

# How to Spot a Prophet

The Bible contains a bunch of examples of prophets. But in general, if you can identify the four attributes listed on these pages, you just might have spotted yourself a real-life, genuine prophet.

## Not Just a Boys' Club

Although the Bible contains no stand-alone books named after a female prophet, there are references to at least six female prophets: Miriam, Deborah, Huldah, Noadiah, and Isaiah's wife are cited as prophets in the Old Testament, as is Anna in the Gospel of Luke.



1

## CALLING

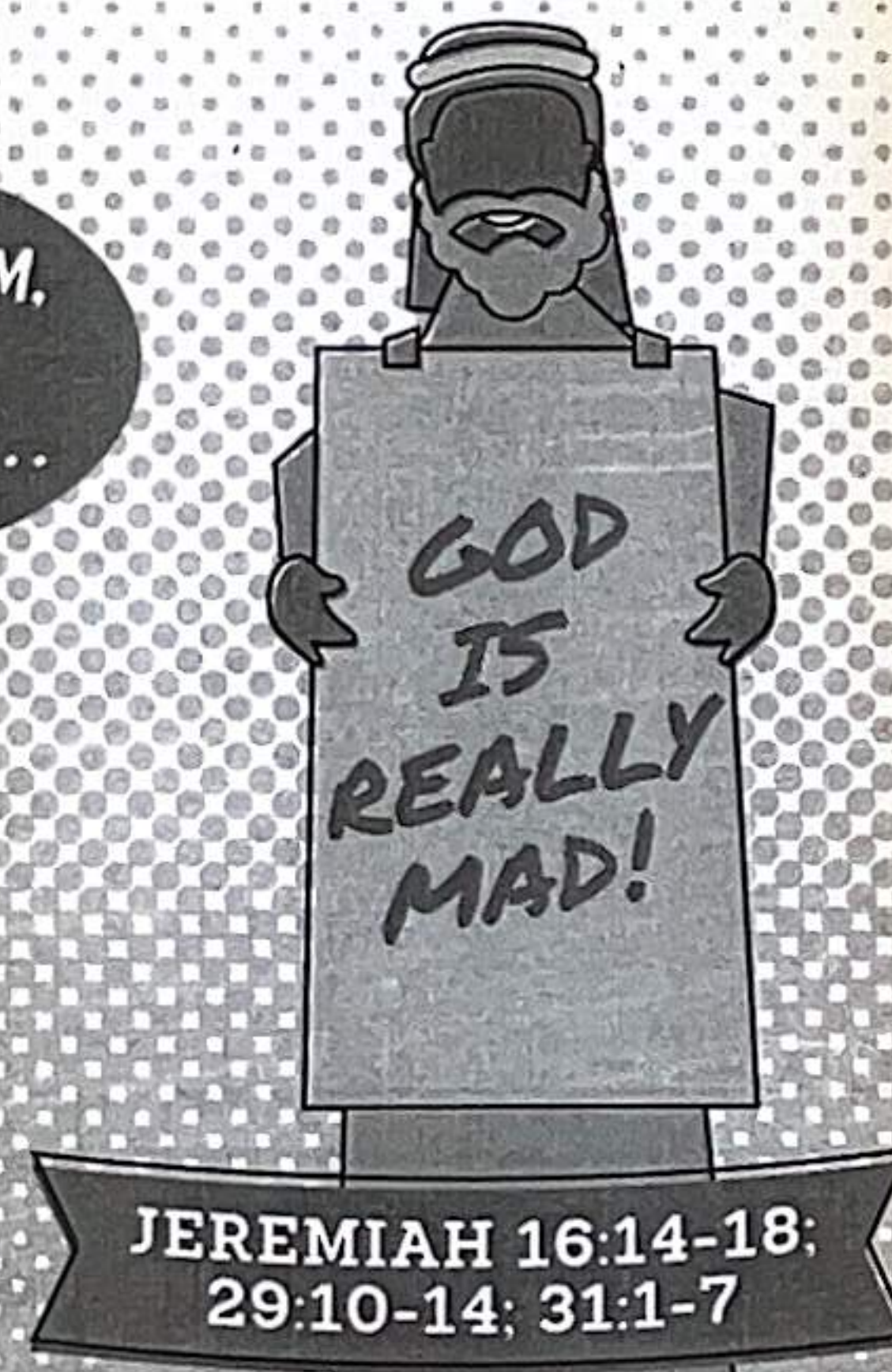
Prophets were ordinary, unremarkable people chosen or "called" by God to become God's spokespeople. This calling endowed the prophets with a special message and mission from God.



2

## CONTENT

Prophets always spoke on behalf of God—never themselves. The messages they relayed were sometimes harsh—challenging injustice and warning God's covenant people of the consequences of disobedience. But they also communicated a message of grace—that is, the abiding goodness of God's promises.

