

# The Prophetic Gift



## Teacher's Guide

### Materials

Bibles; paper; pens; mirror; dictionary; flipchart or whiteboard; markers; colored pens or pencils and other items with which to make posters

### Surveying the Source

Gen. 20:7; Exod. 15:20; Deut. 18:15; Matt. 11:11; John 6:14; Heb. 11:24–26.

### Plotting the Course

#### The students will:

- ▶ Recognize that the prophetic gift is bestowed by God (prophets are not self-appointed), and that it encompasses so much more than being a “fortuneteller.”
- ▶ Understand that God’s prophets are His friends (Psalm 25). We need to know

our Friend well.

- ▶ Learn that in a general sense, all Christians are prophets. We can all reveal God’s love and His ultimate will for others—their salvation.

### Preparing to Lead

Read Psalm 25:8–15. While the prophetic gift may only be bestowed in its classic sense on selected individuals, we may all share in the gift of being able to reveal God and His ultimate will for humankind—their salvation. In order to do this, we need to be friends of God as the

prophets of old were. We must avail ourselves of all opportunities to get close to Him (prayer, study, worship, etc.) so that He might “confide in us” (verse 14, NIV), and so that we may then be able to reveal Him to others.

### Getting Started

**A.** Pass a mirror around, and ask each class member to take a look at himself or herself in the mirror. Now ask them to divide into groups of two, and have each one tell what they see in the other person that in some sense is a revelation of who God is. This could range from physical attributes to personality and character traits. The point being made is the question: Do others see what I think I’m reflecting as a Christian?

**B.** Read to your class the biblical passage mentioned in Preparing to Lead. Tell

the class that the New International Version translates verse 14 this way: “The Lord confides in those who fear him.” Read the definition of the word *confide* from a dictionary.

Then ask class members to share their appreciation of friends in whom they can confide. *Ask:* “Of what value is such confidence in our lives?”

Then ask them to share ways in which God has “confided in them” or guided them in the past. *Ask:* “How did you know for sure it was God’s guidance?”

### Delving Into the Word

**A.** Let the class tell the story of Jonah or read the story in the Bible. Let each

member tell or read a portion of it. Then discuss the following points (answering

them from the story itself): ●Was the point of the prophecy to predict the destruction of Nineveh, or to convert Nineveh? What is the ultimate goal of prophecy? ●What was the effect of the whole prophetic episode on the prophet? ●In addition to Nineveh, what other group of people was affected by the event?

*Ask:* ●What areas in our lives are “in rebellion” against God? ●How can we better align ourselves with God to reveal Him better?

**B.** Read 1 Samuel 28 and discuss the following points: ●What was the source of the prophetic gift in this passage? ●Was the prophecy inaccurate? ●What did this prophetic event lead to? ●What

are the dangers regarding false prophecy?

Discuss the biblical view of the gift of prophecy. Look up the texts in the *How-To* section of the quarterly’s lesson. *Ask:* ●Many denominations use the prophetic gift in their worship services. They allow time for people to come up front or to approach individuals and share a “prophetic message” they feel they have received from the Lord. Is this practice necessarily unbiblical? How would we test it? ●How can this contemporary practice of the “prophetic gift” be confusing or potentially dangerous? ●Does God use us, as fellow Christians, to help guide each other? If yes, then how?

## Discussing the Ideas

1. How does a gift become a spiritual gift?
2. How do you know what your spiritual gifts are? (Plan to do a spiritual gifts survey in class in the future.)
3. Are all spiritual gifts for everyone? (Have the class study 1 Corinthians 12–14 to arrive at an answer.)
4. Why might people covet certain spiritual gifts?
5. What practical things can you do in your circle of influence to reveal God, His love, and His ultimate will? Be specific.
6. How can you constructively respond

when you come into contact with those who may be practicing the gift of prophecy in a way that is different from your understanding of biblical prophecy?

7. The ultimate spiritual gift is love. Refer to 1 Corinthians 13:2, 13. (If you read from a King James Version, you will need to tell the class that the word *charity* means “love.”) How can we be sure that this is the main message people perceive through the use of our gifts?

8. In what way can we better appreciate the wonderful gift of prophecy we have received as a church in the person and work of Ellen G. White?

## Closing the Activity

Summarize by listing on a flipchart or whiteboard the benefits of the true prophetic gifts. Quote scriptural references. Contrast this with a list of the worldly view of prophecy—which focuses mostly

on foretelling the future.

Using the template on page 32, have each class member design a poster or simple flyer noting these differences to share with a friend.

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