



living waters
Abide™
MINISTRIES

CALLED TO BE PROPHETS
UNDERSTANDING YOUR ROLE IN THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD
Retreat/ Group Companion WORKBOOK



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WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



Dedication

To my wife, Linda, who has served as a wonderful prophet for our marriage, family, business, and ministry. She understands that we are all called to be Prophets—speaking the truth into personal situations and relating what is to come as the Lord so speaks. She further understands that this is all based on hearing God speak, relating what God speaks without adding her own stuff, and then processing the truth with me and others to have the Father confirm what He is speaking. It is a privilege to live this way with a partner who serves God's work in this way.

We together also wish to honor our family who have all learned to serve as prophets—a true joy to experience the power and life of this together. They are all such inspiration.

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Acknowledgments

We wish to honor all of the leaders of our **Abide Ministries**. As each person and each couple have learned to live in the prophetic. They freely enjoy this privilege in their personal lives and then are teaching others the beauty and importance of living in the prophetic. We all have such joy as we experience the power of this and also the fun of this as our lives are full of adventure and surprises. This is truly building the body of Christ in this most important life of Christ—Him speaking and we serving as prophets to each other.

These leaders are:

Jake and Mary Beckel
Caden and Lauren Cardie
Colton and Alicia Cardie
Heath and Rebecca Cardie
Rich and Janet Cocchiaro
Larry and Sherry Collet
Katherine Cornell
Scott and Kristen Cornell
Dom and Dawn Deluca
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Preston and Lynda Pitts
John and Brenda Presko
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LESSON 1

FOUNDATION



The first major thing we need to understand, which is kind of foreign to most believers, is that life with God is always experienced in heaven and on earth.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: PERSONAL REFLECTION

As you start this course, take some time to reflect on these questions. They will serve as context for what we do throughout:

1. What revelation has God given you personally lately about yourself, your business, your church, or anything involving your life?

2. What decisions or issues do you need God to reveal things to you—what we might call unresolved issues where you really don't know yet what God is saying?

3. Are there any bigger issues about future assignments, big moves, or big changes that you need to make?

If you'd like to know more about
Abide Ministries,
please see our pages
at the back of the workbook

LESSON 1

FOUNDATION

HEAVEN AND EARTH AS A UNIT

- **From the following scriptures:** When we think of heaven, what do we tend to think of—and where do we assume we're going when we die?

Isaiah 65:17-19 ESV

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.”

—Isaiah 65:17-19 ESV

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Genesis 1:1-2, 31; 2:1-3 ESV

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

—**Genesis 1:1-2 ESV**

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

—**Genesis 1:31; 2:1-3 ESV**

Revelation 21:1-4 ESV

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

—**Revelation 21:1-4 ESV**

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If God destroys both heaven and earth to create them new, what does that tell you about how they function together?

2. If heaven and earth are a unit, what changes about where you're supposed to live and operate right now?

JESUS AND THE KINGDOM

- **From the following scriptures:** When Jesus teaches us to pray, what does He tell us to ask for regarding God's will?

Matthew 6:9-13 ESV

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

—Matthew 6:9-13 ESV

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Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

—Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"—what does that tell you about where you're supposed to be operating?

2. Jesus has all authority in heaven AND on earth. If you're going to teach others to observe all He commanded, what must first be true of you?

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GOD'S AUTHORITY OVER BOTH REALMS

- **From the following scriptures:** If God's ministers are to operate in His kingdom, where exactly does that kingdom operate?

Psalms 103:19-22 ESV

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will! Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!

—**Psalms 103:19-22 ESV**

Psalms 119:89-95 ESV

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast. By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants... I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.

—**Psalms 119:89-91, 93 ESV**

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If the hosts and ministers operate in both heaven and earth, and you're called to be a minister, what does that tell you about where you're supposed to be functioning?

2. God's word is "firmly fixed in the heavens" and speaks into your "earthly situations." How should that shape the way you receive His direction?

CHRIST'S PREMINENCE AND RECONCILIATION

- **From the following scripture:** When Paul describes what Christ created and what He's reconciling, what two realms does he keep connecting?

Colossians 1:15-20 ESV

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

—Colossians 1:15-20 ESV

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Christ is reconciling “all things, whether on earth or in heaven.” If He’s doing that work through us, what must be happening in our lives?

2. Adam and Eve lost the spiritual connectivity of the heavenly place through disobedience. Through Christ, what has been restored to you?

CHRIST AS HIGH PRIEST

Well, how did that happen? He’s the high priest, and He fulfilled something. This is a little bit lengthy, but a critical piece to understand. I would urge you, if you have the time, to really read through the depth of Hebrews 8, 9, and 10. It describes how this came together.

- **From the following scriptures:** In the Holy of Holies, there was no seat for the high priest. Why not? And what does it mean that Christ “sat down”?

