



HERE WE ARE TO WORSHIP
A Word from God: *Prophecy*
Small Group Study, week commencing 30th January 2023

For starters

Today we are going to be thinking about prophecy. Does anybody have an example of a time when you received a word from God, via someone else? How about a time when you felt God give you something to share with someone else?

Study

Read [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](#).

Paul outlines that there are a variety of gifts (v8-10), all given by the same Spirit (v4), according to how the Lord determines (v11). They are for the common good and include the gift of prophecy (also included in the gift list in Romans 12:6).

1. How would you describe prophecy?

Notes for leader: 'A specific revelation for a specific time' or 'Prophecy is receiving revelation from God and sharing it with others'. Prophecy is rooted in a relationship with Jesus - we are his sheep who are learning to hear his voice (John 10:27). The more we know Jesus, the easier it is to notice his promptings and be his mouthpiece. It's important to note that this is different to the words of scripture, and prophecy within scripture. The Bible's words are God's word for all people, at all times, whereas any 'word' we have from God is to be subject to the Bible and comes through people like us, who are having a go at hearing God. It is often about now, rather than the future.

Prophecy in the New Testament is a broad term that includes when people teach, included in a carefully planned way, and when they preach, including when it is spontaneous like it was for Peter at Pentecost, as well as when someone 'brings a word' like was happening in Corinth.

Read [1 Corinthians 14:1-5](#).

Paul describes and gives instructions for the worshipping life of the Church in Corinth focusing on both prophecy, and tongues, and tongues will be our subject next week. With the passage open, look at the following questions together.



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2. According to v1 and v5, who is prophecy for? Have you eagerly desired the gift of prophesy? Tell us a bit about how, and why/why not?
3. What is the purpose of prophecy? See v3, v5 and v31.
4. In his message Andy outlined different ways that we can here from God. Can you re-cap what these were? (*SEE, FEEL, SPEAK, HEAR and KNOW*)
5. Have you ever felt God speak to you through one of these ways?
6. If you think God might be speaking to you about something, that you should share with others, what do you do with that? Discuss this in the context of:
 - a) Praying with a friend/ family member.
 - b) Sharing in a small group.
 - c) Wanting to share something in a church service.
7. How can we 'weigh' (v29) whether this 'word' is from the Lord?

Notes for leaders: Helpful questions include - does it fit with scripture? Does it strengthen, encourage and build up and do others affirm this word?

Prayer

Paul charged the Corinthians to eagerly desire the gift of prophecy. Invite the group to ask for the gift of prophecy, either for the first time, or to grow in this gift.

Exercise: Ask for a volunteer to be prayed for. They might want to share a little before being prayed for. For example, they may want to share prayers requests, hopes for the year or areas of challenge at the moment.

As a group pray for them, leaving space and time to listen to the Holy Spirit. Invite and encourage the group to share what came to mind, making it clear that we are all learning and having a go.