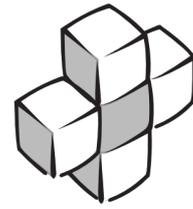




SMACC

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



Bible Study Series:

Micah



Our Mission:

To glorify God together in response to his grace

by making disciples of Jesus Christ

About These Studies

These studies were written by various SMACC leaders for use among young working adults and university students. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

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8. What is the response of Micah?

Meaning of Names

- Gath = *tell*
- Beth-le-aphrah = *house of dust*
- Shaphir = *beautiful*
- Zaanah = *come out*
- Beth-ezel = *house of taking away*
- Maroth = *bitter*
- Lachish = *to the steeds*
- Moresheth-gath = *one who is betrothed*
- Achzib = *deception*
- Mareshah = *conqueror*
- Adullam = *symbolic of hostility, David's exile in 2 Sam 23:13*

Application

9. Do you think there is any reason for God to feel the same way today as how he felt at the time when Micah wrote his prophecy?

10. How would you feel if you were told God is against you and about to execute judgement of you and your friends and family? How would you respond?

11. What would you say to a friend who says, "God loves me; therefore, I can live however I want to live?"

6. What does “portion” in verse 4 signify?

Read Micah 2:6-7

7. What is the perception of God to those whom asked Micah not to preach?

8. Do you think that the Lord has grown impatient (In Hebrews: Has the spirit of the Lord grown short)? Why?

Read Micah 2:8-11

9. In verse 10, why is it that “this is no place to rest”? (cf. Deut. 28:9-11; 15-16)

10. Read Jeremiah 5:12-13, what does it mean to “utter wind and lies”? Why does the people choose the preacher who utter “wind and lies”?

Read Micah 2:12-13

11. Notice the words “assemble”, “gather”, “set”, “like sheep” in verse 12. What do they portray?

12. Read Isaiah 52:12 and John 10:2-4. Who will be the one who protects and leads the remnant of Israel, from uncleanness to holiness?

Application

13. Prophet Micah speaks through people who rejected his message. Do we speak God's message to others faithfully?

14. We see that in Micah 2 that God is a just God. We also see how he will execute judgement on the leaders who transgressed. How are we similar to the leaders and how should we respond to God when we know that even though He is a God of grace, He is also a God of justice who will judge all sins?

15. Throughout the verses 1 to 11, we see human steeped in sin and seemingly unable to get out of it by ourselves; but the chapter didn't end there - the chapter ended with God showing us mercy by sending a Saviour who will rescue us from our helplessness.

How has the study today shaped you in thinking about our God as the God of justice (punishing sin), yet the God of mercy (sending Jesus). How will you respond to the gospel message?

Study 3: “Judgement for Corrupt Leaders” (Micah 3)

Getting Started

1. What are some of the similarities of poor countries such as North Korea and Mexico?

Context

In Micah 1 and 2, we saw that God will proclaim judgement on His own people who has transgressed against Him but promised to save a remnant of those who are faithful to Him.

Digging in

2. Read Micah. Divide the passage into smaller sections and give each section a title.

Verses	Title

Read Micah 3:1-4

3. What is the role of the heads of Jacob and rulers of house of Israel?
4. How are they described? What kind of imagery is used here?
5. How will God respond to these leaders?

Read Micah 3:5-8

6. How did the prophets lead God’s people astray? What is the motivation in leading God’s people?
7. What will happen to these false prophets?

8. What does a true prophet look like?

Read Micah 3:9-12

9. The third section of judgement is addressed to whom? What are their sins?

10. What do they claim in V11?

11. What will happen to Jerusalem because of them?

Application

12. These leaders claim that they lean on God even when they are transgressing against God. What is the tendency of us doing the same? (We proclaim that we believe in Jesus but do not delight in God's law.)

13. Are there ways in which corrupt leadership still pollutes the church today? How does this impact the health of the church and our witness to the world?

14. How can we be supporting our church leaders and encouraging them in godliness?

Study 4: “Glimpse of a Perfect Kingdom” (Micah 4)

Getting Started

1. If you could envision a perfect country; what would be the characteristics of such a perfect country?

Context

In Micah 1 to 3, we saw that God will proclaim judgement on His own people who have transgressed against Him. Furthermore, we also saw what Israel, a broken nation, looked like – not for the lack of resources or lack of an army but for lack of leadership, spiritual destitution, oppressing their own people and ultimately national disobedience towards the God who had always cared for them.

Digging In

2. Read Micah 4. Divide the passage into smaller sections and give each section a title.

Verses	Title

Read Micah 4:1-3

3. What is Israel’s current state in Micah 4?
4. However, what did Micah say would happen in “the latter days”?
5. Why will God’s kingdom bring wars to an end? (v1-4)

Read Micah 4:4-8

6. Micah 4:4 mentioned that people will no longer live in fear when God rules His kingdom. Why will it be so?

7. Why will they willingly walk in God's ways?

8. How do we see the gospel demonstrated here?

Read Micah 4:9-13

9. What will happen before Zion's rebirth? (Note: The birth will occur in Ch5, cf5:3).

10. What will rescue them from this captivity, punishment?

11. Will God abandon His people in captivity?

Application

12. What does our culture of pluralism teach us? How does Micah 4 challenge this view?

13. Micah 4 paints an idyllic picture of what the kingdom of God looks like. At the heart of this kingdom is God and it is from obedience to him that peace comes about. As a Christian, does your experience of peace with God result in peace with the people around you? (If not, then we may need to ask if God is at the centre of our lives? Are we living in obedience to his word?)

