

Prophet (APEST)	<p>This study assumes you have listened to the sermon preached by Rev Annette on Sunday 28th February 2021 at St Christopher's Anglican Church, in Tawa. You can find the sermon via www.tac.org.nz</p> <p>Click on either the 8am or 10am button to see the service. If you just want the sermon, scroll along until you see a woman with glasses standing up front talking for a long time...</p>
Logging in icebreaker	<p>Draw/brainstorm what the biggest cliches of a stereotypical prophet are. (eg "The End is Nigh!!!!")</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Tell us about a song, piece of art, film or writing that changed you, or moved you, or affected you in a profound way.</p>
Readings	<p>1 Kings 19:1-18</p> <p>Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.</p> <p>But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.</p> <p>Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."</p>

	<p>He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."</p> <p>Mark 6:1-6 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.</p> <p>Then he went about among the villages teaching.</p>
<p>Quotes from Hirsh, etc</p>	<p>People who score highest with a Prophetic position are Heart Revealers* in the Kingdom of God. They are effective in revealing</p>

	<p>God’s heart for His people wherever they go. They can accurately discern God’s heart for a situation. They help people experience God’s voice for the very first time and help them develop hearing the voice of God in their own life. -www.fivefoldministry.com</p> <p>Words to describe Prophet types: Seer, Warrior, Poet, Reformer, Iconoclast, Meaning-maker, Artists, Shamans, Ethicists, Activists, Advocates, Anarchists, Hackers, Mystics, Aid workers, Environmentalists, Whistle-blowers, Feminists, Psychologists, Quality controllers</p> <p>Characteristics of Prophets: Authentic, Loyalist, Future-present-oriented, Principled, Contrarian, Intuitive, Passionate, Urgent, Predictive, Critical</p> <p>Examples of Prophet types: Bono, Malcolm X, Eleanor Roosevelt, Bob Dylan, Soren Kierkegaard, Pablo Picasso, Doctors without Borders, Gandalf (LOTR), Morpheus (The Matrix)</p> <p>Allan Hirsh in his book, <i>5Q: Reactivating the Original Intelligence and Capacity of the Body of Christ</i> writes that the prophetic mark of a church is “the holy people that stand for God in the world, calling all to faithfulness, to true worship, to receptive obedience to God and his word, and to the prayerful participation in the prophethood of all believers. When a community stands up for covenantal justice and calls all to the covenant love of God, to repentance, and to prayer, it is authentically church”.</p> <p>Walter Bruggemann writes in his book <i>Prophetic Imagination</i> “I am sure, nonetheless, that the joining of “prophetic” to “imagination” leads inescapably in an artistic direction in which truth is told in a way and at an angle that assures it will not be readily coopted or domesticated by hegemonic interpretive power.”</p> <p>Wikipedia writes “Speaking truth to power is a non-violent political tactic, employed by dissidents against the received wisdom or propaganda of governments they regard as oppressive, authoritarian or an ideocracy. The phrase originated with a pamphlet, <i>Speak Truth to Power: a Quaker Search for an Alternative to Violence</i>, published by the American Friends Service Committee in 1955. <i>Speak Truth To Power</i> is also the title of a global Human Rights initiative under the auspices of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. Practitioners who have campaigned for a more just and truthful world have included Vaclav Havel, Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mahatma Gandhi, the Dalai Lama and Elie Wiesel.”</p>
<p>Questions to get discussion started on Sunday’s sermon on Prophets</p>	<p>What did you learn about Prophets that you didn’t know before? What did you find most caught your attention in the sermon? Was there anything you disagreed with? Did the sermon make any connections for you about people who might lean towards the prophetic?</p>
<p>Prayer (from the Aotearoa/New</p>	<p>Giver of the present, hope for the future: Save us from the time of trial.</p>

Zealand Prayer book,
page 137)

When prophets warn us of doom,
of catastrophe and of suffering beyond belief,
then, God, free us from our helplessness,
and deliver us from evil.
Save us from our arrogance and folly,
for you are God who created the world;
you have redeemed us and you are our salvation. Amen.

If you have any feedback about the study, feel free to contact Annette via email:
revannette@gmail.com