

MICAH

OUR

GENERATION'S

ONLY

HOPE

 LHBC
community
groups



LIVING HOPE
baptist church

*Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who according to
His abundant mercy
has begotten us again to a
Living Hope
through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ from the dead.*

1 Peter 1:3

Community Group Purpose Statement

We, as smaller gatherings of one family, will practice with our lives the gospel truths that we confess with our mouths. Together, we will allow our lives to be challenged by the gospel and one another; we will live lives of boldness and purpose. As we walk in the light of the gospel, we will point to the grace of God and its power to set lives free from sin and death. We will continue praying, teaching, making disciples, and bearing one another's burdens. Following the pattern set before us by Jesus, we will bring joy to our family (the church) and glory to his name.

What is a Community Group?

Community groups are small gatherings of people that meet regularly for friendship, accountability, study and prayer, laughter, and occasionally tears. Community groups are an essential expression of the mission of Living Hope Baptist Church. They're a place where we learn more about Jesus and life together. They're the place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life that God intends for us.

Each community group is unique, shaped by its neighborhood and the people who attend. However, you can expect a weekly gathering in a residence that involves food, conversation, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and service in the neighborhood. At the heart of each community group is the desire to see an authentic community marked by love for Jesus, one another, and the neighborhood.

Why Should I Join a Community Group?

The God of the Bible is a Trinitarian God who is one and three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God has made us in his image, which means we are made for community and friendship. And when we are not living in community we suffer because life in a sinful world is too complex and tempting to journey alone. Therefore, community groups are a place where we can live in relationship with one another through the ups and downs of life.

MICAH

OUR GENERATION'S ONLY HOPE

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Micah

Our Generation's Only Hope

INTRODUCTION

Micah prophesied during a period of intense social injustice in Judah. False prophets preached for riches, not for righteousness. Princes thrived on cruelty, violence, and corruption. Priests ministered more for greed than for God. Landlords stole from the poor and evicted widows. Judges lusted after bribes. Businessmen used deceitful scales and weights. Sin had infiltrated every segment of society. A word from God was mandatory.

Micah enumerates the sins of the nation, sins which will ultimately lead to destruction and captivity. But in the midst of blackness there is hope. A Divine Deliverer will appear and righteousness will prevail. Though justice is now trampled underfoot, it will one day triumph.

(Taken from Talk Thru the Bible. Wilkerson and Boa, P.261; Nelson Publishers)

LESSON ONE

An Incurable Wound that Infected Others

Micah 1

SUMMARY

There are two great concerns in Micah's day. First, there was the external concern of the spreading power of the Assyrian Empire which threatened Israel and Judah. Second, there was the internal concern with the moral and spiritual condition of Jerusalem.

In this first chapter Micah calls for God's people and the world to listen to God's voice. Micah informs them that due to their rebellion that God was coming in his wrath. Micah is fearful that the sin of God's people will prevent the nations from seeing God in all His glory. Micah also mourns at the inevitable wrath of God and calls the people to mourn and repent.

(The message that goes along with this lesson, and those that follow, can be heard in its entirety on our website which is www.lhbcevv.org.)

QUESTIONS

1. Turn to **2 Kings 17** and answer the following questions;

a. What happened to Israel in **verse 6**?

b. Why did this happen? **See verse 7**.

c. What sins are listed in **verses 8-12**?

d. How did God try to reach them as they were living this life of sin and rebellion? **(See verse 13)**

e. In **verses 13-17**, what actions do you see that the people persisted in doing?

f. In **verses 18 & 19**, what connection does the Northern kingdom (Israel) and the Southern Kingdom (Judah) have?

APPLICATION

1. Do you find it easy to be critical of the sins of others, yet you find it hard to be critical of your own sins? Explain.

2. Where do you struggle when looking for peace and security in this world? Micah cited Solomon for starting this in trusting in chariots and horses rather than God. **(1:13)**

PRAYER

LESSON TWO

When You Think You're God, and You're Not

Micah 2:1-5

SUMMARY

Micah now gets specific as he begins to explain the sins of God's people in detail. He begins with the greedy hearts of the wealthy and their oppressive abuse of the poor and weak. Their actions show that they think no one sees but Micah shows them that God sees and God will bring judgment for their sinful heart and their sinful actions.

