

Date: 7.7.24 | Title: Micah | Scripture: Micah

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

PRESCHOOL:

The Bible is a book about God.
God tells people to obey Him.
People can show love for God by obeying Him.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

The Bible is a book about God.
People can learn about and recognize God's authority.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory.
God commands people to obey Him.
People can acknowledge and follow God's authority in their lives.



MEMORY VERSE

**“Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in
these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.”**

Hebrews 1:1-2a



THE PROPHETS



BUSY BIN

As the kids arrive, they will stop by the table to pick up a snack, a drink, and a Micah 6:8 coloring sheet to work on as their classmates arrive. When the people ask, what the Lord requires of them, Micah replies “the Lord desires that His people- do justice (right), love kindness (mercy, goodness), and walk humbly (faithfulness) with their God.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Tell your group that today we will be learning about the minor prophet, Micah. He is called a “minor” prophet because of the length of his message. God spoke to prophets and told them the messages He wanted them to pass on to the people. Play a game of Hang Man with the kids in your class to see if they can figure out a message you want to pass on to them.

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

The prophet Micah lived in a small village near Jerusalem in the southern kingdom of Judah. Micah was “filled with power, with the Spirit of the Lord, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.” (Micah 3:8). Micah prophesied during the reigns of three kings of Judah: Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah- for a period of 20-25 years. Micah preached to common people, farmers, and villagers. He prophesied around the same time as Isaiah, Hosea, Jonah, and Amos and spoke to the Southern Kingdom of Judah like Micah, Nahum, and Habakkuk. He taught that God’s judgement was approaching because of the people’s sin and transgression, but through forgiveness, the future of God’s people would be glorious as His faithfulness and protection would be shown to them.

Micah writes in the form of bringing God’s “lawsuit” against his people (3:8). The prophet exposes the sins (1:2-7) of Samaria (the capital of the Northern Kingdom of Israel) and Jerusalem (the capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah). During this time, both Assyria (5:5-6) and Babylon (4:10), enemies of God’s people, are desiring captivity and exile for the kingdoms. The kings and leaders are influencing their people for the worst, guiding them in idolatry and injustice. The rulers are not shepherding the people, but instead are like ravaging animals that tear the skin off them so they can eat their flesh (3:2-3). The sins of the people include idolatry (1:7; 5:12-14), the seizure of property (2:2, 9); the failure of civil (3:1-3, 9-10; 7:3), religious (3:11), and prophetic leadership (3:5-7, 11); the belief that personal sacrifice satisfies divine judgment (6:6-7); and corrupt business practices and violence (6:10-12). Micah focuses on revealing the abusive leadership of Israel and Judah’s wealthy ruling class: “They covet fields and take them by violence, also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, a man and his inheritance “(Micah 2:2). God also deals with false prophets and the people’s lack of discernment about their lies. “If a liar and deceiver comes and says, ‘I will preach to you of wine and strong drink, he would be the preacher for this people!’” (2:11). These people would rather listen to preaching that emphasizes overindulgence rather than God’s condemnation for unethical behavior through true prophets like Micah under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Micah warns that God is going to expose the wolves among His sheep and cut them off: “Therefore it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you without divination. The sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be black over them... They shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God” (Micah 3:6-7). Micah feels the hollowness of the false worship surrounding him. (Micah 7:1). His countrymen are driven by greed and hypocrisy, so he looks to God and offers a personal petition from mercy (7:14). God is the only hope the people have, if they will only recognize their need for Him.

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Micah's name means "Who is like God?" and Micah praises Him accordingly: "Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (v.18-19). Micah recognizes that God is moving, especially in the hardest times, working His will and ready to forgive any who turn from sin to Him.

The execution of their sentence is going to be terrifying: "Behold, the Lord is coming out of His place; He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. The mountains will melt under Him, and the valleys will split like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place" (1:3-4). Because Israel has violated the covenant, they are threatened with covenant curses, just as God had promised in Deuteronomy 28. They will experience famine (6:14, Lev. 26:26) and will not enjoy the harvest of oil and wine (6:15; Deut. 28:39-40). Samaria will be destroyed (1:6) and devastation will come to many cities in Israel (1:10-16). Jerusalem will be ruined as well (3:12), and the people will be exiled to Babylon (4:10). Israel will go into exile because of its sins and refusal to keep covenant stipulations.

Exile is not the final reality. Yahweh will reassemble His people, His flock, His remnant, and bring them back to the land (2:12-13). And the kingship will be renewed, for the king will lead them back from exile along with the Lord (2:13). After pronouncing doom on the cities of Samaria and Jerusalem and proclaiming the perils of ignoring God's call to live faithfully, Micah predicts the restoration of Israel. It is a twofold promise: the first restoration will come after their Babylonian exile, and the second in the end times, with the arrival of the Messiah, who will usher in a period of peace and security. (Micah 4:1). God's future plan includes not only Jerusalem, but a little town not far from the capital called Bethlehem. Micah predicts the Messiah's birthplace seven centuries before Jesus comes. (Micah 5:2). The future deliverer of Israel, Jesus Christ, would be born in Bethlehem, and God orchestrates a number of world events in order to make this happen. Caesar Augustus decides to hold a census of the Roman Empire at just the right time, forcing a carpenter in Nazareth named Joseph to pack up his pregnant bride Mary and return to his hometown of Bethlehem just in time for the birth.

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

In Micah 4:1-3, he looks to the future, to “the latter days” when “the mountain of the house of the Lord” will be exalted, and all peoples, not just Jews, will come to the temple to worship Yahweh (4:1). The law will flow from Zion, and so people will come to his mountain to hear his instruction (4:2). Then peace will dawn worldwide. War will be forsaken, and each person will be “under his vine and under his fig tree” (4:4). Yahweh “will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away” (4:6), and they will be gathered as Yahweh’s people, as his remnant (4:7). The return from exile seems to be coincident with the coming of the kingdom (4:10): “And the Lord will reign over his people on Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore” (4:7). As we have seen often in the prophets, so too in Micah the salvation of Israel is coterminous with the destruction of the nations (4:11-5:1). Israel’s ruler, who will lead them to victory, will come from Bethlehem, from the tribe of Judah (5:2). Micah says that this ruler’s “coming forth is from of old, from ancient days” (5:2). As the shepherd and ruler, says Micah, he will lead Israel to victory (5:5-6) and bring them security: “For now he shall be great to the ends of the earth” (5:4), and “he shall be their peace” (5:5). Israel will be a blessing among the nations (5:7-8).

God reminds the people what authentic worship looks like: “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8). Those three elements sum up the law-loving God with all your heart, soul and strength, and loving your neighbor as yourself.

Micah ends his book with multiple predictions of redemption and restoration through the promised Messiah. This section is written in the form of a prayer and confession of sin from the people to God, exalting Him as their only hope. Israel has fallen, but it will rise; it sits in the darkness now, but it will see the light again (7:8-9). The enemies will be destroyed, and Israel’s walls will be rebuilt (7:10-11). There will be a new exodus (7:15) and Yahweh will shepherd his people again (7:14). The promise of Genesis 3:15 will be fulfilled, for the enemies of Yahweh “shall lick the dust like a serpent, like the crawling things of the earth; they shall come trembling out of their strongholds; they shall turn in dread to the Lord our God, and they shall be in fear of you” (7:17). The offspring of the serpent will be destroyed, and Yahweh will fulfill the covenant that he had made with Abraham, showing “steadfast love,” just as he promised (7:20). And he will fulfill that covenant fundamentally by forgiving Israel’s sins, “by pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance” (7:18). A great day of salvation is coming, for Yahweh “will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea” (7:19).

THE PROPHETS

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Tell the story: Use the Background Info for Leaders to tell today's story.

Re-tell the Bible Story: put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

Attributes of God: Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today's story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

**TELL
THE
STORY**

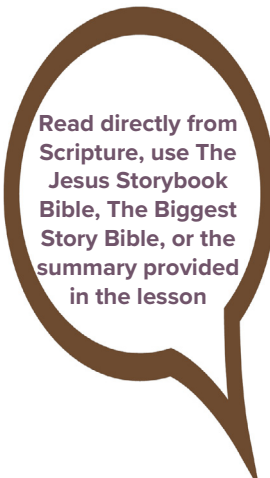


Share the GOSPEL:

Micah delivered one of the most well-known messianic prophecies in redemptive history a full 700 years before the events of the Gospels took place, a prediction of the little town of Bethlehem becoming the birthplace of the Messiah (5:2).

Micah not only prophesied about Jesus' first coming; he also prophesied about His return. The deliverer born in Bethlehem would have the heart of a shepherd, nourishing His people (v.4)- that's Jesus' first coming- and bringing peace to the earth (v.5)- that's His second coming.

Jesus Himself said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (John 10:11). He did just that on the cross, giving His life for us so that we might have peace with God and receive the forgiveness of our sins. In the prophetic words of Micah, He "cast all our sins into the depths of the sea" (Micah 7:19). Jesus laid down His life and rose again, and now we wait for Him to return and reign in everlasting peace.



Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your 2nd-5th grade kids find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our kids to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture.

1. What is a prophet?
2. During what time were the prophets used by God?
3. To what people did Micah preach?
5. What sins did Micah warn the people of?
6. How did the evil rulers and leaders affect their people?
7. What are some of the things Micah prophesied would happen if the people didn’t repent?
8. What two promises of hope did Micah offer the people?
9. What does Micah’s story tell us about who God is?



THE PROPHETS

PRAYER PROMPTS

God thank you for constantly pursuing your people! We do not deserve Your relentless love! You are merciful and gracious and never give up on us! Help us to follow You and love You with our thoughts, desires, and actions.

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Help the kids in your group practice memorizing the books of the Bible by singing through the Books of the Bible song on our Books of the Bible Spotify playlist. Use the printed copies of the books of the Bible in your classroom to follow along. 3rd-5th graders, practice putting the books of the Bible in order using the popsicle sticks. Have several groups of kids compete against each other or work together to see how fast your class can order them.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

We will have no mission focus for the summer. As we pray through what our next focus will be, please continue to give generously.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this weeks verse with the kids in your group. Use the Memory Verse Idea Handout for some fun ways to work on the verse together.



THE PROPHETS



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?



THE PROPHETS



Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?