Hebrews 8:1-2, 6-7 ESV

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

—Hebrews 8:1-2 ESV

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Hebrews 8:8-12 ESV

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

—Hebrews 8:10-12 ESV

Hebrews 9:11-15 ESV

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption... how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.

—Hebrews 9:11-12, 14-15 ESV

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Hebrews 9:24-26 ESV

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

—**Hebrews 9:24-26 ESV**

Hebrews 10:11-14, 17-18 ESV

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

—**Hebrews 10:11-14 ESV**

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

—**Hebrews 10:17-18 ESV**

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When Jesus said “It is finished” and sat down at the right hand of the Father, what exactly was finished?

2. If Christ fulfilled both sides of the covenant—blessing you to make you a blessing—what’s the only thing that can keep you from receiving it?

SEATED IN THE HEAVENLIES

- **From the following scripture:** When you became a believer, where does Paul say you are seated? Pay attention to the verb tense.

Ephesians 2:4-10 ESV

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

—Ephesians 2:4-10 ESV

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul doesn't say you WILL BE seated with Christ—he says you ARE seated. What changes if you actually believe that's true right now?

2. If you're seated with Christ at the right hand of the Father while still living on earth, where do your assignments and power come from?

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE

- **From the following scripture:** What does it mean that God is the “fountain of life” and we “feast on the abundance of His house”?

Psalm 36:5-9 ESV

Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O LORD. How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

—Psalm 36:5-9 ESV

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EXPERIENCING GOD IN THE SANCTUARY

- **From the following scripture:** Where does David say he experiences God's power and glory?

Psalm 63:2-5 ESV

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.

—Psalm 63:2-5 ESV

GREATNESS, POWER, AND GLORY

- **From the following scripture:** What does David say belongs to God—and where does it operate?

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 ESV

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

—1 Chronicles 29:11-12 ESV

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God says, “I’m spectacular. I’m splendor, I’m majesty. Why don’t you come and join me?” What keeps most believers from accepting that invitation?

2. If you join Him in the throne room while living on earth, you “automatically will experience splendor and majesty and power.” What does “automatically” mean for your daily life?

CALLED TO BE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

- **From the following scriptures:** According to Peter, who is called to be a royal priesthood—and what question should that raise?

1 Peter 2:4-10 ESV

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

—1 Peter 2:4-5 ESV

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

—1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV

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PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

- **From the following scriptures:** What has God's divine power granted to us—and what do we become through His promises?

2 Peter 1:1-4 ESV

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

—2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you're called to be a priest, the question isn't whether you have the title—it's "What does a priest do, and how do I do that?"

2. 2 Peter says you've been given everything pertaining to life and godliness and have become a partaker of the divine nature. If that's true, what's keeping you from living like it?

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WHAT THE PRIEST DOES

1 Chronicles 23:12-13 ESV

The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart to dedicate the most holy things, that he and his sons forever should make offerings before the LORD and minister to him and pronounce blessings in his name forever.

—1 Chronicles 23:13 ESV

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT: BRINGING GOD’S WORD

1 Kings 8:6-11, 23-24 ESV

And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

—1 Kings 8:10-11 ESV

And said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart; you have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.”

—1 Kings 8:23-24 ESV

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TRUTH AND SANCTIFICATION

John 17:15-19 ESV

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

—John 17:17-19 ESV

PRAYER: THE INCENSE OF THE SAINTS

Exodus 30:7-8 ESV

And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before the LORD throughout your generations.

—Exodus 30:7-8 ESV

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. A minister walks with God, receives what God has to say, and communicates that. If your role is to help others get to that same place, what must first be true of you?

2. If people start coming to you asking “What does God say?” what’s the difference between telling them and helping them hear for themselves?

BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS

- **From the following scriptures:** What does David say we must NOT forget—and what are the benefits?

Psalm 103:1-5 ESV

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

—Psalm 103:1-5 ESV

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DAILY PRONOUNCING BLESSING

Psalm 145:1-7 ESV

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

—**Psalm 145:1-4 ESV**

On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate. They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness. They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

—**Psalm 145:5-7 ESV**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you're able to pronounce blessing, what must first be true of you? And what happens to those around you if you're not receiving?

2. "I need you to confirm it and help them realize that they can hear my voice as well." How does this shape your prophetic role with others?

LESSON 1

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SESSION 1 REFLECTION

For Scriptural Understanding

1. What does Scripture reveal about the relationship between heaven and earth throughout God's plan—from creation to the new creation?

2. According to Hebrews, what makes Christ's sacrifice different from the Old Testament sacrificial system, and what does "once for all" mean?

3. What does Peter mean when he says believers are a "royal priesthood," and who does this apply to?

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For Deeper Understanding

1. Why is it significant that there was no seat in the Holy of Holies—and that Christ sat down at the right hand of the Father?

2. How does understanding that you ARE seated with Christ (present tense) change your perspective on daily challenges and assignments?

