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**Week 1: The Prophets**

**INTRODUCTION**

It seems like life is a lot of preparing and waiting, but the actual doing doesn’t take all that long. For example, how many hours did the person who prepared your Thanksgiving dinner spend cooking? How long did it take you to eat? Talk about something that you’ve spent a lot of time preparing for that didn’t take that long to do.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. The Bible spends a lot of time preparing people for the Messiah. Read Genesis 3:15. What characters of Jesus’ story do you see in that verse?
2. The prophets painted a picture of what the Messiah would look like. Read Micah 5:2 and Isaiah 7:14. What do these verses tell us about the Messiah’s birth?
3. The last OT prophet, John the Baptist, called for people to repent in Matthew 3. Repent means to change. What are some things that you might need to change to prepare for Jesus to come?
4. John also talked about how repentance produces fruit, meaning actions will line up with Jesus’ character. What kind of good fruit have you noticed in your life lately? Has there been any bad fruit?
5. Jesus tells a story in Matthew 25 that indicated that it might be a long time before he returned to earth. Yet he said he will return. Are you ready for him to do that? Are other people you know ready?

**STEPPING FORWARD**

This week think about any changes you need to make in your life in order to bring your character into alignment with Jesus’. Make a list of them and share that list with another believer. Try to find ways to help each other accomplish these things.

*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.*

**2 Peter 3:10**