

## Activating People in the Prophetic

### Build a Bridge using Scripture and Testimonies

- In churches newer to the prophetic it is especially important to build a bridge from their understanding to what the Bible says about the prophetic and why it is important for every believer to prophesy.
- Below are some key points with scriptures we use to lay a basic foundation.
- We suggest lacing this foundation with testimonies (either your own, testimonies you have heard, or even better, testimonies of the church where you are leading).
- You want people to walk away from your teaching knowing that they are qualified to walk in the prophetic.

### Key Teaching Points:

- **Prophetic words are vessels for people to encounter God's love.**
  - When we teach on the gifts of the Spirit we frame them in the context of love. 1 Corinthians 12 and 14 are the key chapters that talk about the gifts of the Spirit. In the middle is 1 Corinthians 13, the famous love chapter. This is not an accident. The gifts are primarily vessels to display the love of God to others. We are called to love and the gifts help us display the supernatural love of God to the world. This is why it is so important for believers to walk in the gifts of the Spirit.
- **You lack no spiritual gift.**
  - *I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. **For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed** (1 Cor. 1:4-7).*
  - *Praise be to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has***

***blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ*** (Eph. 1:3).

- *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and **in Christ you have been brought to fullness**. He is the head over every power and authority* (Col. 2:9-10).
- *The Lord is my shepherd, **I lack nothing*** (Psalm 23:1). Some translations say, *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want*. In other words, “I will not be in want, because I do not lack anything.”
- *Giving thanks to the Father, **who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light*** (Col. 1:12).

### • **The Holy Spirit is the giver of the gifts.**

○ *There are different kinds of gifts, **but the same Spirit distributes them**. There are different kinds of service, **but the same Lord**. There are different kinds of working, **but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work**. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, **to another prophecy**, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. **All these are the work of one and the same Spirit**, and he distributes them to each and every one, to one's own, according to his deliberate will (1 Cor. 12:4-11).*

• Note that most translations have verse 11 as “*All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, **just as he determines***.” Some people will use this phrase to justify that the gifts are not for everyone. If you are in an environment that believes that the gifts are selective for specific people; just remind them how important it is to read everything in context.

• You may need to refer back to 1 Cor. 1:7, Eph. 1:3, 1 Cor. 12:6, etc...

• It is important for people to know that they are qualified to walk in the Supernatural, because they have the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit has all of the gifts.

• **All prophetic words should be strengthening, encouraging and/or comforting.**

- *But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3).*
- If it does not fall under one of these 3 categories it is not a prophetic word.
- Paul goes on in verse 5 to say that above all other gifts he prays that his people would prophesy. Why would he say that? Because prophecy has the ability to build people up and to release hope as well.
- *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen (Eph. 4:29).*
- We need to be intentional about what we are speaking. Our prophetic words have power to create realities. *Life and death are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21).*
- The world is starving for encouragement. We get the opportunity to proclaim what God says about them as opposed to what the world has told them.

• **The Holy Spirit leads the prophetic.**

- *But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and **he will tell you what is yet to come.** He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and **making it known to you.** All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you (John 16:13-15).*
- Not only is it the Holy Spirit's job to lead all believers into truth, but He is also responsible for letting us know what is going to happen in the future.

## • We are sharing God's perspective.

- ...*the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were* (Rom 4:17).
- It is important that we see people for how the Father sees them. Prophecy is not a diagnostic for how people are doing, but an encouragement of how the Father sees them.
- *Therefore we recognize no one according to the flesh* (2 Cor. 5:16). We are not looking at people through the lens of the flesh (fallen state), but through the lens of the Spirit.

## Making the Prophetic Practical:

### • Ways God Speaks

- Spend time sharing and de-mystifying the different ways God speaks.
- It is vital that you create safety whenever you teach on the gifts of the Spirit (especially if the environment you are in has never heard of the prophetic or the gifts being for today). Most people have a mystical view of prophecy and the gifts of the Spirit. We get to make the gifts both simple and practical for the believer to access.
- Give examples of how He speaks to you and/or let your team members share. You can mention:
  - Still small voice
  - A knowing
  - Nature
  - Scripture
  - Music
  - Pictures/Visions
  - Impressions
  - Audible voice

- Other people
- “Coincidences”
- Dreams
- Inspired thoughts (thoughts that you know you normally don’t think)

## • It is a Learning Process

- Encourage them to practice hearing God’s voice throughout daily life and in their quiet times (John 10:27, Amos 3:17).
  - It is important for them to know that every believer is supposed to hear God’s voice. No good father would get angry at his child for wanting to practice hearing his voice better.
  - Ask God questions throughout your day. Ask Him to speak through scriptures, nature, other people, worship songs, etc. Journal what you feel He is showing you.
- **Guitar analogy:** If your father gives a guitar, you have the option of whether you practice and learn to play it or leave it in its case in the corner of the room. Master status will not be acquired automatically for the vast majority, but with practice improvement will come!
- Prophecy is a gift you have been given. It is up to you to practice and learn how to use it.

