

The background of the entire page is a solid red color. A large, stylized graphic of a hand holding a pen is rendered in a light red, fine-line pattern. The hand is positioned on the left side, with the pen nib pointing towards the right, directly at the word 'prophecy'.

the power of
prophecy

EQUIPPERS 

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This study guide and electronic versions of the videos for this series and the many others produced by Equippers Church can be accessed at www.equipperschurch.com/egroups

HOST'S GUIDE

This study guide is here to help you lead a fun and transformative eGroup study over the next few weeks that will see each person progress and grow.

Use this guide along with the videos for a life-changing, interactive experience.

BEFORE YOU MEET:

- Ask God to prepare the hearts and minds of the people in your eGroup. Ask Him to show each of you how to apply what you learn to your own heart to see growth and to move forward.
- Preview the DVD and read through the study guide for that week. Think about what you might answer for each question. Make notes in your study guide if you want to.

SETTING UP:

- Take time before everyone arrives to prepare some snacks to share with everyone, set up the room you will use, check that there are enough seats, and try to create a relaxed and comfortable environment to meet in. You might want to play music quietly to create a relaxed atmosphere when everyone arrives, or move the furniture in your living room to make the space inviting.
- Have a Bible handy for verses that you might want to look up during discussion.

HOW TO HOST YOUR GATHERING AND USE YOUR STUDY GUIDE:

ENGAGE: Welcome each person as they arrive. Spend time chatting, getting to know one another, or just sharing about the week. Your relationships as a group are as important as the time you spend watching the video or in discussion. A relaxed and friendly environment is an easy place to learn and hear from God.

RECAP: After the first session you may wish to spend a bit of time each week recapping how your last seven days has been, inviting members to share any opportunities they had throughout the week to apply what they learned.

KEY THOUGHT: This is the main takeaway for the week. Use it as a guide to frame your discussion.

WATCH: After you have spent some time engaging with each other watch the DVD for the week.

DISCUSS: Read out each question in the study guide, allowing time for everyone to share their thoughts or experiences if they desire.

When a question arises, ask the group for their input, and resist the urge to answer it yourself straight away. Your primary role is to create an environment where people feel comfortable to be themselves and participate, not to provide all the answers to all of their questions. Don't be afraid of silence as participants think of their response to the questions.

Remember, the goal is not necessarily to 'get through' all of the questions. The main priority is for each person to learn and engage in dynamic discussion.

: Each week in this series there will be a different activation. Allow a good amount of time for this, the focus of this series is to practice prophesying not to just talk about it.

SUGGESTED TIME FRAMES FOR YOUR GATHERING:

ENGAGE: 15 minutes

RECAP: 10 minutes

WATCH: 10 minutes

DISCUSS: 25 minutes

ACTIVATION: 10-15 minutes

(Please note that these are just suggested times, you may wish to take longer in certain areas. However, we do recommend keeping your gathering to a maximum of one and a half hours in consideration of others' time)

KEYS TO A DYNAMIC EGROUP

RELATIONSHIPS: Meaningful, encouraging relationships are the foundation of a dynamic eGroup. Discussion and prayer are important elements of a gathering, but the depth of each part is often dependent upon the depth of the relationships between members.

AVAILABILITY: Building a sense of community within your group requires members to prioritise their relationships with one another. This means being available to listen, care for one another, and meet each others' needs.

MUTUAL RESPECT: Mutual respect is shown when members value others' opinions (even when they disagree) and are careful to never belittle or embarrass others in the group (including their spouses, who may or may not be present).

OPENNESS: A healthy group environment encourages sincerity and transparency. Members treat each other with grace in areas of weakness, allowing each other room to grow.

CONFIDENTIALITY: To develop authenticity and a sense of safety within the group, each member must be able to trust that things discussed within the group will not be shared outside the group.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: Group members will share the responsibility of gatherings by using their God-given abilities to serve at each meeting. Some may greet, some may prepare food, some may pray, etc. Ideally, each person should be available to care for one another as needed.

SENSITIVITY: Dynamic eGroups are born when the leader consistently seeks and is responsive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, following His leading throughout the meeting as opposed to sticking to the 'agenda'. This is especially important during the discussion and prayer time.

FUN! Dynamic gatherings take the time to have fun! Create an atmosphere for fun, and be willing to laugh at yourself every now and then!

WHAT IS PROPHECY?

ENGAGE: Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT: Prophecy is speaking thoughts from God so that a message of encouragement comes to someone else.

WATCH: Watch 'Session One' of the video.

KEY VERSE: 1 Corinthians 14:1 (NKJV)

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy."

DISCUSS

Question 1

Share your experience with prophecy. Is it something you've done before or is it new to you?

Question 2

Ps David said that God blesses us to bless others, and that spiritual gifts are given for this purpose.

