Big Idea God provided a spiritual positioning system through imperfect prophets to guide His people safely through history and point them to Jesus.

How to Use This Handout

- Read the passage.
- Notice what the text says.
- Bring your questions and reflections to the discussion.
- Leave space for what God is showing you.

Day 1 - Old Testament Prophets

Main Theme Prophets served as a heavenly positioning system to provide guidance and warnings to God's people.

Set the Scene King Jehoshaphat faced a terrifying enemy invasion and reminded his people of the ultimate key to their survival.

Read 2 Chronicles 20:20 "...Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why do you think belief in God and belief in His prophets are linked together so closely in this verse?
- What does it mean to "prosper" in a biblical, spiritual sense when we listen to God's messengers?

Notice

- Who Jehoshaphat addresses: _____
- What brings establishment and stability: _____
- What brings prosperity and success: _____

Apply Before making a major decision this week, how can I seek God's navigational guidance?

Day 2 - The Humanity of Prophets

Main Theme God’s messengers were frail human beings subject to the same fears, discouragements, and weaknesses we face.

Set the Scene After an incredible spiritual victory, the prophet Elijah received a death threat, became overwhelmed, and ran for his life.

Read James 5:17-18 "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain..." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why is it comforting to know that a powerful prophet like Elijah struggled with intense fear and depression?
- Why do we sometimes feel like a sense of "failure" disqualifies us from God's service?

Notice

- Elijah's nature compared to ours: _____
- What Elijah did earnestly: _____
- How God answered his prayer: _____

Apply In what area of my life do I need to give myself permission to rest in God's grace today?

Day 3 - Identifying True Prophets

Main Theme True prophets faithfully, accurately, and honestly transmit God's messages, even when those messages are deeply unpopular.

Set the Scene King Ahab gathered 400 false prophets who told him exactly what he wanted to hear, but Micaiah faced incredible pressure to conform.

Read 1 Kings 22:13-14 "...And Micaiah said, 'As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak.'" (NKJV)

Think About

- Why is it so tempting to soften or alter God's truth to make it more acceptable to the culture around us?
- What are the identifying marks of a true prophet as seen in Micaiah's response?

Notice

- What the messenger asked Micaiah to do: _____
- How the false prophets spoke: _____
- What Micaiah vowed to speak: _____

Apply Where do I need God's courage to stand firm for the truth instead of pleasing the crowd?

Day 4 - Functions of Prophets

Main Theme Prophets served as the moral compass of the nation, holding civil and religious leaders accountable to God's law.

Set the Scene The Israelites demanded a human king to be like the surrounding nations, rejecting God's system of leadership.

Read 1 Samuel 8:4-5 "...Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." (NKJV)

Think About

- What was the underlying spiritual danger in Israel's desire to be "like all the nations"?

- How did prophets function as a check and balance against the absolute power of kings and priests?

Notice

- Who gathered together to speak to Samuel: _____
- Why they wanted a king: _____
- What this showed about their trust in God: _____

Apply What specific area of my life do I need to submit to the authority of God's Word today?

Day 5 - Women Prophets

Main Theme God pours out His Spirit on both men and women, calling courageous female prophets to deliver His messages and lead His people.

Set the Scene When the nation of Judah was on the brink of disaster, King Josiah sent his top officials straight to a female prophet named Huldah.

Read 2 Kings 22:14 "...went to Huldah the prophetess... And they spoke with her." (NKJV)

Think About

- What does the inclusion of female prophets like Miriam, Deborah, and Huldah teach us about God's calling?
- How do the stories of these women show that God's Spirit is not limited by human cultural norms?

Notice

- Who went to seek counsel: _____
- How Huldah is explicitly identified: _____
- What this shows about God using women: _____

Apply How can I encourage and support the spiritual leadership of women in my community this week?

Day 6 - False Prophets

Main Theme We must anchor our faith in the Word of God to recognize and resist the comfortable lies of false prophets.

Set the Scene In Jeremiah's day, false prophets were highly popular because they promised peace and prosperity while the nation was spiraling toward destruction.

Read Jeremiah 14:14 "...The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them..." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why is it so dangerous to listen to someone who only preaches "smooth things" and never calls for repentance?

- How can we effectively test the spirits to distinguish a true prophet from a false one?

Notice

- What the false prophets claim: _____
- What God says about their calling: _____
- Where their deceitful message comes from: _____

Apply How can I spend more time in the authentic Word of God so I can easily spot a spiritual counterfeit?

Day 7 Summary

This week I discovered:

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A truth about Jesus I want to remember:

One step I will take this week:

Prayer: