

Walk Humbly With Your God: I Will Look to the Lord (Micah 6:1-7:10)

Getting started:

Allow each person to introduce themselves (if needed) and share “high, low, buffalo.” (**High**= something good from the week, **Low**=something not good from the week, **Buffalo**=something surprising from the week, or something random). *Note: Anyone can choose to pass and not participate.*

Expect to experience God in prayer:

Pray together, asking God to open hearts to see his holiness and mercy in making atonement for sin.

Expect to experience God in fellowship:

Choose either the ice breaker activity or the Conversation Starter:

Icebreaker: Bible Trivia

God made promises to several people in the Bible. Below are promises made to Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, and the Israelites.

Can you guess who God was talking to in each of these promises?

Joshua 1:9 ...Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Genesis 17:8 The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.

Exodus 33:14 ...My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.

2 Samuel 7:16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

Genesis 15:5 He took him outside and said, 'Look up at the sky and count the stars—if you can.' Then he said to him, 'So will your offspring be.'

Joshua 1:5 ...I will not leave you or abandon you.

Deuteronomy 5:33 Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess. **Remember this promise as we go through today's Sermon Discussion Guide.**

Of these promises, some required a response, while others didn't. Where we pick up in Micah today, God addresses the conditional promise he made to the Israelites and their judgment for failing to respond as commanded.

Conversation Starter (2 options):

Have you ever broken a promise? Who was hurt most by this, yourself or the person you promised? What happened as a result?

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Think of a time when you were in a situation, and you knew the right thing to do, but chose to do something different instead. Did the consequence happen immediately or come later? What was the consequence, and do you think it was fitting?

Expect to experience God by reading and discussing God's Word together:

Background:

Micah was a prophet who lived in Moresheth, in the hill country of Judah, around 750 BC–686 BC. He was speaking to the Israelites, who were then under Assyrian invasion.

The name Micah in Hebrew means “who is like the Lord.” The book of Micah consists of three cycles of “hear and listen”. These cycles were warnings to the Israelites, who were breaking the covenant that God had given them, which they agreed to. Today, we will read about the third cycle in Micah 6 and the beginning of Micah 7.

Can we have 3 volunteers read: Micah 6:1-8, 6:9-16 and Micah 7:1-10

Discussion Questions (choose from these questions to discuss as a group):

Let's back up for a minute to remember who God is and what kind of relationship God designed between him and us.

Read Exodus 34:6

1. What is God's character?

Read Matthew 11:28-30

2. What kind of relationship does God want to have with us?

(The yoke symbolizes following Jesus's teaching, based on obedience and grace, and relying on his strength.)

Skim Deuteronomy 28:1-12

3. What was the covenant God made with the Israelites?

Despite all that God had done for them, the Israelites were still not walking with the Lord.

Skim Deuteronomy 28:15-68 and Leviticus 26:14-46

4. What are some examples of the consequences God warned the Israelites would happen if they were not obedient or walked humbly with the Lord?

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5. In Micah 6:1-2, the Lord says to plead his case before the mountains, as they were witnesses to God intervening multiple times on Israel's behalf. Can you think of an example of when God intervened for the Israelites prior to the Assyrian invasion?
6. In Micah 6:3-5, God reminds the Israelites of just a few things God had done for them. Think of a time when you were stuck physically or spiritually, in a bind, brokenhearted, or searching. Did God come to your rescue? If so, how? Would anyone like to share?

In Micah 6:6-7, Micah mentions sacrifices with sarcasm. He isn't arguing the meaning or importance of sacrifices, but he is explaining that without one thing, they are worthless.

Read 1 Samuel 15:22

7. What does God prefer over sacrifice?

The Israelites didn't reciprocate God's love, remember all that he had done for them, nor make an effort to know him personally.

8. In Micah 6:8, what is God's accusation against the Israelites?

In Micah 6:9-16, God explains the Israelites' guilt and their subsequent punishment. It's important to understand that up to this point, God had sent many prophets spanning generations with persistent warnings for Israel to repent of their idolatry and disobedience to no avail. God had no choice but to bring the curses on the Israelites, as he said he would in Deuteronomy and Leviticus. In chapter seven, Micah further explains the misery of the people of Israel until verse 7.

Read Micah 7:7

9. What does Micah say he will do? How can you apply this to the struggles we face today?

Then Micah offers hope to Israel.

Read Micah 7:8-9

10. Even though the people of Israel will fall, how will the Lord still be with them?

Furthermore, God will always leave a remnant of his chosen people (Romans 11:2-5, 9:27-28). He will also give the gift of the Holy Spirit to all repentant believers (Acts 2:38), empowering us to live according to his will by changing our hearts.

Additional Optional Discussion Questions:

- Are we supposed to obey all of the laws given to Moses in the Old Testament?
- What are examples of the ethical laws provided in the Old Testament?

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- In today's culture, we may not have golden calves or idols of other gods that we worship, but our behavior may show that we do worship other things rather than God. What are some examples? This could be anything we place above God in our everyday lives.
- Joshua, in 24:15, says, "...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." If asked who you serve, would you say the same for yourself? Would you say the same for your family as a unit?
- **Read 1 Peter 2:13-17** What does the bible say about the rules and laws of this world?
- **Read Acts 5:29.** What is the exception to the previous question?

In Psalm 128:1 David, says, "Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him." As we conclude today, we can rest assured that when we walk in obedience, God will bless us.

Readiness Check (a simple way to add intentionality to your daily spiritual preparation):

- I will humble myself, before the Lord, by listening to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- Whether I am alone or with others, I will practice integrity. And when I am tempted to do something contrary to God's word or design for me, I will pray to the Lord for strength.

Expect to experience God by closing in prayer together:

Pray that God will search our hearts and reveal any areas of our lives where we have strayed. Bless us with your supernatural strength to turn from our sins and ways that don't align with your will for us.