



**A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of May 8, 2022**

### **Beware of False Prophets**

Youth Director Isaiah Thomas preached from [Matthew 7:15-20](#)

<sup>15</sup> “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

- Can you share about a **time you fell for a false message**?
- For Jesus, who is a “**false prophet**”? (15)
- What **metaphor** does Jesus use to illustrate dealing with false prophets (15)? What does that **word picture communicate**?
- The Bible has a great deal to say about false prophets. Read [Jeremiah 14:13-16](#), [23:16](#), [Ezekiel 22:27](#) to learn more about what would come to mind to those listening to Jesus’ sermon for the first time. **Why are false prophets so dangerous**?
- How do we **know** whether a prophet is **false** or **true**?
- Jesus’ teaching about false prophets comes immediately after his discussion of wide & narrow gates ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)). How are these **teachings related**?
- What about people **makes us so vulnerable** to trusting false prophets?
- Next week, we’ll spend more time in this same passage with a focus on vv.16-20. Jesus saw Himself as having a prophetic ministry ([Luke 4:24](#)) and the people understood Him as such ([John 6:14](#)). However, it is important to note that the One teaching here is God’s Final Word ([Hebrews 1:1-4](#)), and the Word made flesh ([John 1:14](#)). How would you **sum up the message God declares through the Person and Work of Jesus Christ**?
- **Repent and pray together** in light of this week’s passage.

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