

## **Do Justice: A Day Is Coming When All Wars Will Cease (Micah 3:1–4:8)**

*Note to the Leaders: This passage moves from exposure to hope, but it does not rush there. Micah names violence, corruption, and abuse of power before he offers peace. Allow the tension to remain. Do not soften it too early.*

### **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.

### **Experience God Together In Prayer**

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

### **Experience God Together in Fellowship**

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

#### ***Icebreaker: Real War or Fake War?***

Read the following headlines aloud. As a group, decide whether each one is real or fake.

No phones. First instinct only.

- Germany Invades Poland, Triggering War with Britain and France (R)
- Canada Declares War on New Zealand After Trade Negotiations Collapse (F)
- Columbia and Ecuador Engage in Amazon Conflict Over Trafficking (F)
- Japan Attacks the United States at Pearl Harbor (R)
- Sweden Launches Airstrikes on Norway Over Water and Fishing Rights (F)
- North Korea Invades South Korea (R)
- Argentina Invades South Africa After World Cup Dispute (F)
- Israel and Arab Coalition Go to War Following Declaration of Statehood (R)
- Japan and China Enter Armed Conflict Over Territorial Sovereignty Claims (F)
- Ethiopia and Eritrea Clash in Full-Scale Border War (R)

Transition Questions:

What made the fake headlines sound believable?

What does this say about how normal war feels to us?

What does it mean practically that we have become desensitized to war?

### ***Conversation Starter***

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Choose one:

- When someone is given more power or authority (at work, in government, in families) what do you think most often changes: their behavior, blind spots, or sense of responsibility? Why?
- When you hear the word *peace*, do you tend to think of the absence of conflict, or the presence of something good? What shaped that understanding for you?

### Background

God led Micah to speak Jerusalem's political, religious, and cultural leaders. Under their leadership, life looked good: a stable economy, ongoing worship within the community. People assumed God was pleased. When Micah spoke, they heard that the opposite was true.

Those with power used it to benefit themselves. Leaders knew what justice was, but ignored it. Prophets shaped their message based on who paid them and religion became a cover for harm. Injustice had become widespread: planned, protected and institutionalized.

When Micah said God would not answer the leaders because they would not listen, God showed the seriousness of his judgment that begins with leadership. Then and today, God's judgment is never cruel. His judgment is always the consequences of hardened choices.

Then God shifted his message through Micah (ch. 4), promising a future where his rule is clear and unquestioned. Nations come to him to learn how to live. Weapons are turned into tools. Fear is replaced with security. Peace comes not because people finally agree, but because God reigns. Micah purposely put judgment before peace. God faithfully confronts what causes violence before he removes it. Lasting peace only comes when God's justice is taken seriously.

### Experience God Together In His Word

#### Read & Discuss God's Word Together

Read Micah 3:1–4:8 aloud. If helpful, divide the reading into three sections: 3:1–4, 3:5–12, and 4:1–8. 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. When Power Consumes People (Micah 3:1–4)

- How does Micah's descriptions of how leaders treat the people reveal that their injustice is intentional?
- Why is God's response not just judgment, but silence?

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- Where do you see God's silence today that could fairly be seen as judgment against evil?

### **2. When Truth Is for Sale (Micah 3:5–8)**

- How did these prophets decide what message to speak and why is this especially destructive in spiritual leadership?
- What does Micah say is the source of his courage to speak truth?
- Where is spiritual truth "for sale" today?

### **3. When Religion Becomes a Shield (Micah 3:9–12)**

- What assumptions were the leaders making about God's presence?
- How does this passage challenge the idea that worship offsets injustice?
- Where do you see similar thinking today?

### **4. When God Ends the Cycle of Violence (Micah 4:1–5)**

- What drew the nations to God in this vision?
- What comes first—peace or submission to God's ways?
- Why does Micah describe weapons being transformed rather than destroyed?
- What do you look forward to the most when you imagine this onset of peace?

### **5. When God Builds with the Weak (Micah 4:6–8)**

- Who does God gather into his future kingdom?
- Why is this a challenge to common ideas of strength and success?
- What hope does this offer to those who feel worn down or sidelined?
- How does this offer you hope?

#### **Readiness Check (Invite quiet reflection. Sharing is optional. Allow silence)**

- Where do I benefit from power structures that harm others?
- Where have I assumed peace without justice?
- What part of Micah's vision do I resist most and why?

#### **Experience God Through Faithful Practice**

Micah 4 pictures weapons becoming tools. This week, identify one "weapon" you tend to use and intentionally convert it. Examples:

- Shifting from control to trust
- Changing from silence to honest conversation
- Replacing harsh words with restrained truth
- Exchanging defensiveness for active listening

Make it specific:

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“This week, I will do this once with this person.”

### **Experience God Through Prayer**

Read Micah 4:3 aloud together.

Prayer prompts:

- Lord, expose where I excuse injustice.
- Lord, teach us Your ways.
- Lord, disarm what leads us to harm others.
- Lord, make our lives a preview of Your peace.

Close together:

“Your kingdom is coming. Shape us to live like it’s real.”