



# What Are We Looking For In Prophecy?

## PROPHECY

Joe Ewen, who's been a prophetic voice in the Antioch Movement, guest preached this Sunday on prophecy! If you've got folks in your lifegroup who maybe aren't as familiar with prophecy, this would be a good message for them to listen to if they weren't here on Sunday. This week in lifegroup we'll be looking at a key text on prophecy and then practicing prophesying together – we want to be a people who engage in the prophetic, not just believe in it!

**VISION:** Explain the purpose of lifegroup.

### FAMILY TIME:

- Introduction Question: What is something someone said to you that was very encouraging?
- Share praise reports and prayer requests.

### DISCUSSION: 1 CORINTHIANS 14.1-5

*1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. 2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. 3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. 4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified.*

#### Discussion Questions:

- What strikes me from this text and why?
- What is the importance of speaking in tongues?
- What is the importance of prophesying?
- What is the difference between speaking in tongues and prophesying?
- Why does Paul prioritize prophecy so much?

- What might God want to say to me through this passage?

### **PRACTICAL EQUIPPING: PROPHETIC ACTIVATION**

In the 1 Corinthians passage we studied tonight, we see how much weight Paul puts in the prophetic. To Paul, prophecy seems to be the most important gift of the spirit. As such, we want to grow together in pursuing prophecy, as Paul encourages us to! Depending on how familiar your folks are with the prophetic, you might take different approaches.

- Encouragements: A simpler starting point is with encouragements. Since prophecy is meant to be encouraging, a great first step is simply developing a culture of encouragement. You could open up some time for people to affirm and encourage others whether in a large group or in small groups. You could also pass around a sheet of paper with one person's name on one paper and have others anonymously write down encouragements and affirmations.
- Blind Prayer: A great activation exercise is to divide up your group, have half of them stand in a line with their eyes closed (or blindfolded), have the other half quietly approach one person and tap them on the shoulder, then have the one with his/her eyes closed pray for the other person without knowing who it is. This helps people to take a risk and see how God might speak to and through them.
- Small Group Prophetic Prayer: In groups of 3-4, have one person at a time be the person that's being prayed for while the others listen to see what God might want to say them. Doing it in groups is fun as sometimes common themes will emerge.

As you wrap up the night, encourage folks to keep looking for opportunities to grow in the prophetic and to practice praying for folks. As Joe Ewen said, "Practice makes prophetic!"