3. What is the connection between the prophetic calling and helping others “join what they already have the privilege of joining”?

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For Personal Application

1. Do you understand that you're called to be a priest and a prophet—and do you actually believe it? What would change if you did?

2. What would it look like for you to step into this calling this week, rather than waiting until you feel "ready"?

3. If the body of Christ needs you to fulfill this role, and you're a critical piece—what happens to the people around you if you don't step into it?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE



We are to help people understand the sacrifices, which is basically to surrender and join Him in the truth of that, and then to live out the feasts, which are to experience that.

COMMISSIONED AS PRIESTS: BEARING WITNESS

- **From the following scripture:** When Paul says we're to demonstrate God's wisdom, who is our audience—just people, or something more?

Ephesians 3:7-12 ESV

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

—Ephesians 3:8-12 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If your audience includes principalities and powers in the spiritual realm, what must be happening through you for your witness to have any effect?

2. If you're only operating in the natural realm, who has superiority? And what changes when you operate in both realms?

CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER PRINCIPALITIES

- **From the following scripture** When Paul describes what Christ accomplished on the cross regarding principalities and powers, pay attention to the verb tenses. Past or future?

Colossians 2:11-15 ESV

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

—Colossians 2:13-15 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Christ disarmed, triumphed over, and put to open shame the rulers and authorities—all PAST TENSE. Why are you still fighting a battle He already won?

2. If the enemy only has power over you when you're NOT walking in the kingdom, what does that tell you about where you need to be living?

OVERCOMING: JESUS AT THE DOOR

- **From the following scriptures:** Jesus says He's standing at the door and knocking. But who is He talking to—unbelievers or believers?

Revelation 3:20-22 ESV

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

—Revelation 3:20-22 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

Psalm 54:4-7 ESV

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life... For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

—Psalm 54:4, 7 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus doesn't promise to remove you from trouble—He promises you'll overcome WHILE IN IT. What's the difference?

2. God delivers from EVERY trouble—not some, not most, but ALL. If that's true, why do believers stay stuck in their troubles?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

A SWEET AROMA: LIVING IT OUT

- **From the following scripture:** Paul says we are the "aroma of Christ." But what makes us actually smell sweet—and what happens when people encounter that aroma?

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

—2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. You ARE a sweet-smelling aroma—if you're living in the heavenlies and experiencing the sweetness of God's life. What must first be true of you before you can attract others?

2. People aren't attracted to a trouble-free life (they don't believe that exists anyway). What IS attractive to them?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

SIGNS AND WONDERS: GOD BEARS WITNESS

- **From the following scriptures:** As you reflect the Word, how does God bear witness to what you're saying?

Hebrews 2:1-4 ESV

How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

—Hebrews 2:3-4 ESV

MAKE KNOWN HIS WONDROUS WORKS

1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 15 ESV

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered.

—1 Chronicles 16:8-12 ESV

Remember his covenant forever, the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

—1 Chronicles 16:15 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

Daniel 4:1-3 ESV

King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

—Daniel 4:1-3 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you say "God does miracles" but you have no personal experience to share, what does that communicate to the person you're talking to?

2. Even Nebuchadnezzar—a pagan king—couldn't help but declare God's signs and wonders when he experienced them. What happens when we DON'T have experiences to declare?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM: BIND AND LOOSE

- **From the following scriptures:** Jesus says He's giving Peter "the keys of the kingdom." What do those keys allow you to do?

Matthew 16:16-19 ESV

Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

—Matthew 16:16-19 ESV

Matthew 18:18-20 ESV

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.

—Matthew 18:18-20 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you have a problem, is your first instinct to "maneuver" it naturally, or to bring the authority of the kingdom to it?

2. Jesus says this authority operates through unity—two or three agreeing. Who are you exercising this authority WITH?

SIGNS AND WONDERS: THROUGH HUMAN HANDS

Acts 2:40-43 ESV

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

—Acts 2:41-43 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

Acts 5:12 ESV

Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

—Acts 5:12 ESV

Acts 6:8 ESV

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.

—Acts 6:8 ESV

Acts 14:2-3 ESV

But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

—Acts 14:2-3 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Signs and wonders were done "by the hands" of the apostles—they were the active agents, not passive observers. Are you waiting for God to act, or are you willing to be the instrument He acts through?

2. It has nothing to do with skill, education, or background—just "Do you have a heart to do it?" Do you?

YOU ARE THE COVENANT

Isaiah 42:5-9 ESV

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: 'I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

—Isaiah 42:5-7 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus quoted this passage about Himself in the synagogue. What does it mean that YOU now carry that same role—"given as a covenant for the people"?

2. If you ARE the covenant, what must first be true of your life before you can deliver the covenant to someone else?

CALLED TO PROPHECY

- **From the following scriptures** What's the difference between "forth-telling" and "foretelling"—and what are the three purposes of prophecy?

1 Corinthians 14:1-5 ESV

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy.

