

How to Receive Prophecies

Hearing from Heaven, Part 1

Summary for Teachers

Theme

Learn to use the gift of prophecy!—Bible history of the gift of prophecy. How God speaks today. How you can receive prophecies.

Aim

To give the Scriptural foundation regarding the gift of prophecy. To introduce the students to how to receive and use the gift. To lead them to the point where they can receive prophecies.

Roundup

Prayer and Opening Activity (10 minutes)

Prayer

Praise Time with songs

Class Section 1: What Is Prophecy? (20 minutes)

Prayer includes listening to God

When God speaks...

Prophecy: One of the gifts of the Spirit

The desirable gift

“Forthtelling”

Class Section 2: About Prophecy in the Bible (30 minutes)

Prophecy comes from God

Prophecy and prophets in the Old Testament

The Early Church and the gift of prophecy

The gift of prophecy was a respected ministry in the Early Church

Conclusion: You can hear from Heaven too!

Class Section 3: God Speaks Today! (20 minutes)

Why the Living Word is needed

Testimonies: How Jesus speaks today!

Class Section 4: How to Hear from Jesus in Prophecy (20 minutes)

How to hear from the Lord

Have faith and create a vacuum!

Recognizing the Lord’s voice

Class Section 5: Hearing from the Lord (15 minutes)

Hearing from the Lord.—We can do it!

Practical tips for hearing from the Lord

[Optional Activity] Hearing from the Lord together

Discussion

Closing Activity and Prayer (5 minutes)

[Optional] Songs and Prayer

Get Prepared

- This class is divided into five sections (not including the opening and closing activities). You do not need to teach Section 5, “Hearing from the Lord,” if the attendees are not ready for it or if you are running short on time. This could be saved for the next class.
- Section 2 on “What the Bible has to say about prophecy” is very important to teach thoroughly. Although you do not have to read every verse, it is vital that the students understand the Scriptural foundation for the gift of prophecy.
- You will notice that this class includes some points that have already been taught in earlier classes, such as the reminders about prayer being a two-way conversation. As these are central points for understanding the role of prophecy in our lives, it is important that the attendees grasp these clearly, and that’s why they are repeated. There is also the possibility that some students have missed an earlier class.
- Throughout this class, whenever there is a series of verses offered, you may select a few of them. You do not have to read every verse.
- Prepare for teaching Section 3 on “God Speaks Today” by recalling testimonies of your own personal experiences of hearing from the Lord. Your personal testimonies will be an inspiration and help, probably even more than the examples that are given in the class.
- Be sure to look over *Hearing from Heaven (Get Activated!)*, as this contains much more background and advice on the gift of prophecy than you will have time to teach in this class. It is important you are aware of what is in the book and that the students also read this.
- If the Lord leads you to go ahead with hearing from the Lord with your students, you will need to stay very open to Him and be an open channel through which He can direct things. You’re leading these fairly young believers into a very important phase of their lives, so be sure you are prepared by pre-praying for this part of the meeting!
- Here is a message from the Lord on the two classes on Hearing from Heaven:

(Jesus:) This [gift of prophecy] is a very important gift that I want to give to the students who will be partaking of this course. For each one of them will be saved and will be learning how to draw closer to Me, how to learn more from My Words, and this is something I wouldn’t want them to miss out on.

If some of the students will only be able to attend the 12 Foundation Stones course, then with this knowledge about hearing from Me and hearing from others, availing themselves of My spirit helpers, they will be able to do mighty things. Even if left on their own in the days to come, I will be able to help them and shepherd them more personally on an individual level.

Teach them to discern spirits, for not every spirit is from Me, and they have to be warned of that and learn how to try the spirits through My Word. Teach them how to examine prophecy with My Word and by the standard of My Word so that they will not be led astray.

- Related material in *Activated* magazines:
 - Activated* Issue #6, page 15: “Quiet Time”
 - Activated* Issue #11, pages 3–5: “God Still Speaks”; page 7: “Heaven’s Hotline”; page 11: “Hearing from God”; page 15: “Thoughts”; page 16: “In the Secret Chambers.”

Student Reading Material

Hearing from Heaven (Get Activated! booklet)

Prayer and Opening Activity

15 minutes

► Prayer

① *Pray a short inspired prayer to start the meeting.*

► Praise time with songs

① *Ask everyone to prepare a little something to say for Praise Time—something he or she wants to thank the Lord for since the last time you were together. Sing a few praise songs, and then have Praise Time with everyone participating.*

① *Then ask for a volunteer to pray for the class.*

Class Section 1: What Is Prophecy?