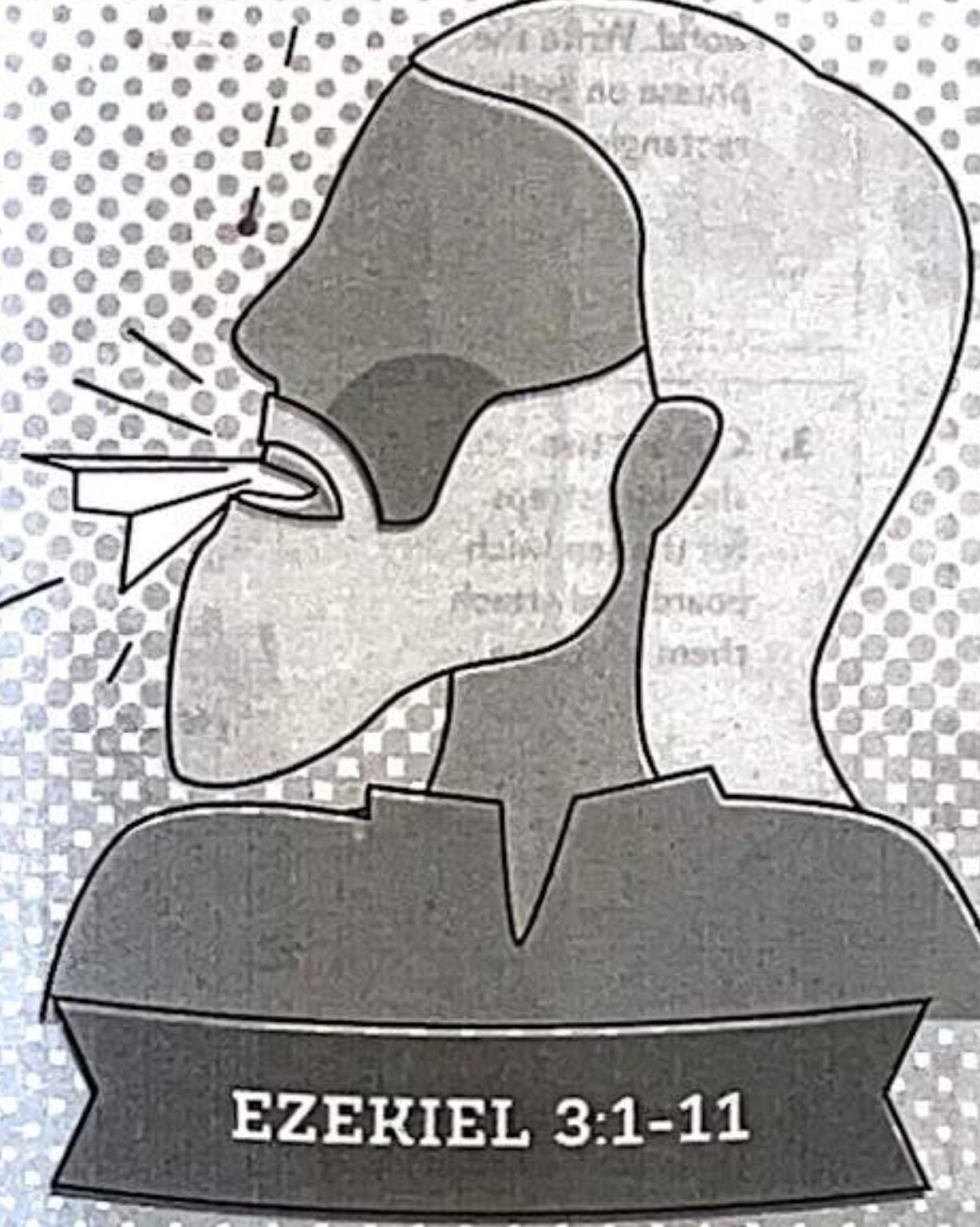


## TURN OR BURN!

3

## COMMUNITY

While prophets sometimes condemned entire nations, they almost always spoke to communities to which they belonged. In other words, whatever message God wanted the people to hear was also meant for the prophet speaking on God's behalf.



4

## CONSEQUENCES

Because the messages prophets communicated on behalf of God often included colorful descriptions of the disasters that would befall the people if they didn't change their ways, prophets were regularly scorned and even rejected by their own communities.



## Major or Minor?

Scholars often make a distinction between the Bible's "major" and "minor" prophets, based on the length of the books, not their importance. In fact, the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel are each longer than the combined length of the Minor Prophets! How many of the minor prophets have you heard of? Circle them.