—1 Corinthians 14:1-5 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

SPEAK WHAT I TELL YOU, GO WHERE I SEND YOU

Jeremiah 1:4-10 ESV

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."

—Jeremiah 1:5-8 ESV

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

—Jeremiah 1:9-10 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

Acts 15:32, 35 ESV

And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words... But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

—Acts 15:32, 35 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jeremiah's job was to speak what God said and go where God sent him—not to control the outcome. How does this free you from worry about how people respond?

2. You should ENJOY being prophetic—seeing others experience the supernatural. Is that your experience, or does it feel like a burden?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING ALREADY GIVEN

- **From the following scriptures:** According to Paul, have you received SOME spiritual blessings, or ALL of them? And where are they located?

Ephesians 1:3-14 ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

—Ephesians 1:3-6 ESV

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

—Ephesians 1:7-10 ESV

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

—Ephesians 1:13-14 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Every spiritual blessing has ALREADY been given to you in the heavenlies. What's keeping you from accessing and experiencing them?

2. If someone asked you to prove that it's possible to know and carry out God's will supernaturally, could you demonstrate it from your own life?

DELIGHT IN GOD'S WILL

And He said the key to the whole thing is this:

Psalm 40:6-9 ESV

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.'

—Psalm 40:6-8 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

DENY SELF, TAKE UP THE CROSS, FOLLOW

Matthew 16:24-27 ESV

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?'

—Matthew 16:24-26 ESV

GOD IS LOOKING FOR FAITHFUL PRIESTS

1 Samuel 2:35 ESV

And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever.

—1 Samuel 2:35 ESV

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

CLOSING CHARGE

What issues or decisions do you need God's will revealed for right now?

Who will you process these things with this week—spouse, friend, inner circle?

SESSION 2 REFLECTION

For Scriptural Understanding

1. According to Ephesians 3, who is the audience for the church's demonstration of God's wisdom—and what does that mean for how you operate?

2. What four things does Colossians 2 say Christ accomplished on the cross—and in what verb tense?

3. What does Isaiah 42 mean when it says God will give you "as a covenant for the people"?

LESSON 2

PURPOSE AND ROLE

For Deeper Understanding

1. Why is operating only in the natural realm a disadvantage against principalities and powers? What changes when you operate in both realms?

2. Signs and wonders were done “by the hands” of the apostles—not apart from them. How does this change your understanding of your role?

3. What’s the relationship between being blessed yourself and being able to deliver the covenant to others?

For Personal Application

1. Are you using your bold access to the throne room with confidence—or are you wasting the opportunity?

2. When someone comes to you with a problem, do you start with “God will give you the covenant” or with natural advice?

3. God is looking for faithful priests to raise up for Himself. Are you one of them? What would it take to become one?



LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING



**He invites us to be
the priests who
also speak His Word
and demonstrate
to the principalities
and powers the
supernatural life that
He has.**

THE VOICE OF THE LORD: POWERFUL AND MIGHTY

- **From the following scriptures:** As you read this psalm, what strikes you about the nature of God's voice?

Psalm 29:1-11 ESV

The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon... The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

—Psalm 29:3-5, 7-9 ESV

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

—Psalm 29:10-11 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

GOD SENDS OUT HIS VOICE

Psalm 68:33-35 ESV

To him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

—Psalm 68:33-35 ESV

THE SPIRIT SPEAKS BY ME

- **From the following scriptures:** Who does the speaking—and through whom does it come?

2 Samuel 23:2-3 ESV

The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue. The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God...

—2 Samuel 23:2-3 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Jeremiah 10:1 ESV

Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

—Jeremiah 10:1 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God's voice is described as powerful, majestic, and world-shaking—yet it also makes calves skip with joy. How do both of these fit together in what He wants to deliver to you?

2. "The Spirit of the LORD speaks BY me." If you're going to speak God's words, what must first be happening in you?

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

IN SYNC WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **From the following scriptures:** Paul says he didn't come with "plausible words of wisdom." What did he come with instead—and why?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

—1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 ESV

But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him'—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

—1 Corinthians 2:9-12 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

—1 Corinthians 2:13-14 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When someone debates or rejects what you're sharing from God, what are the two dangers? And what's your actual job?

2. "Eyes haven't seen, ears haven't heard what God has prepared." If it comes through revelation not logic, how does that change your approach to sharing

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **From the following scriptures:** According to Jesus, what is the Holy Spirit's job—and what will He do for you?

John 15:26-27 ESV

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

—John 15:26-27 ESV

John 16:13-15 ESV

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

—John 16:13-15 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

John 16:23-24 ESV

In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

—**John 16:23-24 ESV**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The disciples had been “praying” the whole time by being with Jesus and dialoguing. How does that change your understanding of what prayer is supposed to look like?

2. “It’s not going to change—it’ll be the same because of the Holy Spirit.” If Jesus is WITHIN you, how should that affect your daily interaction with Him?

