

Small Group Guide: The Promise of the Coming King

Key Takeaways:

1. God has a plan for redemption, even in times of discipline and exile.
2. The prophecy in Micah points to Jesus as the promised ruler and shepherd.
3. God uses small and seemingly insignificant things for His great purposes.
4. There will be a future victory and purging of nations before Christ's reign.
5. Our trust should be in God, not in our own strength or worldly systems.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon began with an analogy about an MRI experience. How does this relate to our spiritual lives and times when we feel confined or uncomfortable?
2. Micah prophesies about a ruler coming from Bethlehem. How does this prophecy point to Jesus, and why is the fulfillment of prophecy important for our faith?
3. The sermon mentions that God often uses small, insignificant things for His purposes. Can you share an example from your own life where God used something seemingly small to make a big impact?
4. How does the idea of God "purging" Israel relate to our own spiritual growth? Have you experienced a time when God removed something from your life for your own good?
5. The pastor talked about idols in our lives. What are some modern-day idols that people, including Christians, might struggle with?
6. How does the promise of Christ's return impact how we should live our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. Self-reflection: Take time this week to "follow the trail" of where you spend your time, money, and energy. What does this reveal about your priorities and potential idols?
2. Scripture memorization: Choose one of the verses mentioned in the sermon (e.g., Micah 5:2 or 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18) to memorize this week.
3. Watchfulness: Practice being more aware of God's work in your life and in the world around you. Keep a journal of ways you see God moving or answering prayer.
4. Sharing hope: Look for an opportunity to share the hope of Christ's return with someone who may be struggling or feeling hopeless.
5. Prayer focus: Spend time each day this week praying for the persecuted church and for Jews to come to know Jesus as their Messiah.
6. Community action: Discuss as a group how you can be "salt and light" in your local community, putting into practice the call to be ready for Christ's return.