open hearts to You and Your goodness, so that lives will be restored and healed and Your Kingdom will expand throughout all the nations.