20 minutes

► Prayer includes listening to God

As was discussed in “Prayer, Part 1: Principles and Practice,” prayer is not meant to be a one-way conversation with the Lord in which you do all the talking! Your relationship with the Lord should also include listening to Him. Prayer is communion with the Lord, directly conversing with the Lord. You come to Him with quietness and respect and you sincerely present your petition, and you wait silently to get the answer. If you really want to hear Him, He’ll talk to you.

1 Samuel 3:9–10—Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, ‘Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. (10) Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel answered, “Speak, for Your servant hears.”

Numbers 9:8—And Moses said to them, “Stand still, that I may hear what the Lord will command concerning you.”

Psalms 4:4b—Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.

Psalms 46:10a—Be still, and know that I am God.

📖 [Optional] Skit: The Story of Samuel

The script of this skit is based on 1 Samuel 3:1–10. The students could be involved in acting this out.

► When God speaks...

When the Lord speaks and gives a message through one of His people, we refer to such inspired utterances as “prophecy.” Throughout the Bible the Lord spoke to His people this way, inspiring His prophets to give His words and messages.

In both the Old and New Testaments, God tells us that in the days prior to Jesus’ Second Coming, a period known in the Scriptures as the “Time of the End,” or the “Last Days,” He is going to pour out His Spirit in a special way, anointing many of His servants to prophesy. He says,

Acts 2:17–18 (also Joel 2:28–39)—And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. (18) And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.

► Prophecy: One of the gifts of the Spirit

① *The gift of prophecy was explained during the class on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is mentioned here again only as a review. Depending on how much the attendees have retained from the earlier class, you may or may not need to mention this again. You may want to just refer to this very briefly.*

When we ask the Lord to fill us with His Holy Spirit, we can then receive what the Bible calls the “gifts of the Spirit.” These are special spiritual gifts from our Heavenly Father to strengthen and assist us in many different ways. The gift of prophecy is included among the nine basic gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12:

1 Corinthians 12:4,10–11—There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ... (10) to another prophecy ... (11) But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

These are gifts from a loving Heavenly Father to His children to help communicate understanding of Himself and His Will.

In the Old Testament, only certain kings and prophets and leaders received the Holy Spirit and the whole burden of leadership fell on them. But when the New Testament age dawned, on the Day of Pentecost, God completely threw out the old system of making believers so totally dependent on human leadership for their guidance, and He made every single individual Christian responsible, directly, to His Own Holy Spirit.

Everyone can have just as much of the Holy Spirit as they want or can take, and should be led individually of the Lord. The Lord did this to prepare the Church (His followers) for an age when it was going to have to survive a lot of persecution and its members would need to be individually led by Him.

► The desirable gift

The Bible also tells us that the gift of prophecy in particular should be desired and sought by God’s people. In other Bible passages we are encouraged to desire this spiritual gift, and to let God speak to us and through us via prophecy.

1 Corinthians 14:1,5,39—Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. (5) I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the Church may receive edification. (39) Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

► “Forthtelling”

Many people think of “prophecy” as predicting the future, but this is not always the case. The word “prophecy” is taken from a Greek word propheteia that means “the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God.”

Prophets do a lot of foretelling under the inspiration of God’s Spirit. But a further meaning of prophecy is to speak under divine inspiration, to forthtell the Words of God—to simply give God’s Word, whatever it may be, whenever it may be, at any time, at any place, to any people, whenever it is God’s will.

Class Section 2: About Prophecy in the Bible

30 minutes

Let's look at some of the ways God has used the gift of prophecy to speak to His people through history.

► Prophecy comes from God

2 Peter 1:21—For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:21—God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Hosea 12:10—I have also spoken by the prophets, and have multiplied visions; I have given symbols through the witness of the prophets.

Romans 12:6—Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith.

► Prophecy and prophets in the Old Testament

■ In the days of Moses 70 elders prophesied

Numbers 11:24–30—So Moses went out and told the people the Words of the Lord, and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. (25) Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again. (26) But two men had remained in the camp: the name of one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them. Now they were among those listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. (27) And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” (28) So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, “Moses my lord, forbid them!” (29) Then Moses said to him, “Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them!” (30) And Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

■ Elijah was the main prophet, but there were at least 100 others:

1 Kings 18:1,3–4—And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, “Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.” (3) And Ahab had called Obadiah, who was in charge of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the Lord greatly. (4) For so it was, while Jezebel massacred the prophets of the Lord, that Obadiah had taken one hundred prophets and hidden them, fifty to a cave, and had fed them with bread and water.)