## • Encourage

- In its simplest form, the prophetic is encouragement under the anointing.
- Become the most encouraging person you know (Heb. 3:13). Practice encouraging people and looking for the best in them. Encouragement attracts revelation. If you ensure your words are encouraging the worst that can happen if you ‘miss’ a word is that you encourage the person. The best that can happen is that God encourages them.

## • Delivery

- Avoid sharing dates, mates or babies. Explain that we are learning and we don't want to risk in a way that can damage someone else's belief.
- Use phrases like "I feel like God is saying" as opposed to "God told me" or "Thus saith the Lord."
- Explain that we want to encourage people to draw close to Jesus and give them safety and freedom within the word to explore it with God and their leaders.
- Remind them to always call out the gold.
- Explain that if they do get something negative, they should call out the opposite. For example, if you sense the person has an addiction, prophesy that God is bringing her into a new level of freedom.

## • Risk

- Help them understand that as we take risks, we continue to grow. Explain the importance of getting with friends to practice. E.g. they can ask God for specific details about their friends and get feedback.

## • Get outside

- Challenge them to take this outside of the church and practice.
- Teach them not to use Christianese in these settings.
  - If we say, "I saw a picture of you," they may think we are talking about social media.
  - Instead of, "I saw a picture of you playing soccer," you can ask, "Do you play soccer?"

## How to Activate an Individual

- Do everything you can to encourage them that they do hear from God.

- Help create a safe place for them to practice. Share stories where you got it right and wrong and celebrate every time they take a risk.
- You can do the group activations from the next section or one of the following:
  - Pick a friend on your facebook that they do not know. Show them the profile picture and ask them to describe your friend. Point out that what they may have thought was good intuition is actually the prophetic. Give feedback and ask increasingly specific questions. Help them learn when they are guessing and when they are hearing God. Do the exercise too so that you can model risk and being comfortable with getting it wrong. We are all learning!
  - Call your friend and ask each other questions like, “Did you have ..... for dinner?” “Is your mother’s birthday .....?”
  - In group situations when you are out and about spur each other on to get encouraging words for people. Celebrate no matter how small or simple your friend might think their word is.
- Continue to share with them how you hear God and share testimonies of the prophetic to create an expectancy and hunger for it.

## **Activities to Lead a Church/Group in a Prophetic Activation**

Before you start, ask the leader good questions to find out whether they have built a foundation or not. If they are nervous and/or new we recommend starting from Activity 1. If they are more confident you can start with some of the more advanced activities. These are a few suggestions to get started. Feel free to add and experiment with your own.

### **Activity 1: Demonstrate Getting Prophetic Words**

- Pick someone in the audience to give a prophetic word to. Politely ask their name and ask them to stand.
- Give them a prophetic word but as you give it, explain how you received each part of the word. Tell them what you are feeling, seeing, sensing and then how you interpret each part.

- Ask the person for feedback and explain the importance of this in helping us learn and grow.
- Do this with a couple of people to demonstrate the different ways God speaks and how to deliver a prophetic word.

## **Activity 2: Practice Encouraging**

- Ask the group to partner up. Lead them to partner with someone they came with or know well.
- Remind them that the prophetic is 'encouragement under the anointing'. Have them encourage (not prophecy over) the person they are partnered with. Demonstrate with a partner at the front.
- Get feedback.
  - Who feels encouraged?
  - Ask if that felt easy, fun, challenging.
  - Do everything to continue to lower anxiety and make it fun. If it feels too pressurized they will hesitate to step out again.

## **Activity 3 : Pink Elephant**

- Have everyone in the room close their eyes. Ask them to picture or imagine a pink elephant. Have them raise their hands when they can imagine a pink elephant.
- Once everyone's hands are raised explain this screen is one of the places God speaks to us. Remind them that there are different ways God speaks.
- For the next exercise explain that we are going to ask God to use our sanctified imagination and show us a picture in the same space we 'saw' the pink elephant.

## **Activity 4: Ask God Simple Questions**

- Explain that in order to get to know anyone we ask questions. That is how relationship is built. Explain that with the prophetic we get to ask God questions.



- Have them stay with their original partner if there is still anxiety in the room. If they seem more confident you can have them find a new partner.
  - *Note:* Partnering up the room can be where you lose people or can be chaotic if you don't manage the room well.
  - Ask everyone to put one hand in the air.
  - Ask people to partner up **quietly and quickly** with someone they do or do not know well, depending on the activity.
  - Ask both partners to lower their hands when they have found a partner.
  - Help partner up those with their hands still in the air either by giving instructions from the stage or having your team assist.
  - If you still have people looking for partners invite them all to come to the front of the church and partner them up easily and quickly from there.
  - Before you explain the activity, ask one last time if anyone still needs a partner. If there is one person left you can partner them with you or one of your team.
  - **IMPORTANT:** Make sure you have everyone's attention and the room is silent before moving on.
- Have them number themselves 1 and 2.
- Explain that they are going to ask God: "If my partner was an animal, what animal would they be and why?"
  - Make sure they know the question is NOT "What animal do they look like?"  
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- Encourage them to not overthink it and to go with the first animal that comes into their minds. Explain that once they know the animal they are not going to tell the

person the animal. They are going to use all the positive characteristics of that animal to encourage the person.