QUESTIONS

1. As you read of the actions of the wicked in **verses 1 & 2**, how would you describe their heart and also how they view others?
2. What do you see about the character and attributes of God in **verse 3**?
3. In **verse 4**, what does God do with the land the greedy rich coveted after?
4. What is sad about the response of the greedy rich in **verse 4**?
5. What finality do you see in their judgment from **verse 5**?

APPLICATION

1. Has there been a time when you felt used, taken advantage of, abused, and even crushed by a person, a company, a government, or any other organization?

What encouraging truths do you see in **Isaiah 10:24,25 & Psalm 10:16-18**?

2. The greedy wealthy and powerful of Micah's day had no regard for the weak and poor – they viewed others as objects to be used for their advantage. They did not see others as being created in God's image. (See **James 3:9,10**). Examine your life and be prepared to discuss with your group how you are doing at viewing the following people as God's image bearers and also how that view should change how you view them.

a. Your wife or husband:

b. Your children:

c. Your co-workers:

d. People with different political views:

e. The beggar at the intersection:

f. The person paying with food stamps in the line in front of you:

g. That person who hurt you:

h. The person who practices different Christian liberties than you:

i. People in authority over you:

j. Other:

3. Greed ruled the day for these wealthy ones Micah mentions. Read the words of Jesus in **Luke 12:15**. Has “things” gripped your life? Are you ever discontent because you don't have _____ and you think you need _____?

a. Read **Luke 12:20 & 21**. What is the tragic result of a life lived in greed?

b. In what ways can you teach your children about the horrible dangers of greed?

c. When you think about greed, what other sins may greed lead you or a person into doing?

PRAYER

LESSON THREE

We Don't Want to Hear It!

APPLICATION

1. Read the following passages and then summarize their importance:
**Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:2; 2 Timothy 4:2;
Titus 2:1**

2. During a sermon, how can you tell if the preacher is being true to the text?

3. Do you bring your Bible to church and follow the text the preacher is expounding? Why or why not?

4. Do you find yourself day dreaming, distracted, or sleeping during a sermon? If this is a problem, what can you do to prevent it?

5. What can you do during the week to prepare yourself for the sermon on Sunday?

6. Do you come to church on Sunday anticipating that God is going to speak to you from His Word? Do you pray for that to happen? Or, would you say that you are just glad to make it on time or almost on time?

7. How does the kind of preaching you crave show what is in your heart?

PRAYER

LESSON FOUR

Hope from the Shepherd King

4. What are two things that the Shepherd King does for His sheep after He gathers them? See **verse 12**

5. What are two things the Shepherd King does for His Sheep as seen in **verse 13**?

APPLICATION

1. The remnant were powerless to deliver themselves:

- a. What do you experience when you realize you are powerless in a situation?

- b. Why is realizing you are powerless a good thing for you as God's child?

- c. How can that be a good thing for an unbeliever?

2. The remnant were a small number compared to the whole of God's chosen nation:

a. How could it be wrong to judge success simply by a large number of people involved?

b. Instead of looking at what most people are following, joining, and doing, what should be our criteria for making wise decisions?

c. What are some temptations to wrong thinking when being a part of a "small church"?

3. What a beautiful picture it is that our Shepherd King has delivered us and is out in front of us leading;

a. Read **Psalm 100:3**. How does this encourage you?

b. What contrast do you see in **John 10:12,13** with **John 10:14,15**?

c. What in your life right now are you burdened about where you need to see your Shepherd King out in front leading you?

PRAYER

LESSON FIVE

Three Characteristics of an Evil Nation

Micah 3

SUMMARY

Micah directs his attention to the evil leaders and prophets of God's people. He describes the error of their ways and also the judgment they will receive from God. In this passage we will see three glaring characteristics of an evil nation along with the finality of God's judgment upon those who do not repent.

QUESTIONS

1. What connection do you see in the statement, "you who hate the good and love the evil" in **verse 2**, with the statement in **verse 4**, "because they have made their deeds evil."?
2. What similar phrase is repeated in **verse 4** and again in **verse 7**?
3. What is God's "answer" to them as seen in **verse 12**?
4. What do you see that is different in Micah's life compared to the false prophets and rulers? (**See verse 8**)

APPLICATION

1. Micah declares that the rulers in Israel should have known what was right. Can you think of anything in your life where God would say, “You really should have known that!”?

2. It's easy for us to look at the “big and glaring” sins of our nation and say that we hate those – but what about the sins we struggle with daily?

a. What are some sins we struggle with daily?

b. Do you see any need for growth in hating those sins in your life?

c. Why is it easy to hate the sins we don't do but hang on to the ones we tolerate and allow to hang around?

d. How do the sacrifices in the OT which looked forward to the sacrifice of Jesus, and the sacrifice of Jesus demonstrate to you God's hatred of sin?

3. The false prophets were leading people astray – away from truth and away from God. As you examine your life, do you see any areas where you need to grow in your leading? (Examples: Husband, parent, elder, friend, boss, etc...)

4. What are some things you can do to grow in the areas God convicted you of?

5. One characteristic of the world is to believe that all go to heaven and that no disaster is coming from God. How did Micah view that philosophy (**verse 8**), and how did God view that philosophy (**verse 12**)? What can we do to be faithful to God in this evil world in agreeing with Micah and with God?

PRAYER

LESSON SIX

From Ruin to Rescue

Micah 4

SUMMARY

After calling out the evil nation for their sinful ways and predicting that God would “plow them as a field and they would become a heap of ruins, Micah now interjects the nations great hope. God would once again build up what He would tear down. This building up, ultimately comes through the Shepherd King Jesus. It is only Jesus that can bring a people from ruin to rescue.

QUESTIONS

1. In chapter four we see the sovereign power of the Lord emphasized and displayed. Look at the following verses and fill in the blanks

- a. (Verse 1) The _____ of the Lord
- b. (Verse 2) The _____ of the Lord
- c. (Verse 2) The _____ of the Lord.
- d. (Verse 4) The _____ of the Lord.
- e. (Verse 5) The _____ of the Lord.
- f. (Verse 6) _____ the Lord.
- g. (Verse 12) The _____ of the Lord.

2. As you look at **verse 2**, what is the purpose for teaching God’s truths?

3. When you read in **verse 4**, “the mouth of the Lord has spoken”, what does that tell God’s people and how should they respond?

4. As you read **verses 11 & 12**, what are God’s enemies thinking and what do they not know?

APPLICATION

1. Has there been a time in your life, from God’s perspective, where it could have been described as being “plowed as a field, and a heap of ruins?” Can you also describe how God “built you again?”

2. Micah tells us that the Word of the Lord is what changes hearts that are ruined. What responsibility does that place on us as God’s children and what suffering may come from living out those responsibilities?

3. We see in this passage an emphasis of God teaching His children and His children following by walking in what He teaches. This truth reminds us of **James 1:22**; *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

Discuss with your group why James had to issue this command and just where you stand in relation to it. (Why do we struggle and what can we do to grow in walking in what we have learned?)

4. It’s amazing the list we are told in **Micah 4:6,7** of those God rescues through Jesus. Do we really want “these people” in our church and if “these people” come, what will that require of the Lord’s church?

PRAYER

LESSON SEVEN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Micah 5:1-6

SUMMARY

With the outlook filled with judgment for God's rebellious people, Micah interjects a glorious promise of a coming King who would be like no other. This Ruler will come from a very small place but yet a place of great biblical significance. He will be the deliverer of His remnant and even spread throughout the whole world. This One from Bethlehem was indeed their only hope!

QUESTIONS

1. How is Bethlehem's size described in **verse 2**?
2. How do you know from **verse 2** that this Ruler will be a person (a human)?
3. What does **verse 2** tell us about why God is sending this Ruler?
4. What does **verse 2** tells us about where this Ruler came from?

5. Why does Micah make the statement in **verse 3**, “Therefore he shall give them up”

6. As you read **verses 3b – 6**, is this “giving up” permanent? How does your answer relate back to **verse 2**?

APPLICATION

1. Micah’s prophecy of Israel’s Redeemer was made 700 years before He came. The enemy was coming but the Redeemer / Ruler was not coming in time for those hearing Micah’s words of hope. Answer the following questions:

- a. How is this hope for those who won’t be alive when He comes?

