

# FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 13

For Kids

## The Gift of Prophecy

### Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

**Say:** Last week we learned that Jesus is our high priest in heaven's sanctuary. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did this past week to thank Jesus for standing up for you in heaven.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home OR to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

### Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that God sends messages to His people through His prophets
- **Feel** willing to listen to God's messengers
- **Respond** accepting God's messages through His prophets

Jesus sends  
special  
messages  
to us  
through His  
prophets



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day  
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



## The Bridge (10 Minutes)

### Activity

Instruct the participants to stand in a circle.

**Say:** The goal of this activity is to communicate a message around our circle. \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) will begin by whispering the message I give to the next person. When it is your turn you can whisper the message only one time, so listen carefully to your messenger. When you receive the message whisper to the next person. Be careful that others cannot hear what you whisper.

Give message number 1 to one participant and have him/her begin. When the message has gone around the circle ask the last person to tell the group the message he/she received. Ask the first person to read the message to the group to determine how well the message made it around the circle. If you have time, do this again with messages 2 and 3 inviting a different participant to begin.

### Debrief

**Ask:** What needed to happen for the message to go around the circle exactly as it started? (Each person had to speak the message clearly; each person had to listen carefully.) What standard did we use to determine how well the message made it from person to person? (The sentence written on the slip of paper.) How does God get messages to His people? (Sending prophets to give His message; having his messengers write the Bible; sending angels with messages.)

**Say:** It is absolutely important for you to know whether the messages you receive about God are truly from Him.

**Prayer:** Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

### You need

- Messages on slips of paper

### Ahead

Copy the following on separate slips of paper:

1. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.
2. The Bible teaches us how to know if a message is really from God.
3. God tells us about the future so we can trust in Him.



## Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:  
**Jesus invites us to be His disciples.**

### Activity

**Say:** The Bible tells us about the different people God called to be His prophets. When I say the name of a prophet, tell me what you know about his/her story and what work he/she did for God.

Prepare in advance for this activity by reading the Scripture references. If the group does not come up with the stories on the chart, briefly describe them.

### You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

### Ahead

To be prepared for the activity read and become familiar with the Scripture references for the Bible prophets. Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

Prophet:	Prophet's Work:	Bible Passage:
<b>Moses</b>	Led God's people out of slavery: leader, teacher, preacher, judge	Exodus 3:7-12
<b>Deborah</b>	Led Israel; judge; messenger; commander	Judges 4:4-10
<b>Daniel</b>	Interpreted dreams; led others in intercessory prayer	Daniel 2:1-5, 11, 27-28
<b>Jonah</b>	Preached a message of repentance and salvation	Jonah 3
<b>Simeon</b>	Proclaimed the baby Jesus as the Messiah; predicted the future	Luke 2:25-35

**Ask:** Do all of God's prophets have the same work to do? (No.) How many different tasks can you identify from these examples? (Lead, preach, teach, heal, do miracles, judge, give messages, tell the future.)

**Say:** In Bible times God gave many different jobs to His prophets. Some, like Daniel, communicated a message from God to one specific person. Some, like Jonah, communicated a message to a large group of people. Some, like Moses and Deborah, provided leadership for God's people. Some, like Simeon, predicted the future. They each had a specific task that God gave them to do. They weren't perfect people. They made mistakes, yet God used them to reveal Himself and His plans to people.

## **Bible Discovery**

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verse and be prepared to read it to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called.

**Write on the board:** What the Bible teaches about prophets

**1 Read Amos 3:7.** Why did God use prophets in Old Testament times? (To reveal what He was going to do.)

**Say:** God wants us to know ahead what He is going to do. Then when it happens, we will have trust in God and know that He is in control and is with us.

**Write on the board:** Prophets reveal God's plans

**2 Read 2 Peter 1:20, 21.** This passage says "Above all you must understand...". What does Peter want us to understand? (That a prophet's words are not his/her own; prophets are given a message from God through the Holy Spirit.)

**Say:** It is important to remember that God's prophet-messengers do not speak for themselves or of their own ideas; they speak for God and what He has revealed to them through the Holy Spirit.

**Write on the board:** The Holy Spirit moves prophets to speak for God

**3 Read Joel 2:28, 29.** We understand that Joel is giving a prophecy of what will happen in the last days — what Joel calls "those days." What does this passage say will happen "in those days"? (The Lords will pour out His Spirit on all people — both men and women; sons and daughters will prophesy; old men will dream dreams; young men will see visions.)

**Say:** Before Jesus comes we expect an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This passage says specifically that sons and daughters will prophesy.

