**Baggage**

**Series Road Map**

**Series Overview:**

In today’s culture, students are surrounded by so many worldly things that are not of Christ. But as Christians, they are called to live different, in a world where they are not the majority, as mouthpieces of God. Afterall, Paul says in Romans 12:2, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

But as we know, living differently and “not conforming” can be easier said than done. So, who can we point to in Scripture that our students may identify as? The prophets.

Prophets were exactly what our students are—mouthpieces of God. Not only was their role to prophecy in the Old Testament, but they were to be messengers and street communicators to those around them. Christopher J.H. Wright puts it the following way on page 102 on his book, *The Old Testament in Seven Sentences*: “The job of the prophets is to speak God’s word directly to the people around them, **their own generation**. They tell the people of Israel what God is thinking and saying about **the *present* situation**, whatever is going on in their own time.” This series is for the purpose of equipping students to speak to their own generation in their present situation as messengers, street communicators and mouthpieces of God.

So why “Baggage”? Well in the time of the prophets, a theme we see is that they were calling those around them to pack what is necessary for God’s people, while leaving behind what’s not useful for them. We want our students to do the same. This series is aimed at encouraging students to release or let go of the “baggage” they’re holding on to, so that they may become more Christ-like in a way that is outwardly noticeable to those around them.

**Generic Historical Background and Literary Context of the Minor Prophets:**

There are many prophets listed and spoken about throughout the entirety of the Old Testament. However, in the Biblical canon that we look to as God’s truth today, there are 15 prophetic books. Within those 15 books, there are the “major” prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel) and the “minor” prophets. The minor prophetic books are also known as “The Book of the Twelve.” The twelve minor prophets are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

It’s important to know that the word “minor” doesn’t mean that the twelve are of any less importance; “minor” just indicates that their books are shorter. Amongst the twelve are eighth century B.C. prophets (Hosea and Micah), seventh century B.C. prophets (Habakkuk), sixth century B.C. prophets (Haggai), and fifth century B.C. prophets (Malachi). This series will focus on the five underlined or listed in parenthesis.

The last thing to know about the minor prophets is that some of them lived during the time of the divided kingdom. This is when God’s people had been split into the Northern Kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah). For this series, three of our minor prophets lived during this time. Hosea was a Northern Kingdom prophet, while Micah and Habakkuk were Southern Kingdom prophets.

**Weekly Overview:**

Week 1: Hosea

Week 2: Micah

Week 3: Habakkuk

Week 4: Haggai

Week 5: Malachi

**Text (+ Supporting Text):**

Week 1: Hosea 1:2-3, Hosea 2:1-5, Hosea 3:1-5, Hosea 6:6

Week 2: Micah 1:2, Micah 2:3, Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:5-6, Micah 6:8

Week 3: Habakkuk 3:19, Habakkuk 1:2-4, Habakkuk 1:6, Habakkuk 1:12-13, Habakkuk 2:2-4, Habakkuk 3:16-19

Week 4: Haggai 1:2-6, Haggai 1:7-9, Deuteronomy 26:2, 2 Samuel 11-16, Haggai 2:7, Haggai 2:19

Week 5: Genesis 3:15, Malachi 1:2, Malachi 3:1, Malachi 3:16-18, Galatians 5:22-23

**THP**:

Week 1: Let go of the unforgiveness you’re holding on to.

Week 2: Let go of the injustice you’re holding on to.

Week 3: Let go of the doubt you’re holding on to.

Week 4: Let go of the apathy you’re holding on to.

Week 5: Let go of the impatience you’re holding on to.

**Supporting Points (Not Required):**

N/A

*Red – Scripture*

*Blue – Personal Story*

*Green – Prop*

***THP/Main Points – Bold***