■ Elisha's schools for prophets

(Elisha trained a group of prophets called “the sons of the prophets”)

2 Kings 2:3,5—Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha. ... (5) Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha.

2 Kings 4:38—And Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land. Now the sons of the prophets were sitting before him.

2 Kings 6:1—And the sons of the prophets said to Elisha, “See now, the place where we dwell with you is too small for us.”

■ Samuel's group of prophets

1 Samuel 19:20—Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

► The Early Church and the gift of prophecy

It is very interesting to study over the experience of the Early Church and how they not only got their directions from the written, recorded Word of God, but also relied on the gift of prophesy. Here are just a few examples of the first Christians' reliance on the Living Word (received through prophecy):

Acts 11:27–30—And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. (28) Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. (29) Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. (30) This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 13:1–3—Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Acts 19:6—And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Acts 21:8–9—On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. (9) Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied.

Acts 21:10–14—And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. (11) When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" (12) Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. (13) Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." (14) So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."

► The gift of prophecy was a respected ministry in the Early Church

1 Corinthians 12:28—And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

1 Thessalonians 5:20—Do not despise prophecies.

Romans 12:6—Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophecy in proportion to our faith.

► Conclusion: You can hear from Heaven too!

Reading about some of the times God has spoken to His children in the past, as well as becoming familiar with His many promises to speak to you, will strengthen your faith that you, too, can hear from Heaven!

Class Section 3: God Speaks Today

20 minutes

► Why the Living Word is needed

We have a permanent, written record of God's unchangeable Words in the Bible, but God is still speaking today, through prophecies, visions, and signs. These current messages from the Lord are His "Living Word."

You may ask, "Why isn't reading the Bible enough? Why can't we just get our answers from the recorded, printed Word?"

Yes, you should get as many answers from the recorded Word as you can, but where the printed Word doesn't go far enough to answer your specific needs, the Lord has given His Word through prophecy as a further way of finding His direction. The written Word gives you the fundamentals, the basics, but often the Lord wants to give you specifics for your particular situation through speaking to you directly in prophecy.

■ Counsel for today

The basic principles of the written Word do apply. However, there is much counsel needed that will not be found specifically in the Bible. Therefore, the Lord is offering you this priceless gift of speaking to you directly about your own individual situation.

The Lord wants to speak to us to guide and encourage us. He promises,

Isaiah 30:21—Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it."

■ Prophecy will not contradict the written Word

A prophecy that is truly inspired by the Lord will not contradict the written recorded Word of God in the Bible, though it may fill in "gaps" in our understanding. The Word is the measurement, the standard by which it should be judged. (We'll discuss more about this in the next class.)

► Testimonies: How God speaks today!

① *Spend some time sharing testimonies of how and when the Lord has spoken, not only through prophecies, but also through visions, dreams, and the voice of His Word.*

① *Try to share some testimonies of your own experiences.*

① *You can also encourage the attendees to share any experiences they have had along these lines.*

① *Then, as time permits, you can share some of the following optional items. You could dramatize the stories to make them more exciting if you wish.*

① *You may want to make a point of sharing how the Lord will speak to anyone who listens. There are many believers worldwide who hear the voice of the Lord.*

[Optional] Listen to the voice of God

Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965, Nobel Prize winner, missionary doctor in Cameroon and French Equatorial Africa [now called Gabon]) was a great musician and doctor who went to Africa to be a missionary and help the sick. One time he was traveling up a river with a boat loaded with supplies for a hospital he had built. As they were traveling he noticed a big tree had fallen in the water. If they hit it, the boat could sink and they would drown.

After his visit to the hospital, Albert returned back down the river. It was late at night and very dark. He warned the men not to go too near the bank of the river but to stay out closer toward the middle. Suddenly the Lord gave Albert a check in the Spirit that they were getting too close to the shore. All

the men said they weren't and that it was fine where they were, so Albert sat down again. *I guess they know best*, he thought. *After all, they go up and down this river all the time and their eyes are trained to see into the dark forest. My eyes are not as good as theirs!*

Suddenly the Lord spoke again to Albert's heart, this time with a much stronger warning. *You need to obey Me or you'll all drown!* Albert jumped up and commanded the men to instantly move the boat farther out to the middle of the river. They had no sooner obeyed than suddenly they saw the huge, dark mass of a giant tree that had fallen in the water. Had they not turned aside at that instant the boat would have rammed it and sunk!

[Optional] The faith of a child!

From Mary

Hearing from the Lord is so thrilling that even the young kids like it and are excited about it, praise the Lord! One of our kids wears a brace for her teeth, which she has to take out every time she eats, and one day she misplaced it. We looked everywhere but could not find it.

She suggested we get together and hear from the Lord about it. I felt that was brave of her, and I wondered if she was really ready to hear what I thought the Lord wanted to say about her not being so faithful with her things. I did not expect to get anything myself, since it was such a specific question, and I have had a hard time believing that I could receive specific answers from the Lord.—Others, yes, but not me.

But lo and behold, I got, "With the orange peels, in the garbage can." I didn't share it at first, because it was just so unbelievable, so I waited for others to share what they had received. No one else received anything though, so I said, "This sounds crazy, but I got 'With the orange peels, in the garbage can.'" My daughter looked—and there it was! He gives direct answers!

[Optional] Receiving a song in prophecy!—"Beyond Compare"

(You can share this anecdote after playing the song "Beyond Compare" which is on the tape/CD *Embrace*. The words are in the "Devotional Song Sheet.")

From Michael

This song was quite special to me, and I felt was definitely "from beyond." I'd been having some sweet times with our precious Jesus, and felt in need of a song to somehow express His wonderful love. At the same time I had been fighting discouragement.

One day I was alone in the studio taking some Praise Time; I went to the piano and the melody of the first verse came very effortlessly, plus some of the words. I wrote it down but wasn't able to finish it then. About a week later I went to my room and prayed and got the rest of the words in prophecy. I still didn't have a melody for the bridge, so I went to the piano and prayed and then tried turning on my tape player and playing and singing away, sort of one-take, to see what would come—and that's how the bridge came. All in all, the Lord came through, and very little to do with me!

[Optional] Music and prophecy

Music definitely is a vehicle for getting in the Spirit! Look at this verse about Elisha, who, when he was asked to hear from the Lord, said, "Bring me a minstrel" (2 Kings 3:15). The verse goes on to say, "Then it happened, when the musician played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him."

Here's another verse concerning music and getting songs in prophecy, as it says that certain musicians would actually prophesy with their musical instruments: "Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals" (1 Chronicles 25:1).

Class Section 4: How To Hear From God in Prophecy

20 minutes

► How to hear from the Lord

- Find a quiet place.
- Begin your time with the Lord by praising Him and/or by reading His Word.
- Then, either ask the Lord a specific question or just generally ask Him what He wants to tell you.
- Closing your eyes will help eliminate distractions.
- Be still and focus your mind on the Lord. Concentrate on Him.
- Sometimes the Lord may speak by bringing to mind a verse or passage from the Bible. He brings it to life or He applies it to a particular situation or decision you are faced with. If He reminds you of something like this while you are praying, then look it up and read it right then, asking the Lord to help you apply it.
- Sometimes the Lord may speak a new message that you've never heard before. The words will probably not be audible, but a "still, small voice" in your mind.
- Speak or write down or record what you get, then the Lord will give you more. By recording what He has given you, it shows the Lord your faith that you believe it is from Him. Then He'll give you more.
- Try not to think, analyze, or judge the message as it is coming; just accept it and thank God for it.
- Some messages are short; some are lengthy.
- Sometimes, instead of words, the Lord will give you a picture or vision.

► Have faith and create a vacuum!

① *You can bring this section to life by using a radio to illustrate the principle of turning on the switch and receiving the message.*

① *This section is enlarged upon in the Study Notes book in the Mountain Streams article "Faith."*

You have to have faith. When you ask the Lord for an answer, expect an answer, and take the first thing that comes. If you really believe and ask the Lord, and you want to hear or see, you won't be disappointed!

In the air right now all around us, there are radio waves. But until you turn on this little switch on the radio, you're not going to hear them. You have to open a channel, an electric circuit.

God's Spirit is like a broadcasting station broadcasting all the time. All you have to do is throw the switch and tune in!

You have to believe when you when you ask the Lord to speak to you, that the first words that come into your mind and the first things you see are from the Lord, and go on from there. You must begin to speak (or write down) that Scripture or phrase He gives you.—And then He'll give you more!

► Recognizing God's voice

1 King 19:9,11-12—And there he [Elijah] went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the Word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ... (11) Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; (12) and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.

God speaks in a still, small voice. It doesn't have to be with an audible voice. It can just be in a still, small voice that you feel inside of you. Sometimes it's not even words, but just an impression that you have. God doesn't always communicate in words; He can just give you a feeling or a picture or an idea.

As you continue to study His Word in faith, letting it fill your heart and mind, the more your ability will grow to recognize His still, small voice when you ask Him to speak to you.

John 10:27a—My sheep hear My Voice.