## Major

ISAIAH JEREMIAH  
EZEKIEL DANIEL

## Minor

HOSEA MICAH JONAH  
JOEL ZECHARIAH  
AMOS HAGGAI MALACHI  
NAHUM ZEPHANIAH  
OBADIAH HABAKKUK

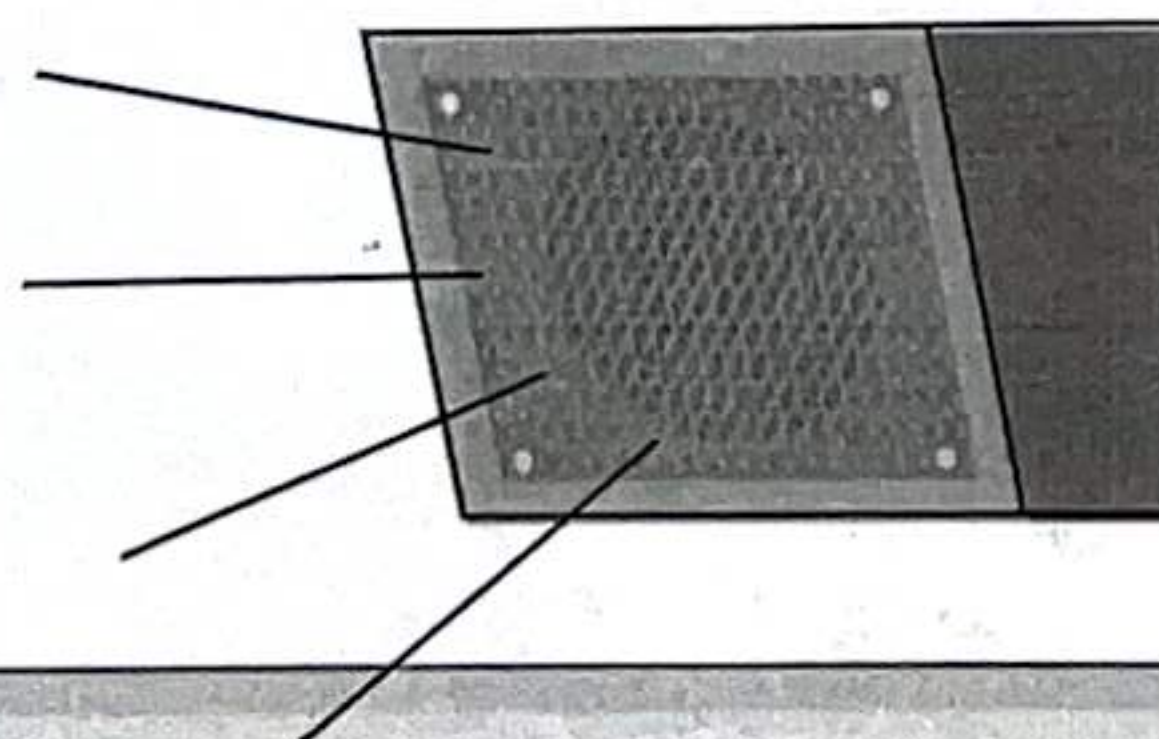
## Non-prophets

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns the people about false prophets. Thankfully, Jesus tells us how to identify false prophets. Read Matthew 7:15-20 and write the giveaway in the space below. (Hint: it's mentioned twice.)

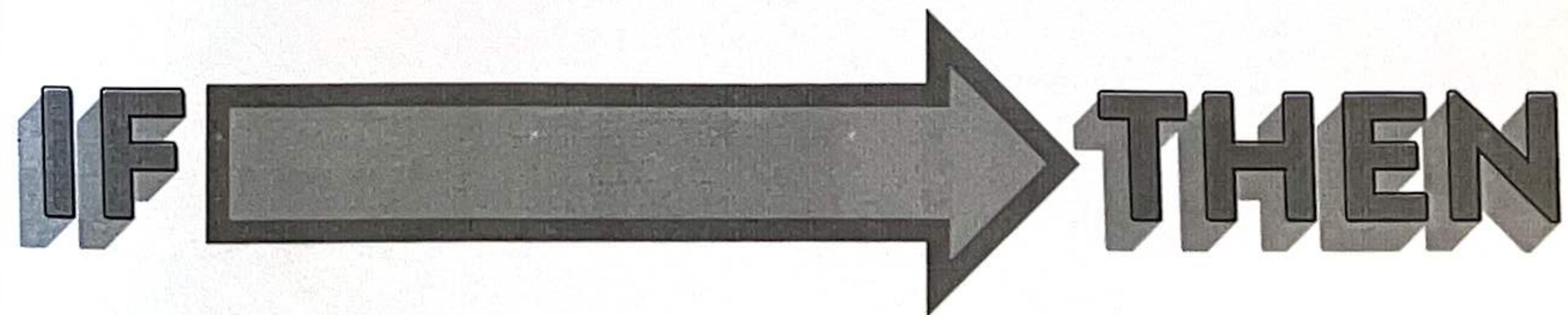
The call stories of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel all follow a similar pattern. Draw a line connecting each passage from Isaiah's call story with the part of the call story it represents.

- |                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| A DIVINE ENCOUNTER          | ISAIAH 6:11-13 |
| AN INTRODUCTION OR GREETING | ISAIAH 6:5     |
| AN OBJECTION TO THE CALL    | ISAIAH 6:1-2   |
| A COMMISSIONING STATEMENT   | ISAIAH 6:9-10  |
| A SIGN OF EMPOWERMENT       | ISAIAH 6:3-4   |

What is a message you think everyone in your school would benefit from hearing? Write it on the speaker's sound lines below.



List three things that might happen if you told the truth all the time. Write your answers in the arrow.



ANSWERS: ISAIAH 6:1-2; ISAIAH 6:3-4; ISAIAH 6:5; ISAIAH 6:9-10; ISAIAH 6:11-13