

P

PROPHETS



Prophets are often hated and abused, but they may turn out to be right and good all along.

What's it all about? God speaking to humanity

Can some people here the voice of God? What would God say to humanity? Has God spoken in the past? And do we need prophets today? Prophets: people who speak for God or speak to God for humanity. Prophets may have dreams, visions, supernatural encounters and trances – these are often seen as turning points in religions.

Abraham, Moses, Miriam and Deborah might be examples from Judaism, Jesus is a prophet to Muslims and to Christians [to whom he is much more as well: God come to Earth]. Muslims call Muhammad 'the seal of the prophets' – Allah's last messenger.

Prophets are often unpopular. Their messages might not be all peace and love but also calls to justice and holiness. Some of them end up persecuted. Some of them end up dead.

What do you make of the idea that there are modern prophets? Would Dr Martin Luther King be a good example, giving voice to the will of God, calling for racial justice and then being killed for his views and his goodness?

Of course, there is a lot more to say about prophets and prophecy, but this will get you thinking.

Which religions and beliefs?

- Jewish people
- Muslims
- Christians

Clip available here:
www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-education-ks3-a-z-of-religion-and-beliefs-p-is-for-prophets/zbtmnr

Key Questions

- What's the difference between a prophet and a fortune teller?
- Do you believe God can speak to humans today?
- What test could you devise to separate true prophets from false prophets?
- What is good about the fact that three big religions share some prophets, included Abraham and Moses?
- Who would you pick as a modern prophet and why?

Classroom or homework task:

- A> List all the prophets mentioned in the clip. Write one line about each – which religions? What can you find out about their messages or actions?
- B> Some people do not believe in prophecy, and say it is all delusional. Others believe God can speak through humans to call us to better lives. How do you see this issue?
- C> Martin Luther King is famous for his speech where he says nine times 'I have a dream...' What are your 'nine dreams for a better world'? Explain in detail.
- D> Who is your suggestion for a prophet for today? Greta Thunberg? Have you a better idea?
- E> Make a 'Wanted: Prophets' poster to say why our global community today might still need prophets.

Suggested outcomes: students can...

- Give an informed account of the ideas of prophets and of prophecy in different religions
- Give reasons for their views about whether and why we need prophets today
- Express their own view in a poster on the questions: what is a prophet? Why might we need prophets?

P is for Prophets

My suggestion for a modern Prophet, who tells the world what we need to hear, is:

List all the prophets mentioned in the clip. Write one line about each – which religions? What can you find out about their messages or actions?

In the panel below, design and make your poster or advert for a prophet for today. Male or female or other? What will they talk about? How will they get the message of truth across to people? Who will hate them? What should they fear – maybe nothing? Who will be their enemies? What will they achieve?

Wanted: A Prophet for Today

Complete the sentence:
'People who don't believe in the whole idea of prophets and prophecy say...