

Investigating God's Word...

YEAR SIX

**II Kings 13-21,
II Chronicles 25-33,
Hosea, Amos, Micah**

Sunday School Curriculum

Fall Quarter

Lesson Sequence

Fall Quarter

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	II Kings 13
Week Two	II Kings 14:1-22, II Chronicles 25
Week Three	II Kings 14:23-15:7. II Chronicles 26
Week Four	II Kings 15:8 -38. II Chronicles 27
Week Five	Hosea
Week Six	Amos
Week Seven	II Kings 16, II Chronicles 28
Week Eight	II Kings 17
Week Nine	Micah
Week Ten	II Kings 18:1-12, II Chronicles 29-31
Week Eleven	II Kings 18:16-37, II Chronicles 32:1-19
Week Twelve	II Kings 19-20, II Chronicles 32:20-33
Week Thirteen	II Kings 21, II Chronicles 33

Winter Quarter: II Kings 22-25, II Chronicles 34-36,
Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations



Suggested Schedule

Welcome <i>Psalms 145:8-9</i>	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>The Promised Land</i>	5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Justice</i>	5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>Micah</i>	25-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>Micah 6:8</i>	2-3 min.

Lesson Nine

Micah

Overview

Micah, much like Amos, was a normal guy called out of his home to prophesy to Israel and Judah as they were heading towards the bottom of their downward spiral. Micah dealt with the problem of idolatry as well as the severe injustices that were occurring among God’s people. His prophecy includes three familiar themes: God’s judgment for His people’s sins; God’s plan for the restoration of His people; and God’s plea for repentance. Micah bounces back and forth between these three, ultimately calling Israel and Judah on the carpet for their sins.

Micah 6:8 is probably the most familiar verse of the book. Micah says: *“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”* This sums it all up.

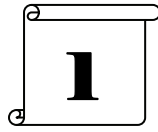
The Book of Micah ends with a great word of grace and a doxology to God. Yet again, we read that God will not leave His people forever. He will forgive them, have mercy on them, and restore them. Throughout the book, we also have allusions to whom restoration will come by—Jesus Christ!

Preparation

Read over and meditate on the Book of Micah this week. Continue to keep a map of the “divided kingdom” on hand for your students.

Teaching Encouragement

As sinners, our children are quick to say “that’s not fair” when they believe they have been treated unjustly. This is not the same as having the character quality of justice! We want our children to have the eyes of Micah, becoming keen to the injustices that go on in our world. We want them to have compassion for those who are mistreated. We want them to stand up and speak against the ills of society. We want them to look to God to make things right in this world. As long as we live, people will need Christians to demonstrate mercy to the weak and downtrodden. Our children can already do things that show they desire to become merciful people. The prophets called people to repent of their mistreatment of others. Call upon your students to turn from their selfishness to a new awareness of the needs of others.



Welcome

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students for class today, read Psalm 145:8-9.

⁸The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. ⁹The LORD is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made.

Say: *Do you know this about God? It's true! As we have studied about God's people, you should be even more sure that it's true. God is gracious and slow to anger. He is good to His people. Let's continue to study His Word and find out more about Him.*



Drill Time

Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME, our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

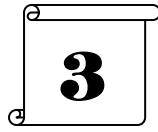
Today's questions: *Who led Israel out of Egypt? Who led Israel into the Promised Land? How were the Israelites able to take over the Promised Land? Why are God's people now having the Promised Land taken away from them?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. Moses (and Aaron).
2. Joshua.
3. God gave them great victories over the heathen nations.
4. They have rebelled against God. God promised that they would lose the land if they turned away from Him.

Say: *Do you think God's people were surprised that the Assyrians captured them and took over the Promised Land? Many of them had to think they would always have this land. Some may have listened to the prophets and realized that their disobedience may cause them to lose their homes. Remember that the saddest thing of all is that the Israelites lost the presence of God as they were taken off into captivity.*



W.O.W!

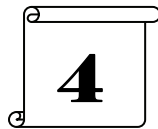
Our *W.O.W!* (*Word of the Week*) this week is **JUSTICE**. **Write it on the board.** This is a word which many of you have heard before. Who can tell me what it means? **Allow answers.**

JUSTICE, in a general sense, is the practice of giving reward or punishment for what is rightly due to a person or group of people. A criminal is brought to *JUSTICE* and punished for his wrongdoing.

JUSTICE is also a characteristic of God. The *JUSTICE* of God demands that all persons and nations receive punishment because of their sin.