- For more advice on how to hear from Heaven, see “Ground Rules” (page 10) “Getting Started” (page 18) and “Basic Operating Instructions” (page 32) in the *Hearing from Heaven (Get Activated!)* booklet.

Class Section 5: Hearing from the Lord

15 minutes

- ① *Please be led of the Lord as to whether the attendees are ready for this section of the class. If you don't feel they are ready, or if you are short of time, you could leave this section until your next meeting.*
- ① *You should adapt the following according to the spiritual level and receptivity of the attendees. In some cases, they will hear from the Lord with you. In other cases, perhaps only you (teachers or elders) will receive prophecies. In other cases, you will only explain the steps of hearing from the Lord but not actually pray together.*

► Hearing from the Lord.—We can do it!

Maybe you're wondering, “What is it like when you're getting something from the Lord? What do you feel and how do you know you're actually getting something from Him?” Probably the best way we can answer this is by experiencing it together!

What we would like to do now is pray and ask the Lord to speak to us, but before doing that, here are a few practical pointers. (But we'll say in advance here, that nobody is going to be expected to prophesy. Not everybody receives the gift of prophecy and even many people who do have the gift prefer to exercise it in private.)

► Practical tips for hearing from the Lord

- When praying together like this, usually we start by letting those who are receiving prophecies speak. Then afterwards, when the prophecies are finished, we take time to share visions, verses, or impressions received from the Lord.
- Many people don't feel anything special or unusual at all when prophesying. Other people experience a range of different emotions when getting a prophecy. Emotions or feelings can vary from person to person, and from session to session. Some feel very moved at times, and at other times feel nothing. Some people have sweaty palms every time they prophesy, feeling nervous, etc. The feelings are not important, and you should give what you get, regardless of whether you “feel” something or not.
- Some people feel the urge to give what they get from the Lord as soon as it comes; they don't want to forget the beginning of their prophecy or lose their chance. However, if someone else is speaking, you must wait your turn, and be sure that the other person is finished before you begin. The Scripture says, “The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets” (1 Corinthians 14:32), indicating that it is possible to wait, and that the Lord will help you to hold your prophecy until you have the opportunity to give it.

- When finished, the person who gave the prophecy can say “amen” or start praising the Lord, or somehow indicate that his prophecy is finished. Sometimes a prophecy might come with pauses between sentences. So it’s important that each one waits until the other is finished before giving what he or she has received. Everyone needs to know when you’re finished, to avoid a prophecy being unintentionally interrupted or cut off.
- Often there are short pauses between prophecies, while everyone waits and praises and/or prays quietly. Although this pause can sometimes feel awkward, don’t worry about it. It doesn’t mean there is anything wrong.
- If two people start to give a prophecy at the same time, don’t worry that one of you is out of tune or missing the mark somehow. That happens often and it’s not a problem. In such cases, one of the two people who started to speak at the same time can go ahead with his or her prophecy, and the other person can go next.

► [Optional Activity] Hearing from the Lord together

- ① *As explained earlier, in some situations the attendees will be ready and eager to hear from the Lord with you. In other cases, it may not be appropriate to do this with them. Be sure you’re getting your instructions from the Lord about whether to proceed with this or not.*
- ① *If you do pray together, it is very important to ensure that none of the attendees feel put on the spot or embarrassed. They should not feel compelled to prophesy.*
- ① *You may want to encourage them that if they receive something from the Lord, if they feel awkward about speaking it out loud, they can simply write it down.*
- ① *You should also encourage them that if they don’t hear anything from the Lord right then, they should not be discouraged, as they may find it is easier to pray when they are alone at home.*
- ① *Then have prayer together, asking the Lord for His Spirit to lead and for a prayerful atmosphere to prevail, so that everyone will be able to tune in to His “whispers.” Specifically pray for the Lord to give each one the gift of prophecy, that they will have faith to be able to hear from Him and to know when to speak. You may like to claim any of these verses, applying what the Lord said to your request:*

Jeremiah 1:9—Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: “Behold, I have put My Words in your mouth.”

Ezekiel 3:10—Moreover He said to me: “Son of man, receive into your heart all My Words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears.”

Acts 2:17–18—And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. (18) And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.

- ① *Then listen to the Lord together.*

► Discussion

- ① *When the Lord has finished speaking and the prayer is finished, take a little time to discuss with everyone what happened. Find out if anybody received visions or verses.*

Closing Activity and Prayer

5 minutes

▶ [Optional] Songs

① *If you have time, sing a few devotional songs from the "Devotional Song Sheet."*

▶ Prayer

① *Finally have prayer to close the meeting.*