

Micah's Prophecies

Micah 5:2

QUESTIONS

AGES 3–5

1. What is a prophet? *Someone God chose to speak His messages to people.*
2. What does the name "Micah" mean? *"Who is like the LORD?"*
3. In what tiny town would God's chosen King be born? *Bethlehem.*
4. What did God want His people to do to others? *Be kind and fair, not mean or cheat them.*

AGES 6–8

1. What sins did Micah preach against? *Cheating and hurting poor people, and worshiping idols.*
2. What did the false prophets do wrong? *They were bribed to tell people only what they wanted to hear instead of telling them the truth.*
3. What three things does God say He truly wants from us (Mic 6:8)? *To do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.*
4. What did Micah say people would do with their swords in the Messiah's future kingdom? *Beat them into plowshares (farming tools), because there will be no more war.*

AGES 9–11

1. Why is it significant that Micah's name means "Who is like the LORD?" *It shows that no one is like God—He judges sin perfectly, yet He alone forgives, shows compassion, and keeps His promises (Mic 7:18–20).*
2. What sins of Judah's leaders and false prophets did Micah condemn? *Exploiting and oppressing the poor, bribery and corruption, and false prophets who preached comforting lies for pay (Mic 3:1–12).*
3. Where did Micah prophesy the Messiah would be born, and how do we know it was fulfilled? *Bethlehem Ephrathah (Mic 5:2); it was fulfilled when Jesus was born there (Matt 2:5–6).*
4. According to Micah 6:8, what does the LORD actually require, and why does that matter more than sacrifices? *Justice, mercy, and humility, because empty rituals mean nothing to God without a heart that truly loves and obeys Him.*

INTRODUCE

AGES 3–5

WHO IS LIKE THE LORD?

Show the children a few "impressive" things such as a toy crown, a picture of a strong animal, a superhero action figure. Ask the students if anyone is as strong, as wise, or as kind as God. Explain that Micah's name means "Who is like the LORD?" No one else forgives us, loves us, or takes care of us the way God does. Today we will learn about a prophet named Micah who reminded people just how great God is.

A LITTLE TOWN, A BIG KING

Show the children a small box or a tiny toy house and tell them it represents a small town called Bethlehem. Ask them if they think a great King would be born in such a small, ordinary place. Explain that God often does great things in small, humble places, and that is exactly where Micah said the King, the Messiah, would be born.

AGES 6–8

NOT FAIR!

Ask the children to share a time someone was unfair to them or cheated them in a game. How did it feel? Explain that in Micah's day, some rich and powerful people were cheating and mistreating the poor to get more for themselves. God saw it, and He was not pleased. Micah was sent to tell them that God cares deeply about justice and fairness.

TRUE OR FALSE PREACHERS?

Hold up two signs: one that says "TRUE" and one that says "FALSE." Describe a preacher who only tells people what they want to hear because they are paying him, versus a preacher who tells the truth even when it is hard. Have the children hold up the correct sign for each. Explain that Micah rebuked false prophets in his day who told comforting lies for money instead of speaking the truth of God's word.

AGES 9–11

MESSAGES NOBODY WANTED TO HEAR

Ask the class if it has ever been hard to tell someone the truth because you knew they wouldn't like it. Explain that Micah's warnings about sin, injustice, and coming judgment were so unwelcome that the people literally demanded he stop preaching (Mic 2:6). Yet Micah kept speaking, because he was filled with the Spirit of the LORD and cared more about obeying God than being liked (Mic 3:8).

SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES

Show a picture or drawing of a sword next to a picture of a plow or farming tool. Ask the children what it would mean for a sword to be turned into a farming tool. Explain that Micah prophesied a

future day when the Messiah will reign and end all warfare, and nations will beat their swords into plowshares because none will be afraid any longer (Mic 4:1–4).

ILLUSTRATE

AGES 3–5

MICAH'S MESSAGE MAP

Using butcher paper, draw two simple pictures side by side. On one side, a sad, broken-down city (for the warning of judgment on Samaria and Jerusalem) and on the other side, a tall, shining mountain with a little star over a tiny town (for the promised hope of the Messiah, born in Bethlehem). As you tell the lesson, point back and forth between the two pictures to show that God warned His people, but He also promised something wonderful was coming.

BE KIND AND FAIR

This week, practice being kind and fair to a friend or family member, even when it's hard. Remind the children that God sees when we are kind, and He is pleased when we treat others the way He treats us.

AGES 6–8

THE COURTROOM

Turn part of the classroom into a pretend courtroom. Explain that in Micah 6:1–5, God brings a case against His people like a judge in a courtroom, reminding them of everything good He had done for them. Ask a volunteer to be the "judge" and read the LORD's complaint: the people had been ungrateful and had not lived how He asked, even though He rescued and cared for them. Then explain God's simple, gracious verdict in verse 8: not empty sacrifices, but justice, mercy, and a humble walk with Him.

TRUST IN GOD AND TREATING OTHERS FAIRLY

Challenge the children to treat others fairly this week—no cheating, no gossiping, no taking advantage of someone smaller or weaker. Remind them that Micah 7:5–7 warns against putting our trust in people, and instead calls us to trust the LORD, just as Micah did.

AGES 9–11

GOD'S SCALE: JUSTICE AND MERCY

Bring a simple two-pan balance scale (or draw one on the board). On one side place a heavy stone or rock labeled "SIN" and on the other side place a heart cut from paper labeled "MERCY." Explain that Micah's prophecy holds both truths together: God is just and must judge sin (Micah 1–3, 6), yet He delights to show compassion, forgive iniquity, and cast our sins into the depths of the sea (Mic 7:18–20). Ask the class how both can be true at once. Explain how Jesus, the Bethlehem-born Messiah, is how God satisfies justice and extends mercy at the same time.

HUMBLY WALKING WITH GOD

Ask the students to honestly consider: am I more concerned with looking religious on the outside (like empty sacrifices) than with actually doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God on the inside? Have them choose one specific, concrete way to practice justice, mercy, or humility this week, and share it with someone who can check in with them.