

Small Group Guide

Based on the Book of Micah: Judgment, Restoration, and the Hope of the Messiah



Overview

This guide is designed to help your group dig deeper into the opening chapters of Micah. The prophet preached alongside Isaiah and Hosea around 735 BC, addressing both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. His message was one of honest confrontation about sin, a warning of coming judgment, and a stunning promise of future restoration through the Messiah. These themes are as relevant today as they were then.

Key Takeaways

- Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea, and his message was largely the same: the people had abandoned God through idolatry, injustice, and false religion, and judgment was coming as a result.
- God's judgment is not evidence of his hatred toward his people. His grief over their sin, expressed through Micah's lament in chapter 1, reveals a God who is compassionate and merciful even while being just.

- The people consistently chose false prophets who told them what they wanted to hear over true prophets who called them to repentance. This pattern is a warning for every generation.
- Oppression of the poor and vulnerable was a central grievance God had against Israel's leadership. True religion cannot be separated from how we treat one another.
- Even in the darkest passages of judgment, Micah offers a vision of future hope rooted in the Messiah's reign from Jerusalem, a vision that mirrors Isaiah 2 and points toward the return of Christ.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

1. When you hear the word "prophet," what comes to mind? Before reading or studying Micah, what was your general impression of the Old Testament prophets and their message?

From Chapter 1: The Coming Judgment

2. Micah describes God as grieving over the judgment he must bring, wailing and mourning over his people's sin. How does that image challenge or expand the way you think about God's character? Does it change how you relate to him personally?
3. The people of Israel and Judah were surrounded by false prophets who told them things were fine, while true prophets like Micah warned of coming disaster. Why do you think the people consistently chose to listen to the voices that made them feel good rather than the voices calling them to repentance? Where do you see that same tendency today, either in culture or in yourself?

From Chapter 2: Oppression and False Comfort

4. Micah describes people who sin "because they can," taking advantage of others simply because they have the power and opportunity to do so. The sermon described this as a picture of human depravity. Where do you see this pattern playing out in the world around you? Where might it show up in your own life in subtler ways?
5. The sermon drew a connection between the wealthy of Micah's day consuming the resources of the poor and modern economic patterns where large investment firms

buy up housing and drive up costs for ordinary people. Do you think that comparison is fair? What responsibility do followers of Christ have when they see systemic injustice like this?

6. God's indictment of Israel included the fact that their priests and prophets were teaching and prophesying for money, telling people what they wanted to hear in exchange for payment. How do you guard yourself against gravitating toward teachers or voices that simply reinforce what you already believe or want to hear?

From Chapter 3: Leadership and Accountability

7. Micah specifically addresses the leaders of Israel, those in positions of power and influence, and holds them to a higher standard. Why do you think God consistently holds leaders more accountable than others in scripture? What does that mean for anyone in a position of leadership today, whether in a church, a family, a workplace, or a community?
8. The religious leaders of Micah's day were performing all the outward functions of worship, the temple sacrifices, the teaching, the rituals, while simultaneously oppressing the poor and perverting justice. They still claimed God was on their side. How do you evaluate the difference between genuine faith and the appearance of religion? What does authentic faith actually look like in practice?

From Chapter 4: The Hope of Restoration

9. Chapter 4 paints a picture of a coming day when nations will stream to Jerusalem, swords will be turned into plowshares, and Jesus will reign in peace. The sermon described this as pointing toward the millennial reign of Christ. What part of that vision is most meaningful or most difficult for you to hold onto in the middle of the world as it is right now?
10. The sermon noted that the same people who appeared weak and outcast in the tribulation period are the ones God gathers and strengthens when Christ returns. What does that pattern, weakness becoming strength through God's intervention, mean for how you face your own circumstances today?

Practical Applications

Examine what voices you are listening to. Take an honest inventory of the teachers, podcasts, books, and influencers that shape your thinking. Are they primarily voices that

comfort and affirm, or do they also challenge and correct? Commit this week to spending time with scripture itself, not just commentary about it.

Identify one area where you have the power to do right but have been passive. Micah's indictment was not only against people doing active evil but against a culture that allowed injustice to continue unchallenged. Ask God to show you one specific place where you can act with justice or generosity this week.

