

# Prophecy Guidelines

## General Guidelines:

- We believe that God still speaks today through his people, and that the prophetic gift can be very encouraging and helpful to the church and the individual believer, but that the prophetic ministry can also be fallible and should always be tested primarily against the bible.
- Any prophecy that is shared on a FOH microphone in a public meeting should always be first shared with and checked by the meeting leader. The meeting leader can then decide if, when and how the word should best be shared on the mic.
- Prophecy should always agree with the bible, be edifying and encouraging and never condemning.
- The responsibility of weighing the word and then deciding what to do about it is on the person receiving it. The person sharing a prophetic word should do so clearly and simply and then move on.
- When prophesying we are seeking to enable someone to hear from God and not draw the focus on to the person prophesying.

## How to share prophetic words

- Avoid back story and context – just share what you feel God saying and leave the rest with the people who have heard it. Avoid saying anything like. ‘On Tuesday morning I was at home in the morning...’ It distracts from the word and puts the attention on you. Avoid ‘Thus says the Lord...’ to force your word across. Avoid making apologies, ‘this may be right or it may not, but I thought perhaps God might be saying...’ Just say what you feel God is saying and then let the people who have heard it weigh it for themselves.
- It can sometimes be helpful to share prophetic words in first person (as if from God’s perspective) as it enables the listener to keep their attention on God rather than being distracted by or focussing on the person delivering it. Prophecy should always be tested by those who have heard it.
- Many church traditions have different ways of approaching the prophetic and some people will be unfamiliar and sometimes uncomfortable with the prophetic so always be sensitive to the person

you are prophesying to. We always ask permission and anyone should always be free to stop at any time if they are uncomfortable.

### **Personal Prophetic Words**

- Always ask for permission before prophesying over someone. E.g. 'do you mind if I share a prophetic word I felt I had for you...'
- Keep the focus on God. It can be more helpful for the person prophesying to stand at the side and the person being prophesied over may want to keep their eyes closed.
- In personal prophecy we should usually avoid sensitive topics such as relationships and babies, where if the word is wrong or delivered in an unhelpful way it is more at risk of offending or hurting someone. If the word may touch on sensitive issues then it best to not share it in a 1-1 situation.
- Ask for permission before laying on of hands (and only in an appropriate place e.g. shoulder/arm). When prophesying it is usually better to avoid physical contact to avoid trying to 'push' what we are saying.
- No physical contact or one-to-one situations when praying with U18s or vulnerable adults.
- If a one-one situation (although always in a public space) then men pray for men / women pray for women
- Take time to ask God what he is saying, but then to also ask God for guidance in how to share a prophetic word. Sometimes we may feel God speaking to us about someone but not that we should go and speak to that person, or do anything with the word apart from pray for them.
- Breath mints & have tissues available.
- If when receiving a prophetic word it doesn't feel right or doesn't agree with the bible or what other people have said then just discard it.
- If anyone has a concern about a word that was shared with them then they should talk to a member of the Core Team who will either have a meeting with the person responsible, or their relevant church leader, or if it raises a safeguarding concern then to the DSL and the issue will be followed up.

### **After prophecy**

- Prophecy that requires follow up should be passed on to their relevant pastoral covering (usually church or homegroup leader).