**Write on the board:** People will prophesy before Jesus comes

**4 Read Matthew 24:10-14.** In Matthew 24 Jesus gives signs of His coming. What does he say will happen in regard to prophets before His second coming? (Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.)

**Write on the board:** False prophets will deceive people

**Ask:** How can we tell a false prophet from a true prophet?

**Say:** There are four simple tests we can use to find out if a messenger is truly from God.

**5 Read 1 John 4:1-3.**

**Say:** A true prophet accepts Jesus Christ as God's Son who saves us from our sins.

**Write on the board:** A true prophet accepts Jesus

**6** Read Isaiah 8:20.

**Say:** The things a true prophet teaches will agree with the Bible and uphold God's law.

**Write on the board:** A true prophet speaks in agreement with God's Word

**7** Read Matthew 7:15-17.

**Say:** A true prophet will bear "good fruit" in his/her life — this means that the way a true prophet lives will be like Jesus — being good and doing good.

**Write on the board:** A true prophet will be a Christ-like person

**8** Read Jeremiah 28:8, 9.

**Say:** When a true prophet predicts a future event — it happens.

**Write on the board:** A true prophet's predictions always come true

**Activity**

Read the following scenarios and ask the participants to vote — thumbs up if they think a true prophet is described; thumbs down if they think a false prophet is described. After each vote ask them to identify which test of a true prophet supports their answer. Leave the marker board facing the group for their reference.

**Scenario 1:** My friend follows Jesus all the time. He knows the Bible and is always referring people to the Bible in order to answer their questions. He is kind, honest, caring, generous and humble. He has even predicted the future and some of his predictions have actually come true.  
*False Prophet — Predictions always come true*

**Scenario 2:** You would certainly think that my friend loves Jesus. She talks about Him all the time. She quotes her Bible all the time and you could never hope to win a Scripture-based argument with her. She once predicted that something would happen and it did. Sometimes she is rude, bossy and unkind.  
*False Prophet — By their fruits you will know them.*

**Scenario 3:** My friend is always eager to share Jesus with anyone he can. When people come to him with questions he is always happy to give them his opinion. There are a few things he says that might not exactly agree with Scripture, but most of the time he is right on. He is well regarded as a kind, loving, generous and caring person.  
*False Prophet — "To the Law and to the testimony..."*

**Scenario 4:** Jesus is the center of my friend's life and the Bible is the most important book to him. Whenever he has a problem or is asked for advice he prays earnestly for answers. People will tell you that he is warm, loving, generous, kind and patient. Every time he has predicted that something would happen, it has happened.

*True Prophet — All four tests agree*

**Say:** Remember these four tests to help you recognize a true from a false prophet.

## **Review/Quiz**

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What does the Bible teach about prophets?"
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



## My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

**Leader Share** briefly a message from God's Messengers or prophets that has been especially meaningful to you and why.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

### You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

**Say:** Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



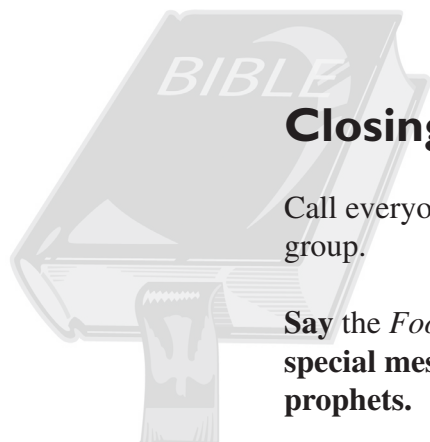
## My World (5-8 Minutes)

**Leaders:** While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time "warning" to the other families such as, "Please finish in three more minutes." Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

### You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



## **Closing** (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

**Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus sends special messages to us through His prophets.**

### **You need**

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

**Say:** In Old Testament times, in New Testament times, and in these last days before Jesus comes God has sent messages to His people through His prophets.

**Ask:** Did you think of a way to listen to God's messengers? (Acknowledge responses.)

**Grace Point — Say:** Next week I will ask you to share one thing you did to listen to God's messengers.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for sending messages through His prophets
- asking Him to help you listen to His messages

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.



