

Small Group Guide: Micah 5-7



Overview

This guide is based on a sermon covering Micah chapters 5 through 7, exploring themes of coming judgment, the identity and nature of the Messiah, God's heart for his people, repentance, and the faithfulness of God to his promises.

Key Takeaways

- Micah 5 contains a prophecy about the Messiah being born in Bethlehem, identifying him as both a descendant of David and an eternal being -- a truth that points directly to Jesus.
- God's requirements of his people have always centered on the heart, not ritual performance. As Micah 6:8 summarizes, doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God are what he desires.
- The sacrificial system was never about the act itself but about what it pointed toward -- the ultimate, sufficient sacrifice of Christ.
- Micah's personal response to cultural corruption and moral collapse was not despair but faith: "I will look to the Lord. I will wait for the God of my salvation."

- Salvation rests entirely on the character and faithfulness of God, not on our worthiness. As the sermon put it, when the enemy reminds you of your sin, the answer is: "Yeah, I'm not. It's a good thing I know the one who is."
 - God's promises to his people are kept because of who God is, not because of who we are.
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Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Think about a time when you felt the weight of your own failures or unworthiness. How did you respond -- did you pull away from God or move toward him?

Section 1: The Identity of the Messiah (Micah 5:2-5)

1. Micah 5:2 describes the coming Messiah as both a future descendant of David and one whose origins are from everlasting. How does holding both of those truths together -- Jesus as fully human and fully eternal -- affect the way you relate to him personally?
 2. The sermon pointed out that Bethlehem Ephrathah means "house of bread" and "place of fruitfulness," connecting the name of Jesus's birthplace to the elements of communion. How does this kind of detail in Scripture strengthen your confidence in the reliability of God's Word?
 3. John the Baptist understood that Jesus came after him in human terms but existed before him in eternal terms. What does it mean for your daily life that the one you follow is not limited by time?
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Section 2: What God Actually Wants (Micah 6:1-8)

4. God essentially asks his people, "What have I done to you? What is your complaint against me?" If you were honest, are there areas of your life where you have quietly held a complaint against God? What would it look like to bring that before him openly?
5. Micah 6:6-7 presents a series of escalating offerings -- burnt offerings, thousands of rams, rivers of oil, even a firstborn child. What are modern equivalents of these

kinds of offerings? In other words, what do people today try to substitute for genuine heart surrender to God?

6. Micah 6:8 is one of the most well-known verses in the Old Testament. Of the three things listed -- doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly -- which one is most challenging for you personally, and why?
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Section 3: Faith in the Midst of Corruption (Micah 7:1-9)

7. Micah describes a culture where even the best people are like thorns, families are divided against each other, and no one can be trusted. In what ways does that description feel familiar to the world we live in today? How does that comparison affect the way you read this passage?
 8. In the middle of describing that kind of cultural collapse, Micah says, "Therefore I will look to the Lord." What does it look like practically to make that choice -- to turn your eyes toward God -- when everything around you feels corrupt or unstable?
 9. Micah 7:8 says, "When I fall, I will arise. When I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me." How does this verse speak to the difference between a temporary fall and a permanent defeat? Have you experienced a moment where this truth became real for you?
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Section 4: The Character of God and His Promises (Micah 7:14-20)

10. The sermon highlighted that God's promises to Israel were never dependent on Israel's faithfulness but on God's own character. How does that truth apply to the promises God has made to you as a believer? Does it change the way you think about your own failures?
11. Micah 7:19 says that God will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. The sermon connected this to the sign of Jonah -- that our sins went into the grave with Jesus and were left there. How fully do you actually live as someone whose sins have been buried? What would change if you did?
12. The sermon closed with the observation that because of the promises God has already kept, we can have confidence in the promises he has yet to fulfill. What is one promise from Scripture that you are currently holding onto and waiting for God to fulfill?

Practical Applications

This week, choose one of the following to put into practice:

- **Examine your heart before God.** Reflect honestly on whether your faith has become more about religious routine than genuine relationship. Identify one area where you have been going through the motions and bring it before God in honest prayer.
- **Practice Micah 6:8 in a specific situation.** Look at your week ahead and identify one concrete opportunity to do justly, one opportunity to show mercy, and one moment that will require you to walk humbly rather than asserting your own way.
- **Write down what you know about who God is.** When the enemy or the world reminds you of your failures, the answer is rooted in the character of God, not your own record. Spend time this week writing out what you know to be true about God's character and keep it somewhere accessible.
- **Memorize Micah 7:18.** Let the truth that God does not retain his anger forever and that he delights in mercy become something you carry with you throughout the week.
- **Identify one person in your life who needs to hear that God's forgiveness is real and complete.** Pray for an opportunity to share that truth with them this week.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together around these themes:

- Gratitude for the specific and fulfilled prophecies that confirm the trustworthiness of Scripture
- Honest confession of the ways we have substituted religious performance for genuine heart surrender
- Faith that God's promises -- past, present, and future -- are secure because of who he is
- Hope rooted in the return of Christ and the peace he will ultimately bring

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Book of Micah and Its Themes



Day 1: The God Who Remembers His Promises

Reading: Micah 5:2; Genesis 12:1-3; 2 Samuel 7:12-16

Devotional: God made promises to Abraham, to David, and through Micah to a people who had wandered far from him. Yet not one of those promises collapsed under the weight of human failure. Bethlehem was a small agricultural town, unremarkable by any standard of human power, yet God chose it as the birthplace of the eternal Messiah. This is the pattern of God: he works through the unlikely, the small, and the forgotten to accomplish what no empire ever could. Whatever promises God has spoken over your life, they rest not on your faithfulness but on his character. He keeps his word simply because that is who he is.

Reflection: What promise from God are you tempted to doubt today? Bring it before him and ask him to strengthen your trust in his character rather than your own record.

Day 2: What God Actually Wants From You

Reading: Micah 6:6-8; Psalm 51:15-17; Romans 12:1-2

Devotional: The people of Judah were still performing their religious rituals while their hearts drifted further from God with every passing year. God, speaking through Micah, cuts through all of the religious noise and asks a devastating question: what have I not done for you? He had delivered them from slavery, provided leadership, sent manna, and turned curses into blessings. And still they thought the answer was more sacrifice, more religious activity. God's response is clear: he is not after the liturgy. He wants you to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with him. Religion performed without a surrendered heart is an empty offering. God wants the person, not the performance.

Reflection: Is there an area of your spiritual life where you have been going through the motions without genuine engagement of your heart? What would it look like to surrender that area to God today?

Day 3: Faith That Stands in a Corrupt Culture

Reading: Micah 7:7-9; Habakkuk 3:17-19; Romans 8:35-39

Devotional: Micah looked around at a society where the best of its people were described as a thorn bush, where sons dishonored fathers, where judges took bribes and leaders demanded gifts. It was a culture of self-interest dressed up in religious clothing. And yet Micah's response was not despair. He declared that he would look to the Lord, wait for the God of his salvation, and trust that God would hear him. That is not naive optimism. That is disciplined, deliberate faith chosen in the face of overwhelming evidence that things are broken. The world around you may be unraveling, but the God you belong to is not. He remains the same, and he hears you.

Reflection: In what specific area of your life or culture are you most tempted toward despair right now? Practice Micah's declaration today: speak aloud your intention to look to the Lord and wait on him.

Day 4: The Pardon That Cannot Be Reversed

Reading: Micah 7:18-19; Psalm 103:8-12; Romans 8:1

Devotional: Micah closes his book with one of the most searching questions in all of Scripture: who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity? The answer, of course, is no one. No other god pardons. No other god delights in mercy. No other god casts sin into the depths of the sea and leaves it there. When the enemy comes to remind you of what you have done, you are not required to argue that you are innocent. You are not. But the one who stands on your behalf is. The pardon you have received through Christ is not temporary, not conditional on your future performance, and not subject to reversal. It is complete, and it is permanent.

Reflection: Are you living as someone who has received a full pardon, or are you still carrying guilt that has already been cast into the depths of the sea? What would change in your daily life if you truly believed your sin was gone?

Day 5: The Peace That Is Still Coming

Reading: Micah 5:4-5a; Revelation 19:11-16; John 14:27

Devotional: The peace described in Micah chapter 5 has not yet fully arrived. The Messiah came the first time as the bread of life, born in Bethlehem, the house of bread, the place of fruitfulness. He gave his life, rose from the dead, and ascended. But the fullness of the peace Micah describes, the peace that reaches to the ends of the earth, is still ahead. We live between the two advents, holding the reality of what Christ has already accomplished while waiting for what he has promised to complete. This is not a posture of passive waiting. It is active, expectant hope, grounded in the certainty that the one who came once will come again, and that he will finish what he started.

Reflection: How does the certainty of Christ's return change the way you face uncertainty in the present? Take time today to thank God for what has already been accomplished and to express your hope in what is still to come.