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The Prophets played an important role in the nation of Israel by being a mouthpiece for God to the people. Unfortunately their message was often rejected outright by the people it was intended to help. Often we find ourselves in conflict with how God is instructing us to live. In this study we will talk about having proper responses to God's direction and challenge.

### What Do You Think?

- Have you ever received advice that you refused to follow but later realized was right? Why was it so hard to accept?
- What does our culture consider reliable sources of direction and challenge? Are they?

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“For the Lord spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people” Isaiah 8:11 (ESV)

### What Does God Say?

- **Read Isaiah 8:11.** What are some examples of walking in the ways of the people that God would warn or has warned us about?
- **Read Isaiah 8:12-13.** What is the difference between fearing what the world fears and fearing the Lord? What does fearing the Lord look like in practice?

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“Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.” Joshua 21:45 (ESV)

- **Read Isaiah 8:16 and Joshua 21:43-45.** God's promises are never left unfulfilled and his directions are never misleading. What are some promises God has made to us? Have they been fulfilled?
- **Read Isaiah 8:18-20.** Earlier we discussed alternative sources of direction people turn to. Compare these sources of truth to God. How can we confidently follow God's instructions even when they are counter-cultural?

## What Will You Do?

- Is there something God has been telling you to do or change that you have been hesitant to listen to? Why and what can you do to move forward?
- How can you be a “mouthpiece” for God to the people around you? What might their reactions be, and how will you deal with that?
- Go over your Journey of a God’s People Timeline together. Work on memorization as a group.