

A prophetic culture

1. Receiving a prophetic word	
Teaching:	<p>The Holy Spirit speaks to us through other people (1 Co 14:3). This can sometimes be a humbling experience, but an inspired word can</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forge connections of dependence and trust between us as a community • confront us helpfully in a way we may not be able hear directly for ourselves. <p>People can be mistaken (though well-intentioned). So every word we hear needs to be weighed before we receive it (or graciously reject it) (1 Co 14:29). We need to weigh words on the basis of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the stature of the one delivering the word. Do they have a track record of bringing others into peace and freedom through their prophetic ministry (Matt 7:15-16)? • the faith that the word releases in us. Does it reinforce what we know God is saying to us already and through scripture or does it bring confusion? (Col 3:15) <p>Sometimes people give us an accurate word, but the meaning (interpretation) they draw out for our life is incorrect.</p> <p>A prophetic word is not guaranteed to happen, but should be embraced with faith and acted upon.</p>
Beliefs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prophetic word will build me up and encourage me (1 Co 14:3) • Prophetic words form part of my inheritance to appropriate by faith (James 1:19-21) • God has hidden keys for my life in the words of people around me (1 Co 12:7)
Testimony:	Who here has a story of receiving a prophetic word that significantly changed the direction of your life?
Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I listen carefully to words I am given and weigh them • I honour those who step out in faith to give me a word, whether or not it is right • I keep a written record of significant prophetic words and pray over them regularly
Activation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRAY: For a prophetic word for someone who has not received one recently

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SHARE: What has been your experience of receiving prophetic words?• BELIEVE: Add the 3 beliefs above to your daily declarations.
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WELL: Someone spontaneously approached me and gave me a helpful prophetic word.• BADLY: I have felt confused by a prophetic word that was given to me

2. A community led by the Spirit

Teaching:	The church is a community birthed by the Holy Spirit (1 Co 12:13). We are led not by business wisdom or democratic votes, but by the Holy Spirit (Ro 8:14). The Holy Spirit anoints some individuals with the gift of leadership (Ro 12:8, Heb 13:17), but the leader's job is not to provide all the direction, but to help us hear the voice of the Spirit through various people. We are to submit one to another (Eph 5:21), as we discern the operation of the Spirit. Jesus promises that when we do this, receiving together the word spoken prophetically, there will be a reward for us (Matt 10:41).
Beliefs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holy Spirit can speak through everyone (1 Co 14:31), including children (Matt 21:16) • God's wisdom is better than man's wisdom (1 Co 1:25) • Grace is released with every prophetic word (Matt 10:41)
Testimony:	Who remembers your church community being redirected by a courageous prophetic word?
Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We listen carefully to hear the Holy Spirit speaking even through unlikely people! • We record what God has spoken to us as a church • We embrace and obey what we believe God has said
Activation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRAY: For leaders in the church to help us hear God together and obey • SHARE: Have you ever found it hard to align your heart with a direction that is being taken? How did you process that? • BELIEVE: Add the 3 beliefs above to your daily declarations.
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WELL: I have heard some directional prophetic words being given to the church • BADLY: I've heard some directional words, but it seems that we have done nothing about them

3. Hearing God

Teaching:	<p>God loves to speak to us (John 10:27), but we need to tune our spirits in to hear him (Is 50:4).</p> <p>He can speak in dramatic ways, but more often his voice is softer, and can even sound like our own thoughts. He can bring to our mind words, phrases, images, scriptures, or draw our attention to things around us – sights, smells, sounds. Often we have no certainty this is God speaking until it is confirmed independently, but we can train our spirits to discern his voice. Faith is always involved in hearing God speak.</p> <p>Sometimes he wants to engage us in conversation, to search out the meaning of a matter. (Jer 1:11-14, Prov 25:2)</p> <p>It also takes maturity to know when God has finished speaking, and not add to his word from our own imagination or reason.</p>
Beliefs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God delights to speak to me (John 10:27) • His words bring life to me (Deut 8:3, John 6:63) • Some words are just for me (Lk 2:19)
Testimony:	Who has struggled to hear his voice but had a breakthrough?
Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I structure my day to help me hear his voice • I train my spirit to listen for his voice • I treasure his word in my heart
Activation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRAY: For those who struggle to hear his voice • SHARE: How does God speak to you? • BELIEVE: Add the three beliefs above to your daily declarations
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WELL: I have heard several people talk about what God said to them • BADLY: Lots of people seem to be unsure what God is saying to them

4. Giving prophetic words

Teaching:	<p>Giving someone a prophetic word can be a powerful way of ministering to them. God may highlight someone to us, and we then ask him what he wants to say to them. Alternatively he may give us a word and we must ask who it is for.</p> <p>In general we should avoid words that are corrective or strongly directive, unless we have an established prophetic ministry.</p> <p>Rather we should look to reinforce the gold that God shows us in their life.</p> <p>We should trust God not only for a word, but for the interpretation too (Gen 40:8)</p> <p>We should encourage people to weigh the word we bring.</p>
Beliefs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God wants to use me to speak to others (1 Co 14:26)• There is destiny still hidden in everyone (1 Co 2:9)• Prophecy is for upbuilding, encouragement and consolation (1 Co 14:3)
Testimony:	Who has given a prophetic word that turned out to be more powerful than you imagined?
Practices:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We ask God to highlight people to us• We seek out the hidden gold in people• We don't prophesy over people unless we first love them• We encourage people to weigh the words we bring
Activation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PRAY: For anyone who has never given a prophetic word• SHARE: How do you hear God for other people?• BELIEVE: Add the 3 beliefs above to your daily declarations
How are we doing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WELL: I have noticed people looking out for opportunities to give a prophetic word to strangers• BADLY: Someone gave me a word I didn't feel was right, and now I don't feel comfortable around them.