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

MAKE DISCIPLES: TEACH THEM THE LIFE

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

—Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 4:29-31 ESV

'And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.' And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

—Acts 4:29-31 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

THE KINGDOM: RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, AND JOY

Romans 14:17-19 ESV

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

—Romans 14:17-19 ESV

THE GOD OF HOPE

Romans 15:13, 16 ESV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

—Romans 15:13 ESV

...to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

—Romans 15:16 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

THE THESSALONIANS EXAMPLE

1 Thessalonians 1:4-8 ESV

Because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

—1 Thessalonians 1:5-8 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul says the church is weak when it talks ABOUT God instead of speaking the WORDS of God. What's the difference?

2. The Thessalonians received the Word, experienced it, and gave it away to the whole region—Paul didn't have to say anything. What does this "flow-through" model look like in your life?

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

ASK FOR WISDOM

And then He says, as you do that, you're going to have questions. What do you do with those questions?

James 1:5-8 ESV

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

—James 1:5-8 ESV

TEST THE SPIRITS

1 John 4:1-6 ESV

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world... Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

—1 John 4:1, 4-6 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

PROPHET SUBJECT TO PROPHET

1 Corinthians 14:29-33, 39 ESV

Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

—1 Corinthians 14:29-33 ESV

So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.

—1 Corinthians 14:39 ESV

PROPHECY IS NOT PRIVATE

2 Peter 1:19-21 ESV

Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

—2 Peter 1:20-21 ESV

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

THIS WEEK'S APPLICATION:

Who has given you permission to speak into their life? Who could you ask for that permission?

What is God showing you right now that you need others to weigh in on and confirm?

SESSION 3 REFLECTION

For Scriptural Understanding

1. According to 1 Corinthians 2, what is the difference between speaking “in plausible words of wisdom” and speaking “in demonstration of the Spirit and of power”?

2. What does James 1:5-8 say is the ONE condition for receiving wisdom from God—and what does that actually mean?

3. According to 1 John 4, how are you supposed to “test the spirits”—and what’s the purpose of testing?

LESSON 3

HEARING AND SPEAKING

For Deeper Understanding

1. The disciples had been “praying” by being with Jesus and dialoguing all along. Now the Holy Spirit is WITHIN you. How should your “prayer life” actually look?

2. When someone debates or rejects what you’re sharing from God, why is engaging and trying to persuade them actually harmful to the process?

3. “The prophet is subject to the prophet”—why does God want prophecy to be public and open to others weighing in, rather than private and definitive?

For Personal Application

1. Do you believe God WILL speak to you if you ask? If not, what’s blocking you from settling that question right now?

2. Think of a time you saw something true about someone’s situation but didn’t say anything because you were afraid. What did that cost them? What did it cost God’s purposes?

3. Who in your life has permission to speak into you? And who have you asked permission to speak into? What would change if you expanded both circles?

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES



We have an opportunity to build the body by speaking to each other. Not what we think is a good idea, but rather God's word—which is what we learned.

JEREMIAH: A PROPHET'S JOURNEY

EXAMPLE 1: THE CALL OF JEREMIAH

- **From the following scriptures:** Jeremiah says he's not capable. What does God say back—and why?

Jeremiah 1:4-10, 11-12 ESV

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD."

—Jeremiah 1:5-8 ESV

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

—Jeremiah 1:9-10 ESV

And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond branch." Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

—Jeremiah 1:11-12 ESV

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God told Jeremiah, “Don’t say you’re only a youth”—because it’s not about capability. What excuses do YOU make for why you can’t be prophetic?

2. God tested Jeremiah immediately: “What do you see?” How does God train us through small exercises like this?

EXAMPLE 2: THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME

- **From the following scripture:** How does Jeremiah describe the way God’s word arrives?

Jeremiah 2:1 ESV

The word of the LORD came to me, saying...

—Jeremiah 2:1 ESV

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 3: GOD PROVIDES CONTEXT

- **From the following scripture:** Before giving Jeremiah a message, what does God do first?

Jeremiah 3:6 ESV

The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore?"

—Jeremiah 3:6 ESV

EXAMPLE 4: AT A CROSSROADS

- **From the following scripture:** What does God tell them to do when they're not sure which way to go?

Jeremiah 6:16 ESV

Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." But they said, "We will not walk in it."

—Jeremiah 6:16 ESV

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 5: THEY WON'T LISTEN—SO WHY BOTHER?

- **From the following scripture:** God tells Jeremiah in advance that they won't listen. So why send him at all?

Jeremiah 7:27 ESV

"So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you."

—Jeremiah 7:27 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God still sends invitations through you even when He knows they won't listen. What does that reveal about His heart?

2. Their refusal is not your problem—"just go to the next thing." How does that free you from anxiety about people's responses?

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 6: DON'T GET PUFFED UP

- **From the following scripture:** What does God say to glory in—and what NOT to glory in?

Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

—Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV

EXAMPLE 7: SPEAK THE COVENANT

- **From the following scripture:** What message can you be assured God will always include when you speak for Him?

Jeremiah 11:1-3 ESV

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. You shall say to them, Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Cursed be the man who does not hear the words of this covenant."

—Jeremiah 11:1-3 ESV

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 8: STRANGE INSTRUCTIONS—OBEY WITHOUT FULL UNDERSTANDING

- **From the following scripture:** God gives Jeremiah a strange command with no explanation. What does Jeremiah do—and why?

Jeremiah 13:1-11 ESV

Thus says the LORD to me, “Go and buy a linen loincloth and put it around your waist, and do not dip it in water.” So I bought a loincloth according to the word of the LORD, and put it around my waist. And the word of the LORD came to me a second time, “Take the loincloth that you have bought, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates and hide it there in a cleft of the rock.” So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me. And after many days the LORD said to me, “Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there.” Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. And behold, the loincloth was spoiled; it was good for nothing.

—Jeremiah 13:1-7 ESV

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God gave Jeremiah strange instructions (bury a loincloth) without explaining why. How willing are you to obey without understanding first?

2. Object lessons cement understanding and build confidence. When has God used an experience to teach you something words alone couldn't convey?

EXAMPLE 9: CONCERNING WHAT'S HAPPENING RIGHT NOW

- **From the following scripture:** What's the context for this word from God?

Jeremiah 14:1 ESV

The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought...

—Jeremiah 14:1 ESV

"Came to me concerning THIS." Right now is happening right now. There's something happening right now, and I have something for you to say and to relate to. So it's not just a grand philosophy. This is happening RIGHT NOW for this situation. "I want you to say something right now." And it came to me.

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 10: DIFFICULT MESSAGES—DON'T ADD YOUR PHILOSOPHY

- **From the following scripture:** This is a harsh message. What was God's PURPOSE in having Jeremiah deliver it?

Jeremiah 15:1-4 ESV

Then the LORD said to me, "Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of my sight, and let them go! And when they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity, to captivity.'"

—Jeremiah 15:1-2 ESV

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

EXAMPLE 11: DON'T JOIN THEM

- **From the following scripture:** Jeremiah is complaining. What does God tell him NOT to do?

Jeremiah 15:19-21 ESV

Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD."

—Jeremiah 15:19-21 ESV

EXAMPLE 12: SOMETIMES IT'S JUST FOR YOU

- **From the following scripture:** Is everything God tells a prophet meant to be spoken out loud to others?

Jeremiah 16:1-2 ESV

The word of the LORD came to me: "You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place."

—Jeremiah 16:1-2 ESV

LESSON 4

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Not everything God shows you is meant to be spoken out—sometimes it's just for you. How do you discern the difference?

2. God says difficult messages are meant to elicit repentance, not harm. When have you held back a hard truth because you were afraid it wasn't "nice"?

EXAMPLE 13: FOLLOW SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS

- **From the following scripture:** Why doesn't God just tell Jeremiah the message here—why make him go somewhere first?

Jeremiah 18:1-2 ESV

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words."

—Jeremiah 18:1-2 ESV

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EXAMPLE 14: DREAMS AND FAITHFULNESS

- **From the following scripture:** What role do dreams play in the prophetic—and what should you do with them?

Jeremiah 23:28-29 ESV

Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

—Jeremiah 23:28-29 ESV

EXAMPLE 15: DIALOGUE AND RELATIONSHIP

- **From the following scripture:** God could have just told Jeremiah what to say. Instead, what does He do?

Jeremiah 24:1-3, 5-7 ESV

After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken into exile from Jerusalem Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah... the LORD showed me this vision: behold, two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the LORD. One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, but the other basket had very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten. And the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" I said, "Figs, the good figs very good, and the bad figs very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten."

—Jeremiah 24:1-3 ESV

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EXAMPLE 16: SPEAKING TO A LARGER AUDIENCE

- **From the following scripture:** What's scary about this assignment—and why might God call you to it anyway?

Jeremiah 26:2-3 ESV

Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds.

—Jeremiah 26:2-3 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. It's RELATIONSHIP, not system—God enjoys the dialogue with you. Are you enjoying it back, or just trying to "get the message"?

2. God uses common, everyday things to teach you. What has He been showing you lately that you might have passed by?

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EXAMPLE 17: WRITE IT DOWN

- **From the following scripture:** What does God tell Jeremiah to do with this word—and why?

Jeremiah 30:1-2 ESV

Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you.

—Jeremiah 30:2 ESV

EXAMPLE 18: DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES—GOD DELIVERS

- **From the following scriptures:** Being a prophet got Jeremiah into trouble. What had God promised him from the beginning?

Jeremiah 37:21; 38:17-20; 39:11-12 ESV

So King Zedekiah gave orders, and they committed Jeremiah to the court of the guard. And a loaf of bread was given him daily from the bakers' street, until all the bread of the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the court of the guard.

