

**LIVE  
PROPHETIC**



3 Week Guide for  
**Live Prophetic:**  
*Jesus is Alive in Me*



## Live Prophetic Devotional Guide: *Jesus is Alive in Me*

### ➡ *What is Live Prophetic?*

Live Prophetic is one of our discipleship values, which provide a pathway to embody our vision and mission. We define live prophetic as living out the way of Jesus and eagerly proclaiming the gospel, reflecting the character and values of God as revealed through Jesus. Simply stated: Jesus is alive in me.

### ➡ *Why is Live Prophetic important for the disciple?*

We believe in the kingdom vision of Jesus. This is our ‘why’ for all that we do. Specifically, for live prophetic, the main idea is *The Word*. The Word of God was and is spoken, incarnate and written. Jesus is the Word Incarnate who now calls us as disciples to embody the Word in our lives. **The focus of this guide is to help us establish a prophetic life as one being, doing and giving witness to the character and values of God as revealed through Jesus.** Again, simply put, Jesus is alive in me through word and deed.

### ➡ *How do I use this guide?*

Much like our Consider the Christ Guide, this resource is meant to help you rest with God. Each week will include Scriptures, reflection thoughts/questions and prayers that compliment Micah’s message from Sunday. This guide is not meant to only be used on Sundays, but throughout the week to deepen your understanding and practice of the texts/ideas covered in the sermon.

As you read and reflect on the selected scriptures (individually or as a family), questions may emerge in your mind. However, as a starting place, consider using these to generate discussion:

- What do we learn about the character of God from these texts?
- How do these scriptures develop the idea of live prophetic?
- What do these texts reveal about the challenge to live prophetic?
- How should you respond to these revelations? What actions are you called by God to take at this time to become more like Jesus?

### ➡ *What about children and/or teenagers?*

Inside the guide, families with elementary aged children will find the CHILDREN’S CORNER for each new week. This section includes an age appropriate scripture focus, reflection questions, prayers and fun activities. We encourage families with teens to include them in the weekly ‘adult’ readings and discussions.

## Week 1 (April 19-25) God and the Word: *Jesus is Alive in Me*

Weekly Focus: The word of the Lord is rooted in his character revealed in words like gracious, forgiving, slow to anger, patient, forbearing, lovingkindness, compassionate, merciful, faithfulness, righteousness, and justice (Exodus 34:6-7; Hosea 2:19-20). This week we focus on Jesus, who embodies on these attributes.

Sermon Texts: Exodus 34:6-7; Hosea 2:19-20; Luke 4:14-21

Weekly Supplemental Scriptures: READ John 1:1-18; Isaiah 55

For Practice: take a few minutes each day and use a portion of John 1:14 as a breath prayer. Soak in the truth of Jesus – the Incarnate Word – choosing to leave the comforts of heaven to become human and live among us. ***As you inhale, silently pray,*** “The Word became flesh...” Then ***as you exhale, pray,*** “...now we have seen his glory.”

For Reflection: In Lois Lowry’s book, *The Giver*, people create a controlled society to prevent the chaos and terrible ruin of the world in the not so distant past. In the effort to do away with sickness, suffering, death, loneliness, and all other struggles as well as to ensure the highest and safest quality of life, they issue so much control that they remove the color of life. For all the control and putting away of the past, there remains one unique role in the community—that is of the one who holds the memories (the good and the bad). The purpose of this role is to provide guidance to the council of elders in making decisions for the good of the community. The story revolves around the one who has been chosen to be the next memory holder, a 12-year-old boy named Jonas, and his awakening to the beauty, as well as the pain, of the fullness of life in all its color. As he learns this, his first impulse is that the community needed to know the truth because the grayscale life they were living, though safe and void of suffering, was a pale existence compared to the full color version available to them all.

In Jesus Christ, we live our full color version of life – now and in the life to come. Like Jonas, as we grow in our relationship with Christ, we eagerly live out (deeds) and give witness (words) to his life, death, resurrection and exultation of Jesus as Lord and Savior. His full color life of grace and truth is available to all and we are his witnesses to the world.

