

# FISHERS OF MEN

Discipleship Ministry For Relational Evangelism

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# Proclaiming

## THE PROMISED MESSIAH

THE SECOND EDITION

***STUDENT'S MANUAL***

***SCOTT J. VISSER***

We value your input.  
Please send your comments about this book and series  
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Thank you!

Proclaiming The Promised Messiah - Second Edition - Student's Manual

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The project would still be in my laptop if it were not for you.

## **My wife, Gin Visser**

Your faith, love, patience, perseverance, and support was (and is) priceless to me!

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This session provides important insights into Messianic prophecy and helps show others why the topic is relevant to them.

***Session 2: Seven Messianic Predictions (Part 1) ..... 26***

This session reveals prophetic predictions related to the Messiah's lineage, birthplace, and virgin birth. It also shows how Jesus fulfilled each prediction. Hearing these truths is the first step of this discipleship process. You will also practice repeating these truths in your own words as though they were sharing them with a friend. And finally, you will also underline the Scriptures in your Bibles and write notes in the margins so that you are prepared to share this Good News with others for years to come!

***Session 3: Seven Messianic Predictions (Part 2) ..... 38***

This session introduces prophetic predictions related to Christ's betrayal, suffering, and resurrection from the dead. It also shows how Jesus fulfilled each prediction. You will record the information in your Bibles and practice sharing as you did in Session 2.

***Session 4: Four Reasons Why Prophecy Is Significant ..... 58***

This session helps students understand the significance of Christ's fulfillment of the prophets' predictions. These insights will strengthen your faith in Christ. They will enable you to answer skeptics and to help those struggling with doubt and unbelief.

**Session 5: *Do Your Best* ..... 74**

This session engages students in review exercises together. You will strengthen your long-term memory, exercise your ability to verbalize what you have learned, and recognize the progress you have made thus far.

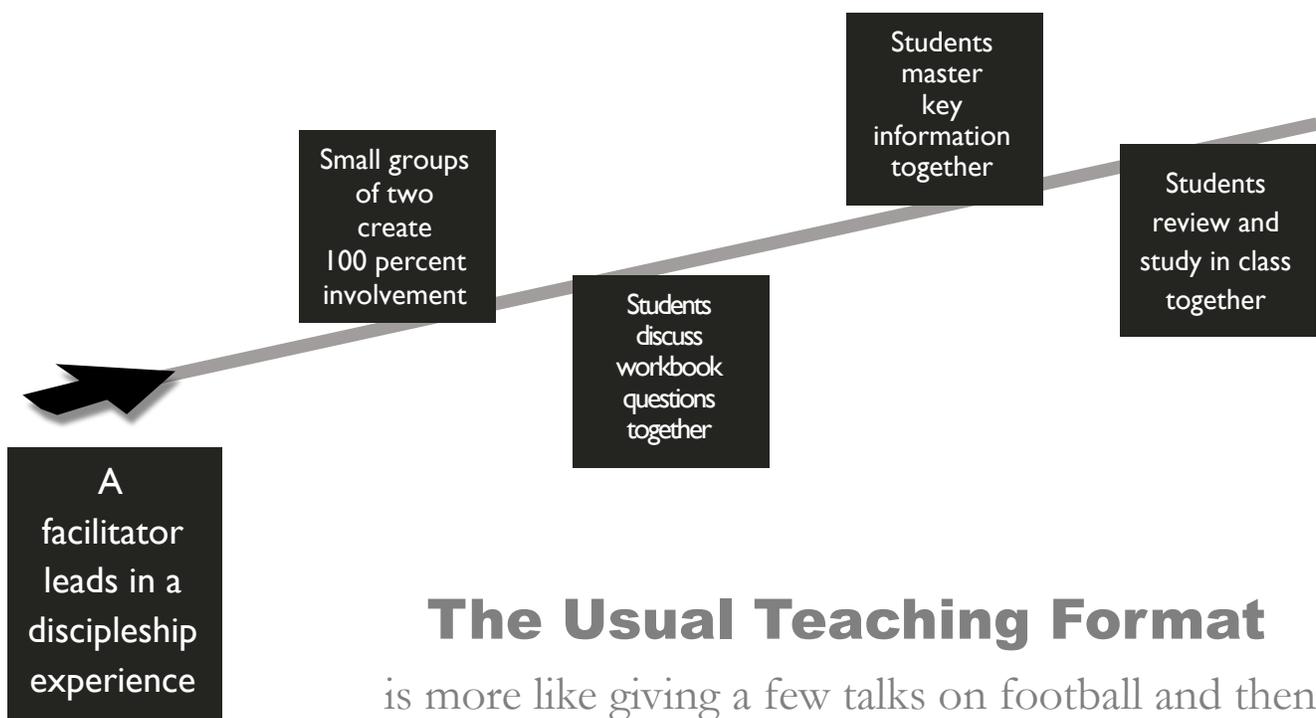
**Session 6: *Confirming Our Progress* ..... 88**