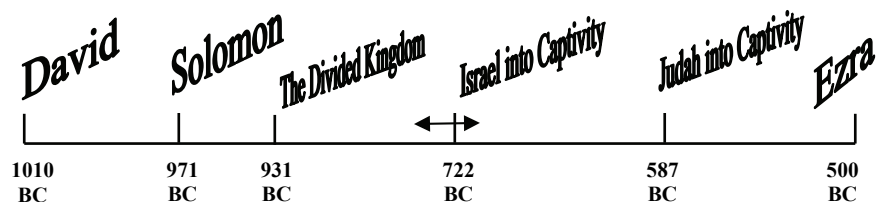
So the people of God simply receive *JUSTICE* when they are punished for their sins because we serve a *JUST* and righteous God.

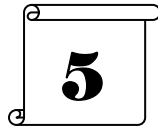
Yet God is also a merciful God, so in Jesus Christ we don't ultimately receive God's *JUSTICE*. Jesus paid for the sins of His people, so they receive grace and mercy rather than the *JUSTICE* they deserve.



Historical Context

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board. Today's readings in the Book of Micah probably took place between 735 and 710 B.C.





Bible Investigation

Have your students open their Bibles to the Book of Micah.

Introduction: *We are studying another prophetic book today—the Book of Micah. Micah was a prophet in Israel and Judah who ministered during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and a king we have not studied yet—Hezekiah. He was burdened with all of the INJUSTICE and idolatry he witnessed among God’s people. We will read portions of his prophecy today.*

Let’s begin. Read Micah 1:1.

¹The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah—the vision he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

Discussion: *Remember that Samaria was the capital of Israel (northern kingdom) and Jerusalem was the capital of Judah (southern kingdom). Micah prophesied to all of God’s people during his lifetime.*

Let’s read what he says. Read verses 2-7.

²Hear, O peoples, all of you, listen, O earth and all who are in it, that the Sovereign LORD may witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple. ³Look! The LORD is coming from his dwelling place; he comes down and treads the high places of the earth. ⁴The mountains melt beneath him and the valleys split apart, like wax before the fire, like water rushing down a slope. ⁵All this is because of Jacob’s transgression, because of the sins of the house of Israel. What is Jacob’s transgression? Is it not Samaria? What is Judah’s high place? Is it not Jerusalem? ⁶“Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of rubble, a place for planting vineyards. I will pour her stones into the valley and lay bare her foundations. ⁷All her idols will be broken to pieces; all her temple gifts will be burned with fire; I will destroy all her images. Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of prostitutes, as the wages of prostitutes they will again be used.”

Discussion: *These are some pretty harsh words. Why is Israel going to be destroyed by God? [Because of all her idolatry] Yes, Micah is brokenhearted over all of the idol worship in Israel. As we have learned over the last several lessons, God will not tolerate idolatry for long. His JUSTICE must come for our sin.*

Let's move to Chapter Two. Read Micah 2:1-3.

¹Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning's light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it. ²They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud a man of his home, a fellowman of his inheritance. ³Therefore, the LORD says: "I am planning disaster against this people, from which you cannot save yourselves. You will no longer walk proudly, for it will be a time of calamity.

Discussion: *What else was going on in Israel? [Widespread injustice.] Yes, people were stealing from each other, ripping off the poor and outcast, and committing all sorts of ruthless acts toward defenseless people. Micah sees all the injustice and proclaims that God is coming to punish Israel.*

Application: *It is easy to take advantage of people who are weaker than we are. Are you tempted to bully others or take what isn't yours? How does God look at this sin?*

Let's move down to verse 12. Read Micah 2:12-13.

¹²"I will surely gather all of you, O Jacob; I will surely bring together the remnant of Israel. I will bring them together like sheep in a pen, like a flock in its pasture; the place will throng with people. ¹³One who breaks open the way will go up before them; they will break through the gate and go out. Their king will pass through before them, the LORD at their head."

Discussion: *Did you catch that? Even though God is punishing Israel for their sin by driving them into exile, He will also restore them one day. A new "king" will lead them back to a relationship with God. Who is this king? [King Jesus!] What a word of grace from God to His people.*

Let's move on to the next chapter. Read Micah 3:1-4.

¹Then I said, "Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Should you not know justice, ²you who hate good and love evil; who tear the skin from my people and the flesh from their bones; ³who eat my people's flesh, strip off their skin and break their bones in pieces; who chop them up like meat for the pan, like flesh for the pot?" ⁴Then they will cry out to the LORD, but he will not answer them. At that time he will hide his face from them because of the evil they have done.

Discussion: *Can you imagine the sort of injustice Micah is talking about? Look at the phrases he uses: the leaders of Israel are tearing skin off the people, eating their flesