

## **An Unlikely Place**

### **Opening Announcements**

### **Opening Prayer**

Q: Have you ever had an experience where you "didn't see it coming" and were somewhat surprise/blindsided? Was it a good or "not so good" experience?

Q: What makes the "unlikely" a thing?

Q: What are the emotional dynamics/beliefs that keep us from "seeing"?

**Table Time:** *At your table read the following and answer the questions:*

Micah 5:2-5a "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace."

Q: According to verse 2, how does the text describe "Bethlehem"?

Q: What would "come" from there? Who do you think THAT is?

Q: According to verses 3-5 WHAT doe this One, prophesied...."do"?

Q: How does this prophecy, sound similar to others in the Bible? Like, what are the qualities of it, descriptions, etc.

Q: What's ONE thing you take away from this text? Why does that stick out to you?

### **Big Group/Re-Group:**

Q: Ultimately WHO is this prophecy about?

Q: How does it "fit" with the theme's/concepts of Advent?

**Micah:** Micah was a contemporary with Isaiah. His ministry spanned the reigns of three kings of Judah. During his ministry, Israel in the north would fall and

Judah in the south almost fell to Assyria in 715 BC. Along with Isaiah, Amos, Hosea, Micah and the prophets continued the work began by Elijah and Elisha in trying to turn God's people back to Him. In Micah's prophecy, you see God's speaking out against corrupt and lazy spiritual leadership. Being swayed by their prosperity and refusing to repent of their idolatry. Micah is both hard-hitting AND comforting. It also clearly prophesies about Jesus the Messiah Who would come and usher in a much larger reign than solely earthly!

**READ: Micah 4:1-5** "It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, <sup>2</sup> and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; <sup>4</sup> but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. <sup>5</sup> For all the peoples walk each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever."

Q: WHO is the "mountain of the Lord"? What is one of its characteristics?

Q: What will happen to the "nations" according to verse 2?

Q: According to verse 3, what does this famous verse/saying symbolize?

Q: What does verse 4 mean?

Q: How does Jesus' birth and what He comes to do, come in a way "we didn't see coming"?

Q: How does the Advent of Jesus fulfill the prophecy of Micah?