## My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus sends special messages to us through His prophets.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Prophets reveal God’s plans.....                           | Amos 3:7         |
| 2. The Holy Spirit moves God’s prophets to speak for God..... | 2 Peter 1:20, 21 |
| 3. People will prophesy before Jesus comes.....               | Joel 2:28, 29    |
| 4. False prophets will deceive people.....                    | Matthew 24: 1-14 |

### Four Tests of a True Prophet:

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|---|------------------|
| 1. A true prophet accepts Jesus.....                  | 1 John 4:1-3     |
| 2. A true prophet speaks according to God’s Word..... | Isaiah 8:20      |
| 3. A true prophet will be a Christ-like person.....   | Matthew 7:15-17  |
| 4. A true prophet’s predictions always come true..... | Jeremiah 28:8, 9 |

3. Parents/mentors **Share** a message from Jesus through His prophets / messengers that has been especially meaningful to you and why.
4. Parents/mentors **Share** briefly what difference knowing about God’s messengers makes in your relationship with Jesus. **THE CHOICE — Ask:** Do you want to listen to God’s messengers? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** as a family circle thanking Jesus for the messages He sends us through His prophets/ messengers. **Ask** Him to help you listen to His messengers.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day  
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

## My World

1. **Ask:** Why do you think God has used prophet/messengers to communicate with people?
2. **Ask:** Why do you think Jesus warned us about false prophets?
3. **Discuss:** If a friend told us about a fabulous new Christian speaker and invited us to hear this person preach, how would we know if this person was truly from God?
4. **Brainstorm** for ways we can “tune in” to messages that God has sent us through His prophets. For example, use T.A.G. time or family worship to read the writings of Bible prophets like Micah or Isaiah, keep a journal of special messages that we read or hear that touch our hearts, etc.

### Ways we can listen to God’s messengers

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

**Grace Point** — Next week you will be asked to share one thing you did to listen to God’s messengers.

**Next Week** Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience when you were faithful to Jesus when it wasn’t popular or when you were the only one. How did Jesus support you in that experience?

# The Gift of Prophecy

## Mentoring Moments for Lesson 13

*Mentoring Moments* are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

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### Choice One

**Scripture:** Acts 2:17, 21

**Activity:** Look up Acts 2:17, 21. Think of people you know who need “to call on the name of the Lord.” Make a list (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) Your list should include the very young, the very old, and everyone in between! Write Acts 2:17 at the top of the page and Acts 2:21 at the bottom of the page. Keep this list in a special place and pray that everyone you listed will accept Jesus as Savior and be saved.

**For Discussion:** How do you feel knowing that Jesus wants to use you NOW while you are young to tell others about Him? How can your church help you? How can you help your church?

**Prayer Point:** Think of people you know, from the very young to the every old and everywhere between. Pray that they will accept Jesus as their Savior and be saved.

### Choice Two

**Scripture:** Amos 3:7

**Activity:** Look up the words *plan*, *secret* and *reveal* in a dictionary. Look them up again in a thesaurus. What other words do you find that best describe what these terms mean as used in Amos 3:7 KJV and NIV?

**For Discussion:** Do you like knowing what to expect in the future? Why or why not? Share a memory of a time when your family or school planned something and you didn’t know about it until it actually happened. Was this a happy or frustrating experience? How does that experience compare with God revealing His plans to us?

**Prayer Point:** Pray that God will help us recognize His true prophets and then listen to and believe the things He reveals to us through them.

## **Choice Three**

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 2:15

**Activity:** What questions do you have about the promise that God reveals His secrets and plans to His servants the prophets? Write your questions down, make a list of words to look up in a Bible concordance, and then search the Scriptures to find answers to your questions. If you need assistance, share your list of questions with your *Footprints* leader or Pastor and ask him or her to give you Bible answers.

**For Discussion:** Use your own words to describe what prophecy means.

**Prayer Point:** Pray that the Holy Spirit will show us answers to all our questions concerning how He works through His prophets.

## **Choice Four**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 8:20

**Activity:** Read Isaiah 8:20 and draw a picture to illustrate what it is telling us.

**For discussion:** How will you know if someone is speaking according to the law and the testimony (the Bible)? How thoroughly will you have to know what your Bible says in order to know if someone else is speaking from God's word? How can you use the Bible to check out what someone else teaches about the Bible?

**Prayer Point:** Ask God to help you make time with His Word a priority. Ask Him to make His Scriptures clear to you when you study.

## **Choice Five**

**Scripture:** 1 John 4:1-3

**Activity:** What is the difference between *true* and *false*? How many different words can you list to describe each word? Make a drawing or create a symbol to represent each word.

**For discussion:** Why is it important that a true prophet keep Jesus in the center of everything? Do some people who claim to have a special message from God fail to do this? What does that say about their message?

**Prayer Point:** Ask God to give you an opportunity to share something from this lesson with someone this week. Ask Him to make you bold with your testimony about Jesus.