—Jeremiah 37:21 ESV

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Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, "Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: If you will surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then your life shall be spared, and this city shall not be burned with fire, and you and your house shall live... Obey now the voice of the LORD in what I say to you, and it shall be well with you, and your life shall be spared."

—Jeremiah 38:17, 20 ESV

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave command concerning Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, saying, "Take him, look after him well, and do him no harm, but deal with him as he tells you."

—Jeremiah 39:11-12 ESV

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ISAIAH: VISIONS AND CLEANSING

EXAMPLE 19: IT CAN START WITH A VISION

- **From the following scripture:** How does Isaiah describe the beginning of his prophetic ministry?

Isaiah 1:1 ESV

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

—Isaiah 1:1 ESV

EXAMPLE 20: CLEANSED AND SENT

- **From the following scripture:** Isaiah says “Woe is me, I am unclean.” What happens between that moment and “Here am I, send me”?

Isaiah 6:1-8 ESV

And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

—Isaiah 6:5-8 ESV

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Isaiah said, “Woe is me! I am unclean!” But God cleansed him and THEN said, “Who will go?” What does this tell you about the order of operations for being prophetic?

2. Being a prophet may lead to difficult circumstances—but God promised to deliver. How does that promise change your willingness to speak?

EXAMPLE 21: SPECIFIC PLACE, SPECIFIC PERSON, SPECIFIC TIMING

- **From the following scripture:** How specific are God’s instructions to Isaiah here?

Isaiah 7:3-4 ESV

And the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer’s Field. And say to him, ‘Be careful, be quiet, do not fear...’”

—Isaiah 7:3-4 ESV

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EXAMPLE 22: SOMETIMES DON'T GET FURTHER ENGAGED

- **From the following scripture:** What does God warn Isaiah NOT to do after delivering the message?

Isaiah 8:11 ESV

For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people...

—Isaiah 8:11 ESV

EZEKIEL: SPIRITUAL NOT LOGICAL

EXAMPLE 23: SPIRITUAL, NOT LOGICAL

- **From the following scripture:** God is sending Ezekiel to stubborn rebels. What warning does He give about HOW to deliver the message?

Ezekiel 2:1-4 ESV

And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you." And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. And he said to me, "Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.'"

—Ezekiel 2:1-4 ESV

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EXAMPLE 24: EAT THE SCROLL—MEDITATE BEFORE DELIVERING

- **From the following scripture:** What does God tell Ezekiel to do with the scroll before speaking to Israel?

Ezekiel 3:1-2 ESV

And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat.

—Ezekiel 3:1-2 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. God tells Ezekiel this is SPIRITUAL, not logical—don’t add your own explanation. When have you negated a spiritual message by over-explaining it?
2. Are you ENJOYING being prophetic—the relationship, the dialogue, the adventure? If not, what’s getting in the way?

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EXAMPLE 25: THE WATCHMAN—IF YOU DON'T SPEAK, BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS

- **From the following scripture:** What happens if God tells you to warn someone and you refuse? What if you warn them and they refuse?

Ezekiel 3:17-21 ESV

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

—Ezekiel 3:17-19 ESV

EXAMPLE 26: OBJECT LESSONS

- **From the following scripture:** What unusual tool does God use to communicate His message here?

Ezekiel 4:1 ESV

"And you, son of man, take a brick and lay it before you, and engrave on it a city, even Jerusalem."

—Ezekiel 4:1 ESV

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EXAMPLE 27: EMOTION IS OKAY

- **From the following scripture:** What does God tell Ezekiel to DO physically as he delivers this message?

Ezekiel 6:11 ESV

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Clap your hands and stamp your foot and say, Alas, because of all the evil abominations of the house of Israel, for they shall fall by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence."

—Ezekiel 6:11 ESV

EXAMPLE 28: ANY TIME, ANY PLACE

- **From the following scripture:** When and where did God speak to Ezekiel in this instance?

Ezekiel 8:1 ESV

In the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house, with the elders of Judah sitting before me, the hand of the Lord GOD fell upon me there.

—Ezekiel 8:1 ESV

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. You may be the ONLY ONE standing next to someone who can hear God's voice for them. Who might that be in your life right now?

2. Is there something God has shown you that you've been afraid to speak? What would it take to be faithful?

CONCLUSION: THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A PROPHET

What from these examples most encouraged you about being prophetic?

What's one thing you're going to start doing differently based on what you learned?

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SESSION 4 REFLECTION

For Scriptural Understanding

1. What did Jeremiah learn from the loincloth exercise (Jeremiah 13)? Why did God use an object lesson instead of just telling him directly?

2. According to Ezekiel 3:17-21, what happens if you hear a word from God and refuse to speak it? What happens if you speak it and they reject it?