14. Micah 4 also paints a picture of how God's people should respond to His rule; firstly, we should accept His grace and then yield to Him in obedience when He saved us not because of how good we are but because of how good He is. What are some of the areas you struggle with in believing in His goodness? How can we be praying that you may increase your faith in His goodness even though it may not be easy to fully understand it now?

Study 5: “The Coming King” (Micah 5)

Getting Started

1. Recall someone in your life who has done something to take away your discomfort. Share it with your group and tell them how you feel about it.

Context

From Micah 1 to 4, we see God’s judgement being proclaimed to His own people who sinned against Him; His people who practiced idolatry, corrupted rulers who oppressed the nation and false prophets who led the believers away from God. However, hope is seen when God saves the remnant of those who remained faithful to Him. Although Israel was under God’s judgement, God showed a glimpse of the perfect kingdom established in the latter days, where God will rule over His people and His people will be under Him, walking obediently in God’s law.

Digging In

2. Read Micah 5:1-15 and divide the passage into smaller sections and give each of them a title.

Verse	Title

Read Micah 5:1-3

3. What picture is being illustrated in v1? What does it imply?

4. How is the turning point in v2 significant?

Read Micah 5:4-6

5. How will the ruler rule over Israel and what will happen to them?
6. Compared with the rulers mentioned in previous chapters, how are they different from this ruler?

Read Micah 5:7-9

7. What pattern can you observe from v7 & v8? What are the implications that the author wants to address?
8. What will eventually happen to the nations and the nations who attack Israel?

Read Micah 5:10-15

9. What did Israel benefit from looking for these things? (Horses & chariots, strongholds; sorceries & tellers of fortunes; carved images, pillars & works of hands; Asherah images & cities)
10. How does God show His grace to His people that is still steeped in sin?

Study 6: “Lawsuit Against Israel’s Unfaithfulness” (Micah 6)

Getting started

1. Think of a time when someone broke a promise they made. How did you respond? (Or vice versa – i.e. you are the promise-breaker)

Context

So far in Micah, we have seen the pronouncement of God’s judgment upon Israel for their covenant unfaithfulness – whoring after other idols; upon the leaders for being corrupt and for oppressing the poor while accepting bribes from the rich. However, we also see signs of hope as God promised a King who will ‘shepherd the flock in the strength of the LORD’.

Digging in

2. Read Micah 6 and divide them into smaller sections

Verses	Title

Read Micah 6:1-5

3. Fill up the table to get a clearer picture of the ‘courtroom’.

Plaintiff	
Messenger on behalf of the plaintiff	
Witnesses and jury	
Defendant / the accused	

4. How does God address Israel in v2, v3? What does that signify?

5. How has God been faithful in this covenant?

Read Micah 6:6-8

6. How does the 'worshipper' in v6-7 respond to God's goodness recounted in v4-5?

7. What, then, is the right response? How would it have looked like in their time? So far in Micah, do we see them responding this way?

Read Micah 6:9-16

8. Observe the 'charges' brought against Israel in v11-12. How have they violated the standard required by God in v8?

9. What judgment does God bring on them – is God being excessively harsh?

Application

10. We have seen that having been rescued from Egypt, the Israel were to respond rightly in true worship – by doing justice and loving kindness. How, then, are we who are recipients of a much greater salvation to respond to a much greater display of God's love?

11. How are we like the Israelites who think that we can 'bid' for God's favour, rather than doing what He has called us to do? In what ways do we fail to do justice and love kindness? What needs to change for us to truly love God and His people?

Study 7: “The Ultimate Triumph of God’s Kingdom” (Micah 7)

Getting Started

1. Recall an incident where you have sinned against a person e.g. your family members/ friends/ the people around you. How confident are you that you would be forgiven by the person?

Context

Last study, we learned about God’s lawsuit against Israel for their covenant unfaithfulness. However, God remains faithful by redeeming them from slavery in Egypt, giving them good leaders and protecting them from political and spiritual enemies. We have seen that the right response to God’s goodness is to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. In this concluding chapter, we see that God promises to restore His people who repent and show faithfulness to Him.

Digging in

2. Read Micah 7. Divide the passage into smaller sections and give each section a title.

Verses	Title

Read Micah 7:1-6

3. How was the state of society described in verses 1-3 and 5-6? How did the author feel about the society?

Read Micah 7:7-10

4. What was Micah’s response in the midst of this dire situation? What is the significance of his response?

Read Micah 7:11-17

5. In verses 11-13, Micah speaks representing Israel. What does the prophet expect to see happen for Israel?

6. As Israel is lead out of this hopeless situation, what will their future look like?

7. What impact will Israel have upon the nations? What does it imply?

Read Micah 7:18-20

8. In face of impending judgement, why was Micah confident that God would save?

Application

9. Micah lamented that the godly had perished from the land and that there was an absence of upright people (Micah 7:2). The godly play a vital role in society. Jesus said we are to be salt and light in the world (cf. Mat 5:13-16). Salt preserves and spices and light enables men to see what they otherwise would not be able to see.

In light of the study, how can we be the salt and light to the people around us?

10. In the NT, we learn of a time when the ungodly will increase (cf. 2 Tim 3:1-5). We may also see this happening in our universities, workplaces, and society. What can we learn from our study of Micah about how we are to respond in such situations?

11. If God is this merciful to those who sin against Him, how are we showing forgiveness/ mercy to those who sin against us?