

# A True Prophet Versus a False Prophet

The two lists below contrast the characteristics of a true prophet and a false prophet. Examine the lists.

## A True Prophet . . .

1. usually is reluctant to speak for God
2. listens to the authentic voice of God within him or her and then communicates God's message
3. tells people the truth, even if it hurts
4. is a realist
5. conveys a message that is consistent with the faith of Israel, the Sinai Covenant
6. is unpopular, holds no official position, and suffers for telling the truth
7. offers people hope and a means of surviving suffering and devastation
8. lives the message preached
9. has a message that stands the test of time

## A False Prophet . . .

1. eagerly takes on the job of speaking for God
2. listens to his or her own opinions and wishes, communicating those as God's thoughts
3. says what people want to hear
4. is an optimist
5. conveys a message that is consistent with most people's inclinations
6. is popular, often holds an official position, and leads a comfortable lifestyle
7. offers people no way to make sense of suffering and loss
8. talks a lot without taking action
9. has a message that does not hold up over time—is not confirmed by historical developments

**Answer these questions on loose-leaf paper:**

- a. Using the characteristics listed above, name some modern-day people who could be described as false prophets. Why are they false?
- b. Name some modern-day people who could be described as true prophets. Why are they true?
- c. In what situations is it easier for teenagers to tell people what they want to hear rather than the truth?