3. How did Isaiah move from “Woe is me, I am unclean” to “Here am I, send me”? What happened in between?

For Deeper Understanding

1. The prophets weren’t “special” or “super religious”—they were average people willing to be faithful. How does that change your view of who can be prophetic?

2. God said to Jeremiah, “They won’t listen, but say it anyway.” What does this reveal about God’s heart and the value of being His messenger?

3. “Don’t develop a system”—God interacts with each prophet differently, using words, visions, dreams, object lessons, and more. Why is RELATIONSHIP better than a system?

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For Personal Application

1. You may be the ONLY ONE standing next to someone who can hear God's voice for them. Who might that be in your life right now?

2. Is there something God has shown you that you've been afraid to speak? What would it take to be faithful?

3. Are you ENJOYING being prophetic—the relationship, the dialogue, the adventure? If not, what's getting in the way?



History of **Abide Ministries**



In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit.

In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit. They had been believers for most of their lives and regularly attended church and Bible studies, but began to realize that, despite knowing the Bible intellectually, their personal experiences seemed disconnected from the promises and truths found in scripture. As they then learned these essential truths through their abiding and hearing God's voice – and began to see the grand life play out in their lives God called them to give that knowledge away. In 2001, God initiated the ABIDE ministry at a retreat with friends in Austria, and through their personal experience of this abiding life, their friends noticed the change in their lives and inquired if Rich and Linda could host a similar retreat the following year. This was repeated three years in a row, and then God called them to host weekend retreats in their home in Colorado.

Through the formal development of the truths revealed by God with Abiding and additional electives, they founded All for Jesus – Living Waters Ministries, now Abide Ministries – and have seen it grow exponentially since then, with 24+ retreat leaders all over the world, 29 online courses, eight books on various aspects of living life with Christ, and a daily podcast. Rich and Linda have also worked with various churches to strengthening them with the truths of an abiding life in Christ, and seeing Christ bring reconciliation and new vision to desperate situations.

Their heart is to bring the truths and promises of God to as many people as possible, showing everyone that when you abide in Christ and seek Him daily, your life can be completely and utterly transformed – enabling you to experience the grand life promised by God.



Vision

At our core, we believe in walking along God's path and connecting to the vine (abiding). As we walk in unity with others and understand God's Word as the truth, we are sure to experience His promised grand life and thus, willingly accept God's will as our chosen path.



Mission

1. Live out and invite everyone to experience the grand, spectacular, abundant life by hearing God's voice.
2. Share God's majesty, a close relationship with us as he yearns for our restoration.
3. God is majestic, grand and pure goodness, so that we can experience His nature in real life.
4. Communicate to everyone, irrespective of their condition, that all are meant to experience God's Divine Life (grand, majestic), by receiving His personal plan for us.
5. God delivers this life for us in a SUPERNATURAL way, transcending human comprehension, and thus, becoming normal in our life.
6. Teach that personal truths are revealed to us by God, grounded on His word – the embodiment of Truth.
7. Recognize that abiding in Christ changes our life in tangible, real ways, and is not just learning about or studying this life.
8. Teach that as we abide in Christ, we learn to understand and follow God's will for our lives, as He leads us personally into His grand, Divine plan for us. His personal plan calls us into His bigger story with our best interest at heart (blessed to bless others).

Statement of Non-Profit Status

Abide Ministries is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that has been fully funded by our founders, leaders and retreat participants since its inception.

Tax-ID number: 27-1731819

Testimonies

"If I'm not abiding, I feel like I'm dying. Abiding is living...It's powerful to know that you have God's perspective on something."



Steve

"This was the first time that I understood what people meant by God's living Word. And I've been a Christian for a lot of years, but this was the first time it really came alive for me and I really could experience that."



Dan

"It doesn't matter where you are at in your walk. If you just got saved yesterday or if you've been a 20+ year believer like I have, learning how to hear God's voice and learning His will is just as important in day one as it is in day 3,426. You wanna hear God's will and this course has helped me hear Him more clearly."



Bob

"Abiding turned out to be the most transformational thing I've ever had since salvation in my Christian walk and in our marriage, and it's just been amazing. God has a path for us and He is there and He's showing it to us."



Heath

"Before, in my quiet time, it was more of a checklist thing for me to do in the morning, and, honestly, some mornings it was the thing that went if I was busy, and some days it didn't even happen. Now, it's become so personal to me and the time flies by in the morning and God speaks so directly to me and I just never felt that way on a daily basis before. That has been life-altering for me."



Rebecca

"I heard about people living in peace, I heard about people living in joy, and realizing all kinds of things around them are happening. And then we realize, wait a minute, we're there, we have peace beyond understanding."



Brad

Giving to the Ministry

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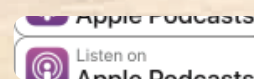
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Abide Ministries online courses uncover life-changing biblical truths, with practical application and wisdom. Our courses are joyful and life-giving and are perfect for small groups as well as individuals.

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