

Weekly Study

The Prophets | Ethan Matott | July 17, 2022

**A note to leaders: there have been two additional questions added to the “grow” and “move” portions of the Weekly entitled ‘Dive Deeper’. This is designed for you to help guide your group into deeper relationship with Jesus and each other, and take an additional step for owning their relationship with Jesus throughout their week.*

START

Go around and check in with your group with the following questions:

- What’s still on your summer bucket list that you haven’t accomplished yet?
- What is the most impactful or challenging thing you learned during Sunday’s sermon?
- What did that thing teach you about God? About yourself?

SHARE

On Sunday Ethan continued our “Where’s Jesus?” series with a message about the Prophets. Jesus opened up the minds of his disciples to understand that the Bible is one unified story, with everything in the scriptures leading to Him — even prophetic literature. Ethan taught us about how there were always prophetic words being spoken throughout the old testament that were either focused on the past, present or future. The words they spoke weren’t popular, but they were what God’s people needed to hear in order to repent and return to the life that God intended for them. In the same way, he reminded us of the covenant that Jesus has made with us and encouraged us to turn back to God in order to see that He’s laid out a life of freedom and obedience for us.

GROW

Read Luke 4:16-21.

The Hebrew word for ‘prophet’ is *nebi*, meaning to bubble forth or speak for another, especially one who speaks for God. Prophets were considered to be mouthpieces for God and were responsible for speaking on his behalf, usually to people who did not want to listen. They spoke to continually remind people of the covenant they made with God and His plan for His people to be set apart. They spoke to call people to repentance and come back to the life of freedom that God had promised them. They also spoke to the future and how by choosing rebellion they were ultimately choosing destruction and exile from the promises of God for their lives.

This passage in Luke 4 ultimately ends with the people becoming so furious that they drove Jesus out of the town and nearly pushed him off a cliff. The truth of God's word can often be confronting and even offensive for our human nature — but not only do all of the prophetic writings point to Jesus, but we learn that He is our ultimate hope for redemption when we stray away from the promises He has given us.

- What context did you have, if any, about the Prophets prior to Sunday's message?
- What portion of this passage stands out to you most? Why?
- Reflecting on how the prophets spoke to the past, present and future, which of these resonate most with you right now? Why?
- *Dive Deeper:* For more information about the Prophets and their writings, head to <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/the-prophets/>.

M O V E

Read Ezekiel 36:24-28.

One of the purposes of prophetic literature is to point to the future, but this had a shadow side to it. The prophets often tried to communicate that by choosing rebellion, death and destruction would follow, and eventually the Israelites found themselves in exile and captivity. However, prophetic scripture also serves as a reminder that there has always been a call to redemption that God is bringing to his people. This passage is a stunning prophetic promise to God's people that we are never too far gone for God's redemption to reach us if we call on Him

- What personally stands out to you most about this passage?
- What, if anything, is standing in the way of your ability to have faith in a promise like what you read in this passage? What biblical truth (for example, a verse or something you know about the character of God) can you use to help boost your faith?
- *Dive Deeper:* Jump down to the “pray” section and split up into groups of no more than three to pray together.

P R A Y

Spend some time sharing prayer requests. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into separate groups to share more freely.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and your heart to understand the scriptures at a deeper, more transformative level this week.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal places in your heart that you are living in rebellion. Pray that He would remind you of the abundant life that He has available for you and the courage to take the necessary steps to live in the reality of that life.