



Do Not Despise Prophecies

*Group Discussion Guide
Week of May 19, 2024*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAMILY MEETING

Saturday, June 1 | 4pm

Clanton Pavilion (3132 Manchester Dr, Charlotte, NC 28217)

On Saturday, June 1st we will hold our semi-annual Family Meeting. This is a chance for us as a church to celebrate God's faithfulness, to commemorate what He is doing in our church, to worship together, and to look for what God might do in the months ahead.

This year, we are doing it church potluck style! Citizens will be providing pulled pork for dinner. If your last name starts with A-N bring a side, if O-Z bring a dessert to share!

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Sunday, June 9 | 2pm-5pm

Dowd YMCA

We believe the church is central to all God is doing in the world. When you read the New Testament, wherever the gospel is proclaimed, people believe, disciples are made, and then churches are formed. When you put your faith in Jesus, you don't just get God as your Father, but you are now put in relationship with other Christians who are your brothers and sisters in Christ. This is why membership is so important. It's you committing to play your role in the larger family of God through a particular local congregation.

Our Membership Class is the first step towards membership at Citizens Church. If you're interested in becoming a member at Citizens, or just interested in finding out more about who we are, join us on Sunday, June 9th from 2pm-5pm.

VISION FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Citizens Community Groups gather on a regular basis to help each other follow Jesus. When we gather for discussions like this one, our primary aim is not to simply talk about some good ideas or share our opinions, but to wrestle with the real state of our hearts and how to become doers of the Scriptures and followers of Jesus.

To that end, there are three ground rules that make for a good discussion:

- 1. Be Earnest.** We're here to encounter God, so we are not satisfied with trite conversation.
- 2. Be Honest.** The gospel is good news for sinners, so we put aside false smiles or fake attitudes to share the real state of our hearts.
- 3. Be Humble.** We are all works in progress seeking to be formed into Christlikeness, so we lower our defenses, open to correction from the Scriptures and one another.

STUDY THE SCRIPTURES

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22.

- ***What stood out to you from this text?***
- ***Was there something that comforted you or convicted you?***

DISCUSS THE SERMON

In Sunday's teaching, we said that *"Prophecy is a manifestation/outworking of the Holy Spirit, where God gives a revelation to someone, which they are to share with someone else, who is to test what was said, all for the purpose of building up of Christians and convicting the non-Christian."* Or more simply - *Prophecy is God speaking through you to someone else in a supernatural way.*

This can be through particular impressions of Scripture, a word or phrase, or a gut feeling/sense. This can be a picture or short film in your mind, or even through dreams.

- ***Have you had any experience with prophecy in the past?***
- ***What is appealing to you about this particular way the Holy Spirit works?***

In Sunday's teaching, we said that 3 main reasons we despise prophecy are:

1. Apathy/Lack of knowledge
2. Fear
3. Past Experiences

However, the Scriptures challenge us not to despise prophecies, but to test them.

- ***What do you see as a main reason you might despise prophecy in your life and therefore quench the Spirit?***
- ***How can you take a step to push back against that this week?***

PRACTICE

The following guide was developed for groups to practice prophecy together. We encourage you to work through the entire page as a community with each participant following along.

Leader: We are going to take time now to practice prophecy together using the four parts of prophecy. This may feel a bit strange or uncomfortable depending on our background with the prophetic, but we are going to trust the Lord will meet us as we earnestly desire to prophesy together. In order to be fully present to God and each other, let's take a moment of silence to place any distracting concerns under God's care.

(moment of silent prayer)

Leader: *One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. (Psalm 27:4)*

REVELATION

We are now going to be still before the Lord, asking Him to speak to us, giving us a Scripture, a word, a phrase, or a mental image for someone else in the circle.

Come, Holy Spirit and speak, for the servants of the Lord are listening.

Each participant may ask this question in silent prayer:

"Lord, is there anything you are prompting me to pass along to someone in this circle?"

A time of silence is given for prayer.

COMMUNICATION

Leader: We will now create space for anyone to share a prophetic message they feel they received from the Lord for another individual or for the whole group.

INTERPRETATION + APPLICATION

Leader: Now, we will seek to interpret and apply it in line with God's Word.

1. What do we believe this means (interpretation)?
2. How do we think this is applied into our lives (application)?

After this, repeat the process above, giving more time and space for the Lord to speak again.

Leader: *Come, Holy Spirit and speak, for the servants of the Lord are listening.*