

# Discussion Questions

Date: March 1, 2026

Preacher: Josh Ratliff

## Sermon Outline

## Talking Points

### *The Shepherd King | Micah 5:1-5a*

#### *The Coming of a Conflict and a King (Micah 5:1-2)*

- To understand salvation, God's people must first understand the dire peril they are in. (v. 1)
- God promises deliverance through a Davidic ruler. (v. 2)
- **Question:** Where does your hope rest? In humanity or in our saving and delivering King?

\* Why do you think God begins this prophecy with humiliation and judgment rather than with words of immediate comfort? Can we truly understand salvation if we don't first recognize how desperate our condition is without Christ?

\* What does God choosing Bethlehem, as the birthplace of Jesus, teach us about His character and how He works? Where have you seen Him work like this in your own life?

#### *The Davidic Ruler Will Reverse Evil (Micah 5:3-5a)*

- God's restoration will begin at the ruler's birth. (v. 3)
- The shepherd king will protect His flock in peace. (vv. 4-6)
- **Question:** Where does your security rest? Do you trust your ingenuity and ability, or do you believe Jesus the Messiah holds your destiny securely?

\* When life feels unstable or overwhelming, where are you most tempted to look for hope, comfort, or security? Why do we return to those things instead of God, even when they have failed us before?

\* Why is it significant that restoration begins from a birth of a child, not from political reform or other means?

\* How is Jesus different from earthly leaders? What stands out to you about the image of a shepherd king?

**Bottom Line: Jesus is the hope and security of God's people.**

\* Do you see yourself more as self-sufficient or as a sheep in need of guidance and protection? Where are you resisting the Shepherd's leading in your life right now?

\* What false securities are you able to identify in your life? If you are not able to identify them, think about what anxieties arise when circumstances unexpectedly change. How can you actively hand them over to God this week?

## Understanding Scripture

### 1. Read the passage aloud.

- Question: How would the original audience have understood this passage?
- Question: What was God's desire for them?

### 2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.

- Question: What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
- Question: What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?

### 3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.

- Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
- Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
- If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.

### 4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...")

- Question: What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
- Question: How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

## Prayer Requests

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