Weekly Prayer: Father God, we pray to you in the name of Jesus by the power of the Spirit, and we ask for those times when our eyes have been short-sighted unable to see your vision, please make our sight whole. For those times when we choose to not give of ourselves or speak up to share of your love, help us Lord, to become more like you. O God, empower us to be your witnesses of fullness of life, love, grace and truth found in Jesus Christ. To Him be all power, honor and glory. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER – week 1

In reading the adult section of the guide for this week, several phrases were highlighted to focus our attention for our children's corner. Other words or phrases may stick out to you as you read and meditate on your own. I would encourage you to press in to those with your children as you feel led. The phrases that my eyes and heart were drawn to were:

*“full color life of grace and truth”*

*“give of ourselves or speak up to share of your love”*

Scripture Focus:

**Psalm 95: 1-7** New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD. Let us give a loud shout to the Rock who saves us.

<sup>2</sup> Let us come to him and give him thanks. Let us praise him with music and song.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is the great God. He is the greatest King. He rules over all the gods.

<sup>4</sup> He owns the deepest parts of the earth. The mountain peaks belong to him.

<sup>5</sup> The ocean is his, because he made it. He formed the dry land with his hands.

<sup>6</sup> Come, let us bow down and worship him. Let us fall on our knees in front of the LORD our Maker.

<sup>7</sup> He is our God. We are the sheep belonging to his flock. We are the people he takes good care of.

Reflection: **“Beauty in the Chaos”**

1) Describe or define the words “beauty” and “chaos.”

2) Tell about a time when you have felt hurt, sad, scared, or angry.

3) Now, while still thinking about that, tell about something good you saw happen during that difficult time, something good you remember coming out of that time, something that you learned, or something that you were grateful for in the middle of that time or when feeling those emotions.

Ex: It was sad and scary to go to the cancer hospital with my dad. The “chaos” we felt was fear and LOTS of questions. The “beauty” we felt was in the form of kindness from all of the nurses, the doctor, and the staff that helped us. The “beauty” we felt was also peace in our hearts to trust God no matter what happens next.

Weekly Prayer:

*Lord, help me remember that Your love is great and that it doesn't ever go away. Thank you for the gift of Your Word to help us remember Your great love. Help me to learn how to share of Your love with others and to see Your beauty in all things, even in the chaos.*

Prayer Journal:

*God, I love you because...* \_\_\_\_\_

*Today, I need forgiveness for...* \_\_\_\_\_

*I want to pray for...* \_\_\_\_\_

*Lord, please help me...* \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for...* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

### Activities:

1) We are going to practice **listening and meditating on God's Word** together. Please have 1 parent or an older sibling read the passage from Psalm 95 above – you will end up reading the passage 4 times. Each time, have your child(ren) try a different body position while listening to you read:

- 1<sup>st</sup> reading = Lying on their back (This position is neurologically alerting, often creating space for increased awareness and wonder.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading = Lying on their stomach (This position neurologically calming, often creating space to be more receptive to information and to feel less overwhelmed.)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> reading = Lying with head hanging upside down on either a bed or couch (This position engages our vestibular system, which helps with our balance and understanding where our body is in space – this can often help improve focus by increasing oxygen to our brain and can boost our mood.)
- 4<sup>th</sup> reading = Sitting on a large ball or edge of the bed while gently and quietly bouncing up/down (Gentle rocking or bouncing can help calm the brain and increase focus.)

After each reading, have them write or draw in the corresponding quadrant on the **attached diagram**, what words or phrases stuck out to them from listening to the Psalm. Each child should have their own quadrant diagram to write/draw on. You might consider having different forms of writing utensils available to make it fun: markers, colored pencils, crayons, pens/pencils, or even various stickers to add to their options for creativity.

Also, if they need a bit of help with focus, you could have them listen for something specific during each reading. Examples might be:

- On back = what do you hear about “light”
- On stomach = what do you hear about “love”
- Upside down = what do you hear about “color”
- Bouncing = what do you hear about “truth”

*\*Note: feel free to adjust the number of scriptures you read based on your kids' ages*

2) Listen to the song **“Wonder”** by *Hillsong United*

- Optional activities while listening to the song:
  - while coloring one of the scripture coloring pages from our Altamesa Resource Page
  - while sitting or playing outside
  - while drawing with sidewalk chalk

Link to “Wonder” song = <https://youtu.be/haQ1earucJO>

3) Read the **attached devotional** story together.

### ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Quadrant diagram
- 2) Devotional story  
[“It’s Pink” from the book *How Great is Our God* by Louie Giglio]

## Week 2 (April 26-May 2) The Word Alive in the Church: *Jesus is Alive in Me*

Weekly Focus: The ministers and shepherds of our church family must be a prophetic witness to the greatness of God. That is a pre-requisite to the honor of the role; however, as disciples, we must all pursue the likeness of Jesus. Jesus clearly was an example of God's kingdom values in deed and word. Jesus was an *embodied witness* of God and for God. He calls us to be the same.

Sermon Texts: Galatians 1:11-24; 2:15-21 (apostle Paul's example of an embodied witness)

Weekly Supplemental Scriptures: READ: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

For Practice: take a few minutes each day and use a portion of Galatians 6:14 (a summation of the disciple's life) as a breath prayer. ***As you inhale, silently pray,*** "May I never boast except in the cross of Jesus..." ***Then as you exhale, pray,*** "...by which the world has been crucified to me..."

For Reflection: Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote what we constantly need to be reminded of: "The call to be extraordinary is the great, inevitable danger of discipleship." If you were to read Bonhoeffer's sermons or major works, you quickly would notice that the story is not about him, but God. And Jesus. And Holy Spirit. The story was also about the German church's survival during a time of persecution. Only by reading his personal letters would you find out more of his life's story. We have tended to make him a faith hero not because he told us about himself; but because his story takes us to a higher plane. His story takes us to the gospel story itself. Bonhoeffer was an *embodied witness* for God's glory.

According to Ceslas Spicq, there is a fivefold breakdown of the New Testament idea of witness. An embodied witness of Christ is someone who: 1) was present when something was said or done 2) is active to announce, proclaim, or describe what the witness saw or heard 3) identifies with what was seen or heard and believes (the gospel) 4) embodies that witness even to the point of death and 5) has hearers or observers make decisions on the basis of the witness's witness.

If these things were true for first century disciples, then for us today, it means we have experienced redemption in Jesus (focus on what he did) and can witness to the truth of the gospel with our words and actions. How can you creatively and boldly be God's ambassador...and in so doing...live prophetic for God's glory and the sake of the world?

Weekly Prayer: O God, we love you. Thank you for all that you have done, are doing and will do. Your mercy and lovingkindness have been known for generations and generations. Great are you Lord! God, we ask you to give us great courage to be your ambassadors. May we take our commission to be your messengers of new life, hope, mercy and love seriously. May we speak words of life and light as we are truly witnesses your to your greatness. To the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and honor – now and forevermore. Amen.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER – week 2

In reading the adult section of the guide for this week, several phrases were highlighted to focus our attention for our children's corner. Other words or phrases may stick out to you as you read and meditate on your own. I would encourage you to press in to those with your children as you feel led. The phrases that my eyes and heart were drawn to were:

*"my story is not about me, but is about God"*

*"messengers"*

*"speak words of life and light"*

Scripture Focus:

**1 John 4:7-16** New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has become a child of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him. <sup>10</sup> Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup> Here's how we know that we are joined to him and he to us. He has given us his Holy Spirit. <sup>14</sup> The Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. We have seen it and are witnesses to it. <sup>15</sup> God lives in anyone who agrees that Jesus is the Son of God. This kind of person remains joined to God. <sup>16</sup> So we know that God loves us. We depend on it. God is love. Anyone who leads a life of love is joined to God. And God is joined to them.

Reflection:

- 1) What is a messenger?
- 2) What are some ways we can speak words of life, love, and light into the world?

Weekly Prayer:

*Lord, thank you for loving us so much that You came to earth, lived here, and then chose to walk the path of the cross for us. Please help us to learn how to be messengers of Your love in the part of the world that you have placed us in. Thank you for Jesus and for the gift of the Holy Spirit and that we are Yours.*

Prayer Journal:

*God, I love you because...* \_\_\_\_\_

*Today, I need forgiveness for...* \_\_\_\_\_

*I want to pray for...* \_\_\_\_\_

*Lord, please help me...* \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for...* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*



## Activities:

### 1) **Names of God** activity options~

- POSTER: Write “God” or “Yahweh” in large, bold letters in the center of a piece of paper or posterboard – then write or draw different names for God, or things that make you think of God, all around the rest of the paper/posterboard. Have fun being creative with this!
- BALLOON PING PONG:
  - DIY ping pong paddles = glue a large popsicle stick (like tongue depressor size) to a paper plate [you can also just use your hands if you don’t want to make paddles]
  - Say different names for God or things that make you think of God when it’s your turn to hit the balloon. Don’t let the balloon hit the floor!



### 2) **Kindness** activity options {messengers of love & light}

- Play the “Kindness Skittles Game” using 1 package of Skittles & the attached document.
- Random Kindness @ Home
  - Have each family member put their name on a piece of paper; then each person draws a name (not their own); secretly do something kind for that person each day for 1 week; see if you can guess who drew which name by the end of the week.
- Kindness Trip
  - Walk or drive to a neighbor or a friend’s house and leave them a special note or treat. (Don’t forget to wash your hands when making something!)

### 3) Listen to the song “**Love**” by *We Are Messengers*

- Optional activities while listening to the song:
  - FAMILY DANCE PARTY  
(The video on YouTube that goes with this song is super fun!)
  - while coloring one of the scripture coloring pages from our Altamesa Resource Page
  - while playing outside

Link to “We are Messengers - Love” song = <https://youtu.be/l2lvHbXZp-I>

## ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Kindness Skittles Game

## Week 3 (May 3-9) Prophetic Stories from Altamesa: *Jesus is Alive in Me*

Weekly Focus: No matter your age, gender, background, if you believe Jesus is Lord and Savior of the world, then you have a story to share. A story that is immersed and rooted in the story of Jesus and points others to him. No matter if you have been a Christian for three days or thirty years, your witness of our great God is significant to the expansion of the kingdom for God's glory and the sake of the world.

Sermon Texts: Galatians 2:20; 6:14

Weekly Supplemental Scriptures: Romans 6:1-11 (emphasis on v. 11)

For Practice: take a few minutes each day and use Romans 6:11 (a summation of baptism in a disciple's life) as a breath prayer. ***As you inhale, silently pray,*** "God, I count myself dead to sin..." ***Then as you exhale, pray,*** "...but alive to you in Christ Jesus..."

For Reflection: As several from our church family shared on Sunday, there are creative and bold ways to live prophetically for God and the sake of others. Our prophetic ministry is living out the way of Jesus and eagerly proclaiming the gospel, reflecting the character and values of God as revealed through Jesus. The ways in which this takes shape in our lives are various.

Much of our prophetic ministry will be evident in the way we live connected (deep care and concern for others – fellowship) and the way we live compassionate (serving others for their betterment). These ways are focused on our actions or example; however, there is also a spoken (giving witness) element to our prophetic ministry, and it is not doom and gloom. It might be missionary work (across the ocean, the street or in our current times – the screen), teaching, spiritual conversations, an encouraging or corrective word or a sharing of your story emphasizing Jesus and all that he has done. All of these ways are living prophetic.

N.T. Wright reminds us of this great truth as we seek creative and bold ways to be prophetic: "When you announce the good news that the risen Jesus is Lord, that very word is the word of God, a carrier or agent of God's Spirit, a means by which, as Isaiah had predicted, new life from God's dimension comes to bring new creation within ours." ***May we be agents of new creation declaring that Jesus is Lord of all.***

Weekly Prayer: Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a world of self-seeking, there is often little space for authentic love. Give us wisdom and discernment, O God, to see people the way you see them. Embolden us to be your love in the world, to be willing to give sacrificially of time and self so that others might know the depth and beauty of your love. In our business and in our social distancing, make us be relationally close and your love in the world. In Jesus name, Amen.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER – week 3

In reading the adult section of the guide for this week, several phrases were highlighted to focus our attention for our children's corner. Other words or phrases may stick out to you as you read and meditate on your own. I would encourage you to press in to those with your children as you feel led. The phrases that my eyes and heart were drawn to were:

*“you have a story to share”*

*“spoken element to our prophetic ministry”*

*“agents of new creation”*

### Scripture Focus:

**Romans 12:6-12** New International Reader's Version (NIRV)

<sup>6</sup>We all have gifts. They differ according to the grace God has given to each of us. Do you have the gift of prophecy? Then use it according to the faith you have. <sup>7</sup>If your gift is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. <sup>8</sup>Is it encouraging others? Then encourage them. Is it giving to others? Then give freely. Is it being a leader? Then work hard at it. Is it showing mercy? Then do it cheerfully. <sup>9</sup>Love must be honest and true. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Stay excited about your faith as you serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>When you hope, be joyful. When you suffer, be patient. When you pray, be faithful.

### Reflection:

- 1) What is a story you remember from either your parents telling you or something that you've experienced? Ex: vacation experience; something that happened at school; family story from parents or grandparents; an event or holiday at school or church
- 2) Tell the story and then see if you can find ways that God showed up in the story; or what you learned from your story; or how something in the story reminds you of God or attributes of God. Ex: funny story reminds us that God gives us the gift of joy & laughter

### Weekly Prayer:

*Lord, thank You for always being with me and thank You for creating me in a special and unique way to be able to tell others about You with the gifts that You have given me. Please help me continue to learn what those gifts are and show me how to use them for Your glory. Thank You for the gifts of peace, love, and mercy that You show us every day. Thank You for showing me how to participate in creating new things with You.*

### Prayer Journal:

*God, I love you because...\_\_\_\_\_*

*Today, I need forgiveness for...\_\_\_\_\_*

*I want to pray for...\_\_\_\_\_*

*Lord, please help me...\_\_\_\_\_*

*Thank you for...\_\_\_\_\_*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Activities:

1) **Retell or Act Out a favorite Bible story**

- Be creative! Use props or stuff to make costumes; make signs; add background music; insert a song or dance – have fun with this!
- Afterward, talk about how you see God, Jesus, and/or the Holy Spirit show up in this story. What do you think God is trying to tell us in this story?

2) **“Agents of New Creation” Ideas:**

- *Plant something* together! It can be as simple as 1 seed in a little cup or as extravagant as flowers or seeds or plants in a small garden.
- *Make homemade play-dough* and then have fun creating all kinds of things with your play-dough!
  - Recipe attached or you can follow this link from Pinterest = <https://livingwellmom.com/easy-homemade-playdough-recipe/>
- *Creative Art Project* = use a form of art [drawing, painting, photography, writing a poem or short story, Lego blocks, etc.] to tell a Bible story, to tell a story of how you have encountered God, or to show ways that you experience God.

3) Listen to this fun version of **“This Little Light of Mine”** AND/OR the song **“My Story”** by *Big Daddy Weave*

- Optional activities while listening to the song:
  - while participating in one of the Agents of New Creation activities above
  - while coloring one of the scripture coloring pages from our Altamesa Resource Page
  - while playing outside

Link to “This Little Light of Mine” song = <https://youtu.be/cKkblZtqhyQ>

Link to “My Story” song = <https://youtu.be/1TKAN-nAsu8>

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Play-dough Recipe