

## Message Discussion Guide CHRIST OUR PROPHET

*The Church at Brook Hills,*

*Dr. David Platt*

*June 27, 2010*

*1 Kings 17 – 2 Kings 2*

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

### **Connect . . .**

*Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.*

#### **Option 1**

Invite learners to share what comes to mind when they hear the words "prophet" and "prophecy" or the spiritual gift of prophecy. Explain that today we will discuss what exactly prophecy is and the role that a prophet played in the redemptive history of the people of God.

#### **Option 2**

Ask learners to consider what the most important things in their lives are. Allow a few minutes for learners to share their answers. Explain that today we will discover what the lives of the prophets revealed about what should be most important to us as Christ-followers.

### **Review the Message . . .**

#### **The Picture of Prophecy...**

Divine \_\_\_\_\_ communication \_\_\_\_\_ through human \_\_\_\_\_ mediation \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **The Pattern of Prophecy...**

God would speak \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ His people \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ a person.

#### **Discussion**

- Remind learners that this week begins part 4 of our walk chronologically through the story of redemption found in God's Word. We are now moving from a period we called "Failed Kings in a United Kingdom" to one we're calling "Faithful Prophets in a Divided Kingdom."
- Considering 1 Kings 11:29-39, why was Israel divided into two kingdoms? How was it divided?
- Read Exodus 20:18-21. Through what means did the people relate to God during the Old Testament period?
- How does the picture of the Israelites' communication with God in Exodus 20 differ from that of Adam and Eve in Genesis 1-2?

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- Enlist a learner to read Deuteronomy 18:15-18. What was the role of the prophet?
- How were the people to respond to the prophet?

#### Application . . .

- Through what means do we communicate with God today?
- What role does prophecy play in our church?
- Who in our lives fulfills the role of relaying God's Word to us?
- What challenges/obstacles do we encounter when trying to listen to God?

#### The Profile of the Prophets...

- They           walked           in the presence of God.
  - The most important thing in their lives was their personal relationship with God.
  - The most important time in their lives was the time that           no one else saw          .
  - They found their strength in           solitude           with God.
- They           declared           the Word of God.
  - They were utterly dependent on God's power.
    - The power of           prayer           is           useless          .
    - The power of           people           who connect with Almighty God is unstoppable.
  - They were utterly devoted to God's mission.
    - They took God-sized           risks          .
    - They expected God-sized           results          .
- They           glimpsed           the glory of God.
  - They experienced His grace in ways they did not           deserve          .
  - They beheld His glory in ways they did not           expect          .
- They           trusted           the promise of God.
  - They knew this           world           was not their home.
  - They lived           looking           forward...

#### Discussion

- Read 1 Kings 17:1-7. In the midst of the people's great sin, why would God call his prophet to go away somewhere alone instead of immediately sending him to the people?
- Enlist learners to read 1 Kings 17:1-2, 17:5, 17:8, 17:16 and 17:24. According to these verses, what was the focus of Elijah's prophetic ministry?
- Refer to 1 Kings 18:16-39. Lead learners to contrast the differences in the ways the prophets of Baal approached their God with the way Elijah approached the Lord. Emphasize the differing results of the two approaches.

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- Read 1 Kings 19:5-13a. What is significant about God revealing Himself to Elijah in a whisper?
- Enlist two learners to read Hebrews 11:13-16 and 1 Peter 1:10-12. What characteristics of a prophet's life do these two passages reveal?
- Elijah and all of the prophets lived looking forward to whom?

#### Application . . .

- What role does solitude with God currently play in our lives?
- What role should solitude with God play in our lives? Why? How might that look for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?
- How does our time alone with God affect our ability and/or desire to proclaim Him to the nations?
- What differentiates our prayers from all of those offered by so many other people around the world?
- What relationship is there in the Christian life between risks and results?

#### The Pinnacle of Prophecy...

- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ presence \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - The most important thing in your life is your \_\_\_\_\_ personal relationship with Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The most important time in your life is the time that \_\_\_\_\_ no one else sees \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Find your contentment in \_\_\_\_\_ communion \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ.
- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ Word \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - He has given us power to \_\_\_\_\_ proclaim \_\_\_\_\_ His Word.
  - He has given us a mission to \_\_\_\_\_ multiply \_\_\_\_\_ His Word.
- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ glory \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - We have received \_\_\_\_\_ undeserved \_\_\_\_\_ grace.
  - We now behold \_\_\_\_\_ unimaginable \_\_\_\_\_ glory.
- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ promise \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - This world is not our \_\_\_\_\_ home \_\_\_\_\_!
  - So live looking \_\_\_\_\_ forward \_\_\_\_\_...

#### Discussion

- Read Hebrews 1:1-3. Who is the pinnacle of all prophecy?
- Enlist a learner to read Matthew 17:1-5. What does the transfiguration reveal about Jesus unique position as a prophet?
- What is different about the Christian understanding of Jesus' prophetic role and that of other faiths (i.e. Islam)? See 1 Timothy 2:5.
- Read John 1:1. How is Jesus' relationship to the Word of God different from that of Old Testament prophets?

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- Read John 1:14 and II Corinthians 4: 4-6. Where does the glory of God reside now? How should these verses impact the way we pray? How should these verses affect the way we share the gospel?
- Enlist a learner to read Hebrews 11:39-40. What is the “something better” the writer of Hebrews says that God has planned?

#### **Application . . .**

- How does making our personal relationship with Jesus the most important thing in our lives affect the way we live day-to-day and moment-to-moment?
- How can we find contentment in communion with Christ?
- How have you experienced God’s grace and mercy in ways that were both unexpected and undeserved?
- How can we better live ‘looking forward’ knowing that this world is not our home?