What's one way God has blessed you in order to bless others? Share a specific example if you can.

Question 3

1 Corinthians 14:1 says we should "earnestly desire spiritual gifts".

Do you desire these gifts and to prophesy? Share what has helped you to desire them, or why you think you might not.

Question 4

God speaks to us how we're wired. Some people see things (pictures, visions, dreams), some feel things, and some hear things (words).

If prophecy is something you've done before, how does God usually speak to you?

Question 5

It's easy as Christians to stay in our comfort zone and operate in the natural only when we are created to live supernatural lives.

What has helped you break out of your comfort zone and operate in the supernatural?

ACTIVATION

Each week there will be a different activation. Allow a good amount of time for this, the focus of this series is to practice prophesying not to just talk about it.

- Stand in a circle with one person in the middle.
- Each person ask God what He wants to say to the person in the middle.
- Two or three people share what they feel God is saying.
- Take turns until each person has been in the middle.

THE PURPOSE OF PROPHECY

CONNECT: Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT: Prophecy can be predictive or foretelling and is intended to build up, stir up and cheer up.

WATCH: Watch 'Session Two' of the video.

KEY VERSE

1 Corinthians 14:3 (NKJV)

"But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men."

DISCUSS

Question 1

Share a moment you were on the receiving end of a prophetic word and how it made you feel.

Question 2

Jesus said that "my sheep hear my voice", so anyone that is a follower of Jesus has the privilege of hearing God speak. We just have to learn to tune in. Are there any tips that have helped you hear God's voice that you can share with the group?

Question 3

1 Corinthians 14:3 teaches us the purpose of prophecy. When have you been built up (edified), stirred up (exhorted), or cheered up (comforted) by someone through prophecy?

Question 4

One of the Greek words for prophecy means to bubble or gush forth and this is how prophecy usually works. We often don't get the full message when we start and this can be a challenge until we become more comfortable with it. What do you find challenging about prophesying?

ACTIVATION

This week's activation will be in smaller groups. Allow a good amount of time for this, the focus of this series is to practice prophesying not to just talk about it.

- Split into groups of three (and a two if needed).
- Each person pick a number, one to three.
- Pick a number to start by being the receiver, and the other numbers ask God what He wants to say to them.
- Take turns until each number has been the receiver.

HOW TO PROPHECY

CONNECT: Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT: As well as to edify, exhort and comfort; prophecy can bring direction or correction. Directive or corrective words should be left to those with experience and be tested for confirmation.

WATCH: Watch 'Session Three' of the video.

KEY VERSE: Joel 2:28 (NIV)

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

DISCUSS

Question 1

For those that have experienced prophecy, share some more of the tips and hints that you've found helpful that might be helpful to others. This could be things you've discovered in the previous two weeks' activations.

Question 2

Ps David encouraged us when we prophesy to not be too long, and said, "when God finishes, we finish".

Have you ever been tempted to speak longer? Why might this be?

Question 3

What do you think about using prophecy as a tool for evangelism? Have you ever had the opportunity to prophesy over a non-Christian? What happened?

Question 4

Have you ever received a directive or corrective word? What did you do with it?

Question 5

How can you test or confirm a prophetic word you receive? Have you ever had a scripture to confirm a major decision? Share your experience.

ACTIVATION

This week we will do the same activation as the first week. Allow a good amount of time for this, the focus of this series is to practice prophesying not to just talk about it.

- Stand in a circle with one person in the middle.
- Each person ask God what He wants to say to the person in the middle – keep to edifying, exhorting and comforting words.
- Two or three people share what they feel God is saying.
- Take turns until each person has been in the middle.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF PROPHECY

CONNECT: Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT: Understanding the difference between different kinds of prophecy helps us to know how to respond to prophetic words.

WATCH: Watch 'Session Four' of the video.

KEY VERSE: 1 Timothy 1:18 (NIV)

"Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well"

DISCUSS

Question 1

Share testimonies of how the words you have received over the last few weeks have helped you.

Question 2

Before watching this week's video, did you know the difference between Old Testament and New Testament prophecies and why this difference exists?

Question 3

How does the new covenant change how God speaks to us, and why is this?

Question 4

Ps David said that not all prophecy is for giving out, some is for praying. Have you experienced God speaking to you for the purpose of praying? What prompted you to pray instead of share the word?

Question 5

What did you learn about the three realms of prophecy from the video?

Question 6

Have you received a prophetic word and seen it come about? Share what you did in the gap between receiving the word and seeing it as a reality.

ACTIVATION

This week's activation is prophetic prayer. Allow a good amount of time for this, the focus of this series is to practice prophesying not to just talk about it.

- Get into pairs and each ask the Holy Spirit to give you a nation to pray for.
- Ask the Holy Spirit what to pray for in that nation.
- Take turns to pray for the nation you've each been given.