This session helps students confirm their progress. You will take the Unit Test (located on page 94.) Afterwards you will realize that you have mastered this information well enough to proclaim it confidently to others.

## The *Fishers of Men* Discipleship Format

is like coaching a football team and practicing before playing the game.

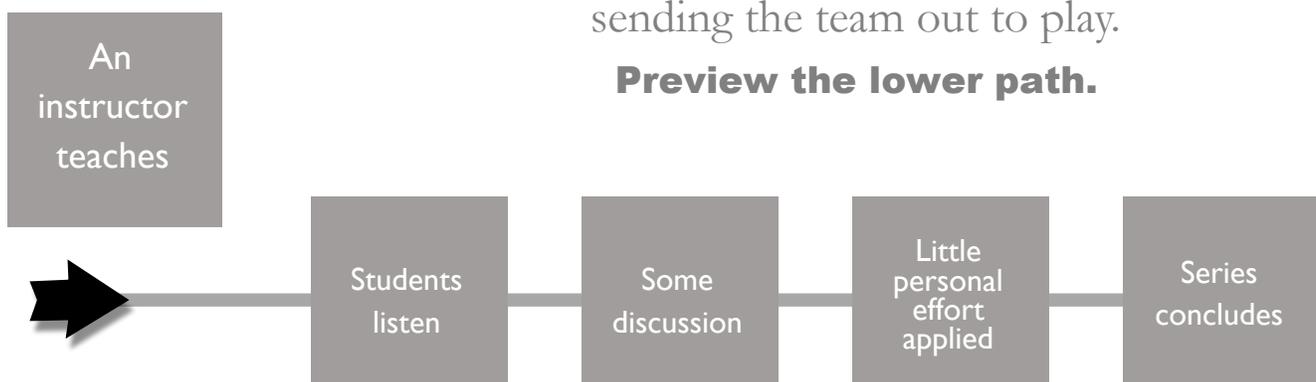
**Preview the upper path.**

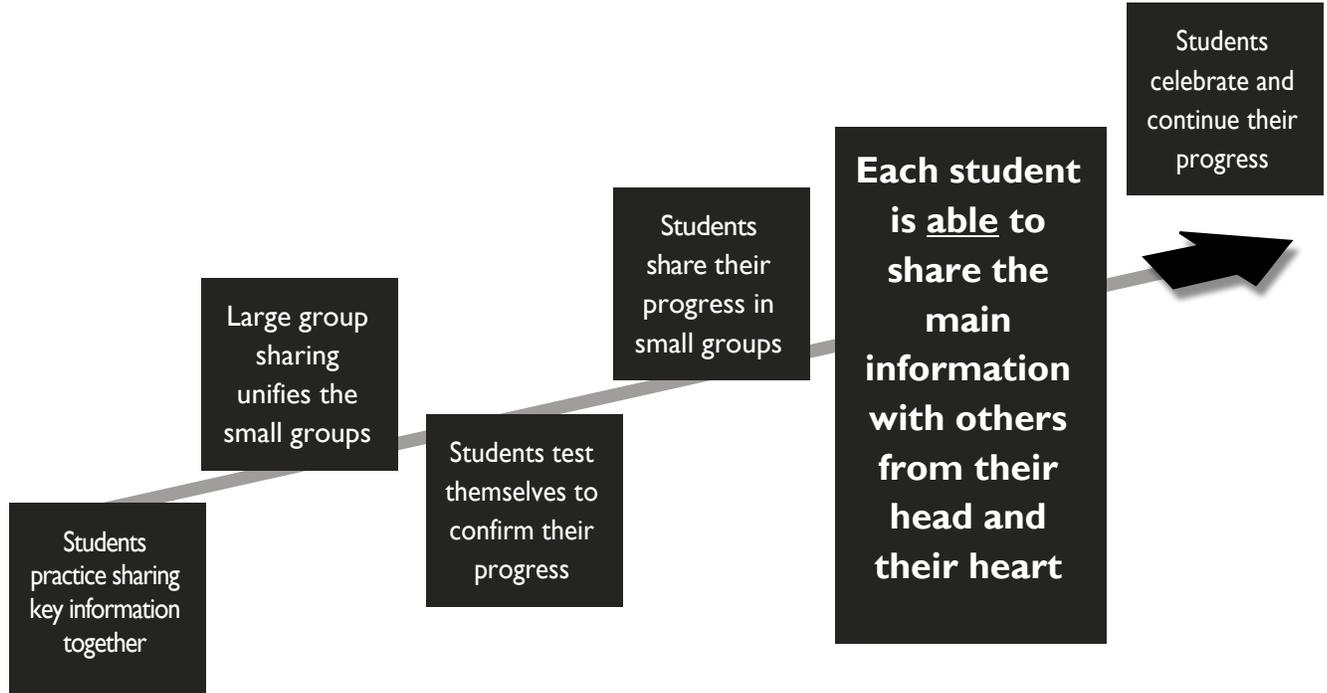


## The Usual Teaching Format

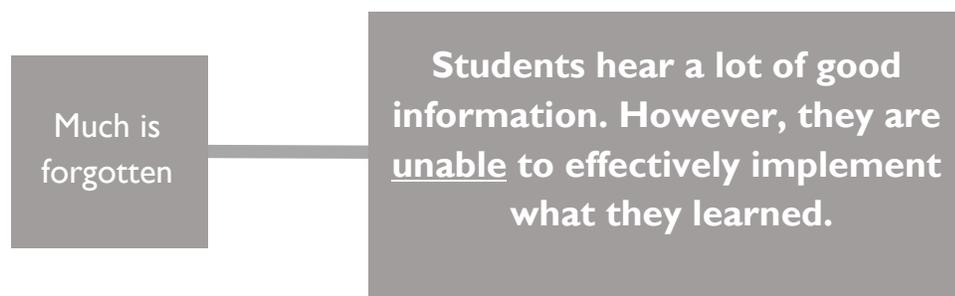
is more like giving a few talks on football and then sending the team out to play.

**Preview the lower path.**





***If*** you were competing with the devil  
for the souls of men and  
“the score” lasted for eternity,  
***which training format***  
***would YOU choose ?***



## *Session 1 - Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy*

# **Session 1 Overview**

## **FOUR KEY TRUTHS**

### **ABOUT MESSIANIC PROPHECY**

## **ACTIVITY**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**What This Course Will Do For Us**

**How We Will Approach This Study**

**Small Group Core Values**

**Four Key Truths (Teaching Time)**

**Small Group Discussion**

**Large Group Review**

**Closing Comments**

**Small Group Prayer**

\* If possible, use two session times when your sessions are fifty minutes or less. You will benefit from a more relaxed atmosphere and more in-depth discussions.

# Session 1

## **FOUR KEY TRUTHS**

### **ABOUT MESSIANIC PROPHECY**

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. *1 Peter 3:15*

#### **W**elcome and Announcements

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#### **W**hat This Course Will Do For Us

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1. This course will \_\_\_\_\_ us to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give a reason for the hope we have in Christ.
2. It will help us \_\_\_\_\_ Messianic prophecy.
3. It will \_\_\_\_\_ us to help others realize that Jesus is God's Messiah promised beforehand by his prophets.
4. Our Goal is to:

**Learn how to proclaim Christ as God's Messiah  
promised by his prophets.**

# ***Session 1 - Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy***

## **SMALL GROUP CORE VALUES**

BECAUSE HOW WE TREAT ONE ANOTHER MATTERS

- Group Attendance** *I will make this discipleship effort a priority and call if I will be absent or late. I want my commitment to encourage the commitment of others.*
- Healthy Environment** *I will create a safe atmosphere where people can be honest, try new things, practice together, make mistakes, mispronounce words and still be accepted, respected, and encouraged. This group is not for “perfect” people; it is for people who want to learn and grow, even if it means showing their imperfections.*
- Confidentiality** *I will keep personal information regarding people’s lives confidential unless permission is given. Exceptions to this would be comments that indicate impending harm to one’s self or others.*
- Allowing for Differences** *I will allow differences of viewpoints as they come up in conversations. God’s Word is the last word on every issue. However, even then, our understanding of his Word often varies. Highly opinionated people who expect everyone to think exactly like them intimidate some, annoy others, and shut down conversations. I will not act this way.*
- Cooperative Learning** *I will allow others to help me grow and learn while also doing my part to help others to the same.*
- Staying on Track** *My classmates came to this course to prepare to proclaim the promised Messiah. I will not distract them by raising unrelated topics for discussion during our session time.*
- Cooperation** *I will cooperate with the facilitator. I will discontinue our small group conversations when he or she calls on the group to do so. If needed, I will continue our small group discussion after class rather than expecting the whole group to wait for us.*

**Other**

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*I have read the above core values and will abide by them.*

*Signed* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_\_

# FOUR KEY TRUTHS

## ABOUT MESSIANIC PROPHECY

### TRUTH #1

#### MESSIANIC PROPHECY IS A SERIES OF ANCIENT \_\_\_\_\_ OF A COMING MESSIAH.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

*1 Peter 1:10-11*

The Hebrew word for "Messiah" is "Meshiach." It means a "consecrated person" or an "anointed one" set aside by God to do a holy work. The Greek equivalent for Messiah is "Khristos." - The English word is "\_\_\_\_\_."

#### Discussion Question

1. According to 1 Peter 1:10, who was it inside the prophets predicting the details of the coming Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_

The author's responses to the discussion questions are located at the end of each session.

#### **P**ersonal Coaching Time

- Underline 1 Peter 1:10-11 in your Bible. Write in your margin, "Truth 1: Messianic prophecy is a series of ancient predictions of a coming Messiah. See Luke 24:25-27 next."
- Practice communicating the comment below. Repeat it twice to each other.
  - Messianic prophecy is a series of ancient predictions of a coming Messiah.
- I HAVE MASTERED TRUTH #1 OF MESSIANIC PROPHECY.**

*Answers for blank: Predictions, Christ*

# Session 1 - Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy

## Four KEY TRUTHS

### ABOUT MESSIANIC PROPHECY

#### TRUTH #2

#### JESUS SAID THE PROPHETS SPOKE OF \_\_\_\_\_

He [Jesus] said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup>Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup>And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

*Luke 24:25-27*

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. *Luke 24:44-45*

#### Discussion Question

1. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus showed them how his life fulfilled the prophet’s predictions? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **P**ersonal Coaching Time

- Underline Luke 24:25-27 and Luke 24:44-45 in your Bible. Write in your margin, “Truth 2: Jesus said the prophets spoke of him. See 2 Peter 1:19 next.”
- Practice communicating the comment below. Repeat it twice to each other.
  - Messianic prophecy is a series of ancient predictions of a coming Messiah.
  - Jesus said the prophets spoke of him.
- I HAVE MASTERED TRUTHS #1 AND #2 OF MESSIANIC PROPHECY.**

*Answer for blank: Him*

# Four KEY TRUTHS

## ABOUT MESSIANIC PROPHECY

### TRUTH #3

#### THE WRITINGS OF GOD'S PROPHETS ARE \_\_\_\_\_

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. *2 Peter 1:19*

Some skeptics make this assertion:

*“Christians claim that Jesus fulfilled predictions of ancient prophets. This notion was fabricated by Christ’s followers after his death. It was an attempt to fool people into believing in him.”*

Honest doubters often ask:

*“Even if the prophets’ original writings were true, how do you know that they were not distorted over the years?”*

#### **The Dead Sea Scrolls provide answers for these issues.**

The Dead Sea Scrolls are nearly one thousand pieces of ancient literature discovered in 1947 in caves near the northwest shore of the Dead Sea. Many more were discovered over the years. Along with other historical literature, these scrolls included copies of every book of the Old Testament except Esther. After multitudes of tests, scientists and archeologists dated the ancient copies of the Scriptures approximately two hundred years prior to the time of Christ.

Modern copies of the Old Testament were carefully compared to the ancient scrolls. Here is the good news: this comparison revealed only minor differences between the two – most of which had to do with punctuation.

This information provides sound answers for skeptics and honest doubters.

# Session 1 - Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy

Consider the following:

1. Since the copies of Scripture found among the Dead Sea Scrolls clearly predated Christ, it is impossible for Christ's followers to have fabricated these Scriptures and prophecies about Jesus.
2. Since the Dead Sea Scrolls and our newer copies of Scripture are so similar, we are confident the prophets' writings were not distorted over the years.

Here is more proof that the Scriptures were not corrupted or distorted: Given that so many copies have been made, it would be impossible for someone to publish a distorted or corrupt copy. If attempted, others would expose their error or deceit by comparing their version with other previously published copies.

## Discussion Questions

1. How do the Dead Sea Scrolls help us to know that Jesus' followers did not make up the prophecies about him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How do the Dead Sea Scrolls give us confidence that the Scriptures have not been distorted over the years?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **P**ersonal Coaching Time

- Underline 2 Peter 1:19 in your Bible. Write "Truth 3: The writings of God's prophets are reliable. Proof: The Dead Sea Scrolls."
- Practice communicating the comment below. Repeat it twice to each other.
  - Messianic prophecy is a series of ancient predictions of a coming Messiah.
  - Jesus fulfilled the prophets' predictions.
  - The writings of God's prophets are reliable. They are not a hoax. They have not been distorted over the years. The Dead Sea Scrolls provide the proof.
- I HAVE MASTERED TRUTHS #1- #3 OF MESSIANIC PROPHECY.**

# Four KEY TRUTHS

## ABOUT MESSIANIC PROPHECY

### TRUTH #4

#### THE APOSTLES REFERRED TO \_\_\_\_\_ TO HELP OTHERS BELIEVE IN CHRIST.

He [Paul] witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. <sup>24</sup>Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. *Acts 28:23b-24*

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. *Acts 10:42-43*

#### Discussion Questions

1. What phrases in the above Scriptures show that the Apostles referred to the prophets in order to help others believe in Christ?

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2. As you are trained in Messianic prophecy, *you* will be able to help others believe in Christ. How does that feel to you?

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# ***Session 1 - Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy***

## ***P*ersonal Coaching Time**

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- Underline Acts 10:42-43 in your Bible. Write “Truth 4: The Apostles relied on prophecy to help others believe that Jesus is the Christ.”
- Practice communicating the comment below. Repeat it twice to each other.

Here are four truths we should know about Messianic prophecy:

- Messianic prophecy is a series of ancient predictions of a coming Messiah.
- Jesus fulfilled the prophets' predictions.
- The writings of God's prophets are reliable. They are not a hoax. They have not been distorted over the years. The Dead Sea Scrolls provide the proof.
- The Apostles relied on prophecy to help others believe in Christ.

- I HAVE MASTERED THE FOUR TRUTHS OF MESSIANIC PROPHECY.***

If you complete this activity early, practice explaining these truths to each other in your own words. Speak as though you were introducing the topic to a friend.

## Large Group Review

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### Favorite Insights

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## Closing Comments

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1. This Week:

Read the short article on “Voluntary Accountability” on page 19.

Complete the Session Follow-up Page on page 20.

2. Next Week:

We will start out with review and share our follow-up progress in small groups.

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## Small Group Prayer

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### Prayer Themes

- Thank God for sending his prophets to tell about the promised Messiah.
- Pray that God will empower you to stay committed and focused. The powers of darkness will not want you completing this course. They will do their best to discourage and distract you.
- Pray that God will open your mind to understand the Scriptures, just as he did with his first disciples.
- Pray that God will also open the minds of those who will soon hear these Scriptures from you.

# ***Session 1 - Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy***

## **A**nswers and Input

### ***FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

These are the author's responses to the discussion questions.

#### **Truth #1: Messianic prophecy is a series of ancient predictions of a coming Messiah.**

1. The Spirit of Christ was in the prophets.

#### **Truth #2: Jesus said the prophets spoke of him.**

1. I think the disciples must have felt elated when Jesus showed them how his life fulfilled the predictions of the prophets.

#### **Truth #3: The writings of God's prophets are reliable.**

1. Since the Dead Sea Scrolls existed before Jesus was born, we know that Jesus' followers did not make up the prophecies about him.
2. Because our modern copies of Scripture are almost identical to the Dead Sea Scrolls, we have confidence that the Scriptures have not been distorted over the years.

#### **Truth 4: The Apostles referred to prophecy to help others believe in Christ.**

1. The following Scriptures show that the Apostles referred to the prophets to help others believe in Christ:

Acts 28:23-24 says that Paul witnessed to them from the Law of Moses *and from the prophets*. Verse 24 says, "some were convinced."

Peter said in Acts 10:42, "All the prophets testify about him..."

2. So many Christians simply tell others to believe in Jesus without providing any information to help them believe. I am excited to be able to help people believe in Jesus.

## VOLUNTARY ACCOUNTABILITY

Voluntary Accountability is a powerful discipleship dynamic that pleases our Lord and promotes true growth and progress.

It requires **the conviction** to realize that important matters should be acknowledged, reviewed, measured and accomplished.

It requires **humility** to give an account to others.

**Imagine** a football team that only casually listened to their coach talk about football but did no more than that.

**Imagine** another team that voluntarily made themselves accountable to the coach and to each other to become **a winning team.**

**Which team would succeed?**

**What kind of team will you be for our Lord?**

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.  
*Ephesians 5:21*

## ***Session 1 - Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy***

# **SESSION 1 FOLLOW-UP PAGE**

For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. *John 17:19*

How would you like a higher level of retention of God's Word? How would you like his Word to grow in your mind and your heart so that it overflows out of your mouth to others? The exercises provided below will help you reach that goal.

**Check off each completed task. If you desire to encourage each other in this effort, share your progress with a partner next week.**

**Read the article on Voluntary Accountability on page 19.**

Are you willing to be accountable for your progress?

**Cut out your review page on page 21.**

Place it on your mirror, refrigerator, or a place where you see it often. You may want to hang it where others may also benefit from it.

**Cut out your personal focus cards on page 23.**

Carry them with you and review them during the day.

**Ask a friend to pray for you.**

The Apostle Paul asked Christians to pray for him. He asked that he would be given the right words to say and the courage to say them. We need the same.

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

*Ephesians 6:19*

**Talk with others about what you learned in this session.**

Here are a few comments to help you begin the conversation:

“Have you ever studied Messianic Prophecy in the Bible?”

“What do you think of when you hear the word, ‘Christ?’”

“This week I found out what the name ‘Christ’ means.”

“Have you ever heard of the Dead Sea Scrolls?”

## **FOUR KEY TRUTHS**

### **ABOUT MESSIANIC PROPHECY (REVIEW PAGE)**

#### **TRUTH #1**

### **MESSIANIC PROPHECY IS A SERIES OF ANCIENT PREDICTIONS OF A COMING MESSIAH.**

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. *1 Peter 1:10-11*

#### **TRUTH #2**

### **JESUS SAID THE PROPHETS SPOKE OF HIM.**

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

*Luke 24:44*

#### **TRUTH #3**

### **THE WRITINGS OF GOD'S PROPHETS ARE RELIABLE.**

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. *2 Peter 1:19*

#### **TRUTH #4**

### **THE APOSTLES REFERRED TO PROPHECY TO HELP OTHERS BELIEVE IN CHRIST.**

He [Paul] witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. <sup>24</sup>Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe.

*Acts 28:23b-24*

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# PERSONAL FOCUS CARDS

## THESE CARDS WILL HELP YOU...

- ***Imbed these truths into your memory.***
- ***Imprint God's Word in your heart.***
- ***Empower you to share His Word with others.***

Cut out the cards. Carry them with you. Review them during your day.  
Use them to share with others!

<p><b>Proclaiming the Promised Messiah</b></p> <p>Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy</p> <p><b>TRUTH #1</b></p> <p><b>Messianic prophecy is a series of ancient predictions of a coming Messiah.</b></p>	<p><b>Proclaiming the Promised Messiah</b></p> <p>Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy</p> <p><b>TRUTH #3</b></p> <p><b>The writings of God's prophets are reliable.</b></p>
<p><b>Proclaiming the Promised Messiah</b></p> <p>Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy</p> <p><b>TRUTH #2</b></p> <p><b>Jesus said the prophets spoke of him.</b></p>	<p><b>Proclaiming the Promised Messiah</b></p> <p>Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy</p> <p><b>TRUTH #4</b></p> <p><b>The Apostles referred to prophecy to help others believe in Christ.</b></p>

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# ***Session 1 - Four Key Truths About Messianic Prophecy***

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

*2 Peter 1:19*

He [Paul] witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus.  
<sup>24</sup> Some were convinced by what he said, but others would not believe. *Acts 28:23-24*

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup> trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. *1 Peter 1:10-11*

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

*Luke 24:44*

