

# LIGHTHOUSE GROUP CURRICULUM

Deuteronomy 18:15-22

## LEADER'S STUDY

### A Prophet Like Moses (But Better!)

#### Deuteronomy 18:15-22

#### What is happening?

Moses has led the nation of Israel out of Egypt, and they've wandered through the desert for forty years. Now they're poised to enter the Promised Land, and Moses gives them some final instructions for life in their new homeland. God will no longer be providing them with manna and quail to eat, so they'll have to produce their own food. The people who already live in the land follow many godless practices, and Israel will have to learn to reject the pagan ways and remain faithful to Jehovah God. Moses won't enter the land with them, so he'll no longer be there to give them guidance in making important decisions. But God revealed to him that at some point in the future, He would raise up a prophet much like Moses in many ways. Like Moses, he would be someone to whom God spoke like a man speaks to a friend (Exodus 33:11). This Prophet would be someone whom Israel could trust implicitly—and God said they *should* trust Him, and do whatever He said. If they refused to listen to this Prophet, they would have to answer to God Himself.

#### Where is the gospel?

Over time, the people of Israel came to understand that this Prophet would be their Messiah (a Hebrew word meaning “anointed one” or “chosen one”). Much as Moses was used by God to deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt, they expected this Prophet to deliver them from Rome—or Greece, or the Medo-Persians, or whatever nation held them under its thumb at the time. When their Messiah finally did come, they were looking for a military deliverer, not someone to abolish the curse of sin, so most Jews didn't recognize Jesus for who He was. Unlike the Messiah, Moses *only* delivered the people from political oppression; though he led them out of Egypt, they remained essentially unchanged, with their souls still enslaved to sin and death. The Prophet that Moses spoke of—that is, Jesus Christ—is infinitely greater than Moses in at least two ways: 1) Moses gave Israel a word *from* God, but Jesus *is* God; and, 2) Moses told Israel *how* to be reconciled to God, but Jesus *personally made the way*. **Moses led the way; but Jesus IS the Way!**

As you prepare for this week, ask yourself questions like these: How does Moses prefigure (represent as a model of) Jesus? How is Jesus the complete fulfillment of what Moses said and did? If the law that came through Moses foretold the One to come, should I feel obligated to obey the Ten Commandments in order to be accepted by God? Since Christ has come and fulfilled all the commandments, is it okay to ignore the law of Moses altogether and just live however I want? How is God calling me to think and to live differently? How does this change my perspective today? How is God calling me to respond based on this scripture?

Spend some time reading and meditating on these truths as you prepare for your meeting. Be willing to share this with your group and invite them to join you in sharing how God is asking them to respond to His word. Be willing to share areas that He is calling you to “follow Him” and make clear “I” statements about how you are going to align with Him.

**Some helpful scriptures:** Matthew 5:17-18; John 1:21, 25, 45; 14:6; Acts 3:17-26; 7:37; Hebrews 3:1-19. What other places in scripture speak this same truth?

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## INTENTIONAL BIBLE READING

READ Deuteronomy 18:15-22  
and meditate on it.

Read in the ESV or similar word-for-word  
translation.

Read it again in the NLT to get a thought-  
for-thought perspective. (The New Living  
Translation is particularly helpful with this  
passage)

Try to summarize the passage in your  
own words.

**Every verse of scripture points to the  
gospel. Look for how this passage  
points to Jesus and what He has done.**

## POTENTIAL STUDY QUESTIONS

With Old Testament passages like this one, context is  
always helpful. Here are some questions to help  
understand the context and gain helpful definitions.

Here are some great questions to ask to  
build context.

1. Who wrote Deuteronomy? (Moses)
2. What was his intention in writing it?  
(He is pleading with the Israelites to  
remain faithful to God)
3. What was happening with the  
people involved at this time?
4. Why is Moses reminding the  
people?
5. Why is this important for us to  
know today?

The word Prophet is used repetitively in  
this passage. What does prophet mean  
and how did Moses fulfill the role of  
prophet?

How does this say that you can tell the  
difference between a true and false  
prophet?

Every part of the Bible is about Jesus and  
the good news of the gospel.

What does this passage teach us about  
God?

How does Jesus fulfill the role of prophet?  
How might John 8:28-30 help your  
understanding?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Since Jesus is a prophet, how should  
we respond to Him?

Read 1 John 5:6-12. How does this  
help us respond?

What are some ways you believe,  
think, or live in opposition to the truth  
we've talked about today?

Based on this passage, what is the  
Holy Spirit inviting you to do?

or

What is your "I will" statement?  
(Encourage everyone to steer clear of  
"we" or "us" or "Christians" statements)

Consider sharing how this truth has  
impacted you with someone else.  
(This is a critical part of growth that is  
often overlooked. If we can share it with  
someone else it means we really  
understand it, it cements it in our own  
minds, it makes us accountable to the  
truth and it blesses the one who hears it.  
Rom 10:17)