Pray with honesty about your own depravity. The sermon pointed out that much of human sin comes down to opportunity. We do wrong because we can. Spend time in prayer this week asking God to reveal the places where you are choosing self-interest over righteousness simply because no one is stopping you.

Hold onto the hope of chapter 4. If you are in a season of difficulty, discouragement, or feeling like things are falling apart around you, write down Micah 4:3-4 in your own words as a personal reminder. The same God who promised restoration to a people in exile is the same God who holds your future.

Discuss justice with your group beyond Sunday. The issues Micah raises about economic oppression and the treatment of vulnerable people are not abstract. As a group, identify one local organization or ministry that serves people in poverty or crisis and consider how your group might support or serve alongside them.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your time together by praying in three directions:

- **Confession:** Ask God to reveal the places where your group, individually and collectively, has chosen comfort over faithfulness or self-interest over justice.
- **Gratitude:** Thank God that his judgment is not his final word, and that the same scripture that warns of consequences also promises restoration and redemption through Christ.
- **Hope:** Pray together for the coming reign of Christ, for the peace that Micah describes in chapter 4, and for the courage to live now in light of what is coming.

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Book of Micah: Judgment, Hope, and Redemption



Day 1: The Weight of Sin and the Holiness of God

Reading: Micah 1:1-7

Devotional: God does not overlook sin. Micah's opening vision portrays a holy God who descends in righteous judgment because sin is not a minor inconvenience to him — it is a direct offense against his nature. The people of Samaria and Jerusalem had turned from the living God to idols, trading true worship for religious performance. Yet this same God had given them every warning. Before judgment falls, messengers are sent. Before consequences arrive, truth is spoken. Consider today what areas of your life you have allowed compromise to quietly settle in. God's holiness is not a threat to those who repent. It is a refuge.

Day 2: God Mourns Over His People

Reading: Micah 1:8-16; Lamentations 3:31-33

Devotional: One of the most striking moments in Micah chapter 1 is the raw emotion expressed over the coming judgment. God does not delight in the punishment of those he loves. He mourns. He weeps. He is not indifferent to the suffering that sin produces. Lamentations 3:31-33 echoes this truth, affirming that God does not willingly bring grief or affliction. This should reshape how we understand divine discipline. It is not cold or mechanical. It flows from a heart that desperately desires restoration. When you face the consequences of choices that have led you away from God, know that he is not gloating. He is grieving, and calling you back.

Day 3: The Danger of Hearing Only What We Want

Reading: Micah 2:6-11; 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Devotional: The people of Israel silenced the true prophets and paid the false ones to speak comfort. They preferred messages that affirmed their lifestyle over messages that confronted their sin. This is not an ancient problem. Second Timothy 4:3-4 warns that a time will come when people will surround themselves with teachers who tell them only what their desires want to hear. The dangerous irony in Micah's day was that the people mistook God's patience for his approval. Prosperity was not proof of righteousness. It was evidence of mercy not yet exhausted. Ask yourself honestly today: are you seeking God's truth, or seeking confirmation of what you already want to believe?

Day 4: Justice, Power, and the Spirit of God

Reading: Micah 3:8-12; Romans 8:14-17

Devotional: In the middle of corrupt leaders, hired priests, and prophets who worked for pay, Micah stood apart. His declaration in chapter 3 is bold: he was full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, filled with justice and might. He did not speak because it was profitable. He spoke because the Spirit of God compelled him. Romans 8:14-17 reminds us that those led by the Spirit of God are children of God. The Spirit does not lead us toward comfort at the expense of truth. He leads us toward righteousness, even when it is costly. Where in your life is the Spirit prompting you toward courageous honesty that you have been reluctant to act on?

Day 5: The Promise That Outlasts the Judgment

Reading: Micah 4:1-5; Revelation 21:3-5

Devotional: The book of Micah does not end in despair. After chapters of warning and confrontation, chapter 4 opens with breathtaking hope. Nations streaming toward the mountain of the Lord. Swords becoming plowshares. Fear replaced by rest. Every person sitting under their own vine and fig tree, undisturbed. This is not wishful poetry. It is prophetic certainty. Revelation 21:3-5 confirms it: God will dwell with his people, wipe every tear, and make all things new. The same God who speaks honestly about sin is the God who promises complete restoration. Whatever grief or consequence you are walking through today, it is not the final chapter. The King is coming, and peace will reign.