

## **Do Justice: The Lord Is Coming to Judge (Micah 1:1–2:13)**

**Note to the Leaders from Pastor Bryan:** *If this study feels heavy, that is appropriate.*

*Micah was not trying to motivate or inspire. He was sounding the alarm from God, trying to wake people up from their sin. Let conviction do its work before moving to comfort.*

### **Getting Started**

If needed, invite brief introductions. Share **High / Low / Buffalo** (High is something good from the week, Low is something hard. Buffalo is something unexpected or random).

Anyone may pass.

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### **Expect to Experience God in Prayer**

Pray together, asking God to help us see clearly. Ask for honest hearts, humility, and a willingness to respond.

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### **Expect to Experience God in Fellowship**

*Choose the icebreaker or a conversation starter to begin the group's time in the Word.*

#### ***Icebreaker: Lines in the Sand***

Create an imaginary line in the room (through the middle of your group)

Read each statement. Invite people to stand on one side or the other. It is fine to remain seated if unsure.

- Justice is mostly about systems rather than individuals.
- I react more strongly to personal wrongs than to public injustice.
- God's judgment feels more comforting than unsettling to me.
- Silence can be a form of participation.
- I am more at ease talking about mercy than judgment.

After each statement, invite one or two people to briefly share why they chose their spot.

Transition (say):

"Micah speaks to a people who crossed lines they no longer noticed."

### **Conversation Starter**

Choose one:

- Hearing the phrase "God is coming to judge," what feeling rises first, and why?
- Where do you see injustice today that feels normalized, familiar, or excusable?

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### **Expect to Experience God in His Word**

## Background

Micah prophesied during a time of stability and success. Judah was politically stable and economically strong.

- Worship continued at the temple. Sacrifices were offered. Religious leaders were active.

At the same time:

- Land was seized from families, the poor were pushed out of their homes, and those with power faced no consequences (Micah 2:1–2).

Nothing *looked* broken on the surface, *but everything that really mattered was broken*.

- God's people *assumed* that visible faithfulness meant moral faithfulness.
- They mistook religious continuity for God's approval.
- They believed injustice could be offset by worship.

God disagreed and he used Micah as a prophetic voice to fix what was broken.

Micah opened his message with a summons: The Lord himself is coming to testify against his people. God's judgment is not impulsive or harsh. It is deliberate, moral, and *deserved*.

## Read & Discuss God's Word Together

Read each segment together (invite different people to read each passage). There are more questions than you'll have time for, so choose from the questions to best engage your group. Allow space for conversation (do not rush).

### 1. The Lord Takes the Stand (Micah 1:1-7)

- What stands out about how God introduces Himself?
- Why does Micah address all peoples as witnesses?
- What does this passage reveal about God's patience?
- What are injustices or evils (personally experienced or not) that might you assume God is overlooking something simply because time has passed?

### 2. When Sin Is Familiar (Micah 1:8–16)

- Why do you think Micah responded with grief rather than detachment?

God issued judgment upon entire cities through Micah, indicating that the sin was so widespread in those places that their injustices had become their reputations.

- How do cultures shape what we tolerate or excuse?
- What injustices are part of America's reputation? Texas'? Katy \ surrounding areas?

### **3. Injustice by Design (Micah 2:1–5)**

- These actions of injustice were planned. Why does that matter?
- How does power change the way sin shows up (or is expressed)?
- How does self-interest make it easier to ignore harm done to others?

*Optional activity (see Appendix)*

### **4. Pushing Back on God’s Word (Micah 2:6–11)**

- Why do people resist voices that confront wrongdoing?
- What kinds of truth feel unwelcome today?
- How do you tend to resist correction when it presses too close?

### **5. Judgment with a Promise (Micah 2:12–13)**

- Why did God end this section with restoration?
- What does this show about his purpose in judging?
- How does this keep justice from becoming cold or self-righteous?

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**Readiness Check** Invite quiet reflection. Sharing is optional.

- Where might God be confronting something in you right now?
- What would repentance look like in real terms?
- What concrete step of justice or obedience is being asked of you this week?

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### **Closing Prayer**

Pray together for clarity, courage, and faithfulness.

Ask God to align our lives with his heart for justice.

Close with a brief silence, allowing his Word to settle.

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## **Appendix: Optional Activity**

### ***Tracing Benefit and Responsibility***

Purpose: To move justice from agreement to awareness, and from awareness to action.

Consider this statement (read aloud):

Justice involves responsibility for what we benefit from, not only what we initiate.

Ask (for private reflection, not soliciting a response):

- How does this statement resonate with you? Does it resonate with you, or cause vibration of discomfort?

#### Step 1. Silent Inventory (3 minutes)

Say: “We are going to stay in ‘reflection mode’ for a bit. For now, suspend any urge to affirm or push back. Let’s each just inventory our personal experience a bit more.”

Ask each person to answer these questions privately. **No sharing yet.**

- Where in your daily life do you benefit from someone else absorbing the cost?  
examples:
  - Time: expecting an hourly employee to have a response to your email sent after work hours
  - Money: Enjoying services without tipping fairly
  - Convenience: Expecting others to cancel meetings to make yours
  - Emotional labor\*: Expecting someone else to keep the family peace.
  - Silence: Letting your spouse be the “mean parent” so you can stay liked.
  - Systems: Hiding behind a policy to avoid responsibility.
- What do I routinely accept because it works in my favor?  
(Faster service, lower cost, protected reputation, less inconvenience)
- Where have I told myself, “I didn’t cause this,” as a way of ending responsibility?

Be honest with yourself in your reflection and resist the urge to defend or deny.

#### Step 2. Naming One Benefit (Optional Sharing)

Invite anyone who is willing to share one example, without explanation or defense.

Guidelines:

- Keep it concrete.
- No storytelling.
- No self-justifying language.

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\* “emotional labor” is a term to express the experience of carrying stress, mood changes, and relational complexities. The idea is that expecting someone else to bear those burdens or carry that emotional weight can be an unjust imposition.

Example format: “I benefit from \_\_\_\_\_, and I rarely think about who pays for it.”

Do not respond to each other. Just listen.

### Step 3. Responsibility Shift

Now ask each person to respond to the following prompt: “If responsibility includes benefit, then faithfulness for me this week looks like \_\_\_\_\_.”

Examples:

- “...naming discomfort in a meeting instead of letting someone else absorb it.”
- “...slowing down my expectations of people who serve me and treating them like humans, not functions.”
- “...asking why a decision helps me but harms others instead of staying quiet because it’s convenient.”
- “...not laughing off a comment that puts someone else down just to keep the peace.”
- “...stopping myself from outsourcing emotional labor to my spouse and calling it normal.”
- “...owning that I benefit from someone else working late and saying something about it.”
- “...choosing to pay more or wait longer when speed or savings come at someone else’s expense.”
- “...having a direct conversation instead of letting someone take the relational hit for me.”
- “...refusing to hide behind ‘that’s just how it works’ when I know it isn’t right.”
- “...absorbing inconvenience myself instead of passing it on to someone with less power.”

### Step 4. One Small Act

Close by asking:

- What is one concrete action (specific, doable in seven days, and costly enough to be felt) you will take this week that interrupts passive benefit?

Invite participants to share only if they want.

Closing for the Activity

Say something like:

Justice begins earlier than we think. Often it begins where we stop saying, “I didn’t cause this,” and start asking, “What am I benefiting from, and what faithfulness requires next.”