- b. Do you like waiting? Why or why not?

- c. What do you think is the key while you are waiting on God?

- d. What things get in the way of waiting on God with joy and trust?

2. It's amazing to see God work in history in ways that no one would expect. Out of the "little" He makes "great" for His glory. Do you tend to focus on your limitations, on what you don't possess, and etc... rather than believing that God can and will use you as a willing servant? What do you allow to stop you from what you know you should be doing as a servant of the King?

3. In **Micah 5:2** we are told that God the Father sends His Son primarily for Him. **Colossians 1:16** tells us that we were created through Him and for Him. How should knowing this change the way you approach each day?

PRAYER

LESSON EIGHT

What Does the World See?

APPLICATION

1. Read Matthew 5:13-16 and Philippians 2:12-16.

Examine your life and be ready to share with your group where God has shown you your failings to be a refreshing blessing to the world, your spouse, your family, your co-workers, and in any other area where God has convicted you.

In what ways do you need to change? What heart issues are you dealing with that have kept you from being a blessing to those around you?

2. Being a “lion” is following your Master, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. It is holding fast to truth, living holy, being courageous when you are in the minority, and a willingness to stand alone knowing that in the end you are on the side of victory.

Examine your life to see in what areas you are struggling in being like a lion where God has put you in this world.

a. If there is another animal that would best describe you, what would it be and why?

b. What heart issues might you be dealing with if you lack the courage to stand for truth in a world that is opposed to you and your Lord?

PRAYER

LESSON NINE

What Have I Done to You?

4. According to **verse 13** what is the reason for God's judgment?

APPLICATION

1. Have you ever thought of the sinful struggles in your life and how they break God's heart? What about when you grow discontent and lose your joy and you have something against God? How about when you lose your energy to serve and your dedication to the word and prayer? How does the question God asked His people in **Micah 6:3** convict you and what changes need to be made?

2. God's requirement of His people has to do with relationships. In **Micah 6:8** those relationships are God and His people and His people to one another. Are there any areas where you need to work especially hard at related to: Doing right before God and others; Being kind, merciful, and loving towards others; and walking with a dedicated whole hearted devotion with God?

3. Since God cries out judgment to the unrepentant in the city, what should be our heart cry for the city?

PRAYER

LESSON TEN

Broken, Yet Hopeful

Micah 7

SUMMARY

Micah's preaching ministry is over and the broken hearted prophet pours out his heart over the sins of God's people. He describes the horrible condition in which the society has become yet he expresses hope in a future redemption by God for the remnant of His people. Micah is simply overwhelmed in the amazing love and grace of His God as he reflects on His delight to forgive those who have offended Him. This is his hope in the midst of a dark and doomed land.

QUESTIONS

1. How did Micah describe himself in **7:1**?

2. How is Micah (**7:2**) similar to Elijah in **1 Kings 19:10** in what they are both experiencing?

3. As you look in **Micah 7:2-6**, what things do you see that Micah lists that are the same in our day?

4. In **Micah 7:7**, what confidence does He share that is a great help in this time of brokenness?

5. Even though God judges sin and the remnant get caught up in it, what hope does Micah convey? (**Micah 7:8-10**)

6. What one word comes to your mind when you read **Micah 7:18-19**?

APPLICATION

1. Micah is surely not the only one left in God's chosen remnant, but his heart is broken because the majority have rejected God's rule in their lives. Therefore he cries out, "The godly have perished from the earth, and there is no one upright among mankind."

What are some things in your life in the coming year, 2016, that you would like to see God change in you that you may display godliness and an upright character in the land of darkness?

2. Read Micah 7:18-20. Do you struggle with forgiveness from God? Is there anything in your past that you hang on to, refusing to believe that the Lord delights in forgiving you? Think of what you have done and why you refuse to “let God forgive you”. (He has forgiven you, as His child, but you refuse to believe it.)

Be prepared also to discuss what Micah said in **verse 18**: “Who is a God like you?” That could be worded; “There is no God like you!”

How should this forgiving character of God be evidenced in our life toward others?

PRAYER

PRAYER NEEDS

PRAYER NEEDS



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For the sermons of these lessons, please visit:
www.lhbcevv.org