- Give an example over someone from the front. Remind them - you are not telling them the animal! The reason we do this is to give them a tool they can use with anyone. People at work or out on the streets would be confused if they open their encouragement with, "You are like a monkey."
  - Explain everything we are doing is training for both inside and outside the church.
- Have number 2's go first (to keep them guessing) and keep it light-hearted.
- After a minute or so ask them to wrap up their word.
- Have them give each other feedback in a way they would personally like to receive feedback.
- Get feedback by asking, "Who got an encouraging word?"
- Now have the number 1's go. We like to change up the question to something like, "If my partner was a household appliance, what would he be and why?" Again this is an opportunity to make it fun and light-hearted explaining in a fun way that clearly the number 1's would have an animal picked out already.
- Demonstrate again from the front and then follow the same steps as you did for the animal question, including getting feedback at the end.

### **Activity 5: Swap an Object**

- Have everyone get an object they came with and hold it.
- Partner the room up and have them number themselves 1 and 2.
- Explain that they are going to swap their objects with each other. They will each then take a turn prophesying over their partner using their partner's object.
- Do a demonstration.
- Have number 1's go first. After 1 minute get everyone's attention and have number 2's take a turn.

- Get everyone's attention and encourage them to give feedback.
- As with activities above - get feedback from the room.
  - Who was encouraged?
  - Who gave an encouraging word?

### **Activity 6: White Board AND....**

- Have everyone find a partner and number themselves 1 and 2.
- Explain that in this activity they are going to picture a white board in their mind and ask God to show them something on it. This could be a word, picture, color or anything He wants to show them.
- Once they have shared what they saw they will add on the word 'AND'. This encourages them to go deeper in their prophetic word and take a risk, trusting God to give them words.
- Do a demonstration.
- Give them around a minute each to give their words, and then encourage them to give each other feedback.
- Get some feedback from the group and, if there is time, some testimonies.

### **Activity 7: Group Coaching (good for a small group or school type setting)**

- Ask for a volunteer. Have them sit or stand at the front.
- Have everyone ask God for a prophetic word for the person at the front.
- Ask for volunteers to share their prophetic words in front of the group.
- Coach them on their words and delivery.
- For example: help them with terminology, keeping it positive, not speaking 'Christianese', not saying 'thus says the Lord', staying free of dates, mates and

babies etc. Do it all through encouragement and love and celebrate their risk.

- Once 3-5 people have given words, get feedback from the person receiving the words.
  - What made sense?
  - What stood out?
- If you have time, you can repeat the exercise with multiple volunteers.

### **Activity 8: Words of Knowledge**

- Have everyone make two lines like a fire tunnel. For a large group it may be a big double circle around the room. If you were previously doing an exercise where they had a partner, have them face their partner in the line.
- Then have everyone on one side turn around and close their eyes.
- Have those with their eyes open silently move around and find a new person to stand behind. Once they are with someone have them put a finger lightly on the person's shoulder.
- If there are a lot of people, have those with their eyes closed who DO NOT have someone lightly touching their shoulder raise their hand. Then have people find someone who still has their hand raised.
- Once everyone is partnered up explain that the person with their eyes closed is going to ask God a series of questions and remember the answers. We usually pick 5 questions that will be right or wrong like:
  - Is the person standing behind me male or female?
  - What color top is he wearing?
  - What month is her birthday?
  - What date is her birthday?
  - What does he love to do?

- What color eyes does he have?
  - What is her job?
  - What is his favourite movie?
  - What does her bedroom look like?
  - What is his mother's name?
  - What is her name?
- Have them remember the answers and then turn around and share with the person what they heard.
  - Ask, "Who got one or more things wrong?" Then celebrate them taking a risk and getting it wrong!
  - Ask, "Who got one or more things right?" "2 or more?" "3 or more?"
  - Finally encourage them to think about what things were right and what were wrong. Have them think about the different ways they got those answers so they can begin to realize the difference between hearing God and guessing.
  - Then have the other side of the line turn away and close their eyes. Have those with their eyes open find a new partner and repeat the previous steps.

## **How to Cultivate a Prophetic Culture**

- Share testimonies of the prophetic.
- Celebrate risks when people step out and not just outcomes.
- Make practicing fun and not high stakes.
- Provide lots of space for people to practice during meetings and gatherings.
- Become a model for the people around to see what it looks like to be consistently encouraging.