

How to Use Sermon Resources

- **READ AHEAD TOGETHER** - MCG's should use the Devotional at the end of this resource as a reading plan for the week leading up to your meeting.
- **SIT UNDER THE WORD** - This resource is filled with scripture references. Read them aloud, together before you answer any questions.
- **APPLY TRUTH** - The goal is deep discussion and application, not necessarily to complete this resource. Don't squash a good discussion. If you get into something important along the way that's fine.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer [2 mins]

Use the Overview [5 mins]

- Cover any key points for people who missed parts or all of the sermon

Scripture Deep Dive [30-40 mins]

- Opening Question
- Read the scripture for each question then ask the question. Some have multiple scriptures.

Close in Prayer

- In this extended prayer time, ask others to pray as they feel led, pray in a circle, pray over one another, pray to your left, or pray for someone specific. Whatever seems best.

Split Time (if applicable)

- Men with men, women with women
- Share in a circle. "What's one thing you want to celebrate? What do you need prayer and accountability for?"
- After everyone shares, pray in a circle for the person to your left/right.

SERMON OVERVIEW

Return: Micah

Sermon Summary:

Drawing from the book of Micah, this sermon walks through the three major oracles of the prophet to reveal a courtroom-like structure in which God exposes the sins of both the northern and southern kingdoms of Israel, reminds the people of what he truly desires from them, and ultimately promises hope through a coming shepherd king. The sermon presents God not as a distant judge delighting in condemnation, but as a faithful, compassionate God who grieves over sin and whose deepest desire is to cast the sins of his people into the depths of the sea.

Key Points:

- God exposes the sin of his people, including idolatry, injustice, deception from false prophets, and division among families and friends, and this exposure is an act of love meant to lead people toward repentance
- Idolatry occurs when the influence of surrounding culture replaces devotion to God, and believers today must examine whether worldly values such as comfort, greed, or materialism have become substitutes for worship
- In Micah 6:3-5, God asks what he has done to deserve the people's unfaithfulness and points to his past acts of deliverance as evidence of his trustworthiness
- Micah 6:8 summarizes God's requirements in three commands: act justly by using power for the benefit of others, love faithfulness by practicing a committed and active love that goes beyond obligation, and walk humbly with God by maintaining a right perspective of one's place before him
- A Jewish tradition of reciting Micah 7:18-20 while casting bread into water during Rosh Hashanah illustrates the spiritual reality of God's forgiveness and the removal of sin

Scripture Reference:

- Micah 1-7

Stories:

- The account of Balak and Balaam from Numbers 22-25 is referenced, in which the king of Moab hired the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites as they moved toward the promised land, but God caused blessing to come from Balaam's mouth instead of cursing, illustrating God's faithful protection of his people
- A reference to the televangelist Peter Popoff and his miracle spring water is used to illustrate the corruption of false prophets who offer blessing in exchange for financial gifts
- A personal memory of an exasperated teenage argument with parents asking "what do you want from me" is used to illustrate the tone of the people's response to God in Micah 6:6-7
- The Jewish tradition of Tashlikh, in which bread representing sin is cast into a body of water while reciting Micah 7:18-20 during Rosh Hashanah, is described as a symbolic picture of God's forgiveness

Scripture Deep Dive

Point 1: God Exposes Sin

Read Micah 6:3–5; Numbers 22:1–35; Psalm 103:2–5

Consider: God asks Israel, “What have I done to you?” Identify at least two specific acts of God’s faithfulness mentioned in Micah 6:4–5. How do those acts make Israel’s sin more serious rather than less serious?

Read: Micah 1:2–7; Exodus 20:1–6; Romans 1:21–25

Consider: Micah exposes Israel’s idolatry and describes it like spiritual unfaithfulness. What “exchange” do the people make in Micah 1:7 and Romans 1:23–25, and why is idolatry never merely a private or harmless sin?

Point 2: God Reminds Us of What He Desires

Read: Micah 6:6–8; 1 Samuel 15:22; Deuteronomy 10:12–13; Matthew 22:37–40

Consider: In Micah 6:6–7, the people suggest increasingly extreme sacrifices. According to Micah 6:8 and the supporting passages, why are sacrifices or religious actions unacceptable when they are disconnected from obedience, justice, mercy, and humility?

Read: Micah 6:8; Matthew 23:23; Luke 10:25–37; James 2:14–17

Consider: Micah says God requires His people to “act justly, love faithfulness/mercy, and walk humbly” with Him. Match each requirement with one concrete action from the New Testament passages, and explain why each action reflects genuine faith rather than empty religion.

Point 3: God Promises Our Hope

Read: Micah 5:2–5; Matthew 2:1–6; John 10:11–16; Hebrews 13:20–21

Consider: Micah promises a ruler from Bethlehem who will shepherd God’s people and be their peace. Identify three details from Micah 5:2–5 that are fulfilled or clarified in Jesus, and explain how Jesus answers the problem of sin and judgment raised earlier in Micah.

Read: Micah 7:18–20; Psalm 103:8–12; Isaiah 43:25; 1 John 1:8–9; Romans 8:1

Consider: Micah says God forgives iniquity, delights in faithful love, and casts sins into the depths of the sea. Based on these verses, what should a believer believe is true after genuine repentance, and what false beliefs about guilt or condemnation do these passages correct?