

# The Authority of the Prophets



## Teacher's Guide

### Surveying the Source

Exod. 4:10–16; 2 Chron. 20:15–20; Hos. 12:13; 2 Pet. 1: 21.

### Plotting the Course

#### The students will:

- ▶ Identify the different ways in which God speaks through prophets.
- ▶ Identify the main messages of some of the major biblical prophets.
- ▶ Discuss the ways in which God related to the biblical prophets and how He relates to us today.

### Preparing to Lead

Prophecy is such a controversial topic in our world today. We all want to know what lies in the future, and while some seek mediums and fortunetellers to sat-

isfy their curiosity, we need to have faith in the biblical prophecies that promise a sure future for those who believe in Jesus.

### Getting Started

**A.** Tell the class that you had a dream last night in which God gave you a special message. (You decide on what the message should be. Just be sure it is relevant to your group.) Tell them the message, and notice their reactions. Get a show of hands as to who believes this message to be from God and who doesn't. Then discuss how they can know whether this message is really from God

or not.

**B. Discuss:** •“Are there things about your church or in your society that you would like clarity on (for example, a charismatic movement; the war on terror, a lifestyle issue)?” •“Do you think there is a need for a prophet in the Seventh-day Adventist Church today, or do you think the Bible and E. G. White provide all the answers we need on such issues?”

### Materials

pens or pencils

### Delving Into the Word

**A.** As a class, summarize the messages God wanted the following prophets to deliver to His people at various times throughout history: •Moses •Jonah •Hosea •Daniel •Elijah •Noah •E. G. White.

*Ask:* •“Are these messages still relevant to us today?” •“Why hasn't God sent a modern-day prophet to remind us

of these things?” •“What would it take for you to really listen to a modern-day prophet?”

**B.** Hand out copies of the reproducible activity (p. 38) for the class to complete in pairs. When all the pairs have completed their copies, discuss the answers to both questions.

## Discussing the Ideas

1. Why is E. G. White so important to the Seventh-day Adventist Church? In your opinion, is too much emphasis placed on her writings, or not enough?
2. If God were to send the Seventh-day Adventist Church another prophet today, what do you think the message would be, and why?
3. What would it take for us to seriously accept a prophet today?
4. When God's messages weren't heeded in biblical times, what were the outcomes? Do you think God would act the same way today if we didn't listen to the message He had for us?
5. How did God give the biblical prophets their messages?
6. What are some other ways God speaks to us today, other than through prophets?

## Closing the Activity

*Say:* "God longs to speak to you every day about His will for your life and how much He loves you. He wants to draw you back to Him. Let's really be mindful

of that this week and seek His voice and presence in our lives."

Conclude the lesson with prayer.

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## What are the five tests of a prophet?

1. Matt. 7:15–20 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 1 John 4:1–3 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Deut. 13:1–4 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Deut. 18:20–22 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Isa. 8:20 \_\_\_\_\_

## Do these prophets fulfill these tests? (yes/no)

1. Noah \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jonah \_\_\_\_\_
3. Hosea \_\_\_\_\_
4. Daniel \_\_\_\_\_
5. Mohammad \_\_\_\_\_
6. E. G. White \_\_\_\_\_
7. Nostradamus \_\_\_\_\_

Be able to state why you answered as you did.