

Worship Material
How we discern what comes from God
Materials from Roots Bible Study
Sunday 28th January

Begin with an opening prayer

God of all truth and all wisdom,
of all authority and all power,
we come together as your people in this place,
to reflect on the words of your prophets,
to be inspired by the words and actions of your Son, Jesus,
to be challenged by the spirit of your laws,
to discern the will for us individually and as a church,
to offer you our prayers and praises,
and to grow closer in fellowship with you and one another.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Read Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Bible notes

In the middle of a section outlining various laws to do with boundary markers and sacrifices, the compiler of Deuteronomy inserts this word from God about sending a prophet like Moses. It is almost as if God and Moses knew that the people would not be able to follow all this guidance without a person present with the authority to speak for God. It's what the people asked for when the Law was given on the mountain. God honoured this promise with a string of prophets, starting with Samuel, many of whose words we have in the text of the OT. But the final fulfilment of this word came in Jesus as the crowd in John's Gospel noted in 6:14, 7:40. God always sends word in the form of a person.

Prayer

A prayer of praise

Living God, we praise you for the people you have called to speak your words of power to us and to our world – words of life and death, of opportunity and risk, of comfort and challenge, of wisdom and clarity. Help us to step out to the rhythm of their beat, the beat of justice, of compassion, of reverence for you, so that we might grow in wisdom and confidence, and sing our life's story to the music of your gospel. in Jesus' name.

Amen.

A prayer to conclude.

Lord, like your first disciples
you send us out as sheep among wolves.
Teach us to be wise as serpents
as well as innocent as doves.
Remind us that your peace comes with us
and your hand is there to guide and encourage.

Amen.