Big Idea While Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God, the Holy Spirit continued to pour out the prophetic gift in the early church to comfort, unite, and build up believers.

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 - New Testament Prophets

Main Theme The Holy Spirit empowers true prophets in both the Old and New Testaments, placing Jesus Christ at the center of their messages.

Set the Scene Paul wrote to the church in Corinth to explain that while believers have widely different gifts and ministries, they are all empowered by the exact same God.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit..." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why is it important that God gives a "diversity" of gifts rather than making us all the same?
- How can we ensure our varied gifts work together in unity?

Notice

- The source of the diverse gifts: _____
- The source of the different ministries: _____
- Who works all in all: _____

Apply Who can I thank today for the spiritual gift they use to bless the church?

Day 2 - Jesus as Prophet

Main Theme Jesus is the ultimate Prophet predicted by Moses, serving not just as a messenger, but as the Creator and the Word made flesh.

Set the Scene When Jesus asked His disciples who people thought He was, they mentioned various great prophets, but Peter recognized that Jesus was something far greater.

Read Matthew 16:15-16 "...Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" (NKJV)

Think About

- Why wasn't it enough for people to just see Jesus as a good prophet like Elijah or Jeremiah?

- What does it mean for your daily life that the "Word became flesh"?

Notice

- The personal question Jesus asks: _____
- How Peter identifies Him: _____
- His relationship to God: _____

Apply How do I answer Jesus' question, "Who do you say that I am," in my actions today?

Day 3 - Apostles and Prophets

Main Theme The early church was built on the teachings of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ holding everything together as the chief cornerstone.

Set the Scene Paul uses the imagery of a building to describe how God designed the church, showing the vital relationship between its leaders and its Savior.

Read Ephesians 2:20 "...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone..." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why do you think Paul specifically pairs "apostles" and "prophets" together as the foundation of the church?
- If Jesus is the cornerstone, what happens when a church or a believer becomes misaligned with Him?

Notice

- What the church is built upon: _____
- Who the foundation consists of: _____
- The role of Jesus Christ: _____

Apply Are my current spiritual habits building my life on shifting sands, or on the solid rock of Jesus?

Day 4 - Functions of New Testament Prophets

Main Theme New Testament prophets were gifted by the Holy Spirit to build up, encourage, and comfort the church during trying times.

Set the Scene While many associate prophecy exclusively with predicting the future, Paul reveals the deeply pastoral purpose of this spiritual gift in the early church.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:3 "But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why was "comfort and edification" so crucial for the early Christian church?
- How can our words be used prophetically today to build up rather than tear down?

Notice

- Who prophecy is spoken to: _____
- What prophecy does for people (edification): _____
- What it brings to the discouraged (exhortation and comfort): _____

Apply Who can I intentionally reach out to today with a word of encouragement and comfort?

Day 5 - Female Prophets and Young Pastoral Associates

Main Theme The Holy Spirit transcends human norms, pouring out the prophetic gift upon both men and women, young and old, to proclaim God's truth.

Set the Scene In the New Testament, we see clear evidence of the Holy Spirit falling upon diverse groups of people, including devoted women who served as prophetic messengers.

Read Luke 2:36, 38; Acts 21:9 "Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess... And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord..." (NKJV)

Think About

- What does the ministry of Anna and Philip's daughters teach us about how God distributes His Spirit?
- How can we better encourage the spiritual leadership and gifts of women in our local church today?

Notice

- Anna's specific title: _____
- What Anna immediately did when she saw Jesus: _____
- The specific gift Philip's four daughters had: _____

Apply Who is someone younger in the faith that I can gently encourage or mentor this week?

Day 6 - False Prophets in the New Testament

Main Theme We must stay anchored in the Bible and covered in the armor of God to protect ourselves from the deceptive signs of false prophets.

Set the Scene Jesus warned His followers that the days leading up to His return would be filled with spiritual deception, requiring extreme vigilance.

Read Matthew 24:24 "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive..." (NKJV)

Think About

- Why does Jesus warn us that these deceptions will be accompanied by "signs and wonders"?
- How can we ensure we are so familiar with the truth that we cannot be deceived?

Notice

- Who will rise up: _____
- What they will show: _____
- Who their ultimate target is: _____

Apply What pieces of God's spiritual armor do I need to put on more securely today to protect my mind?

Day 7 Reflection

This week I discovered:

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-

A truth about Jesus I want to remember:

One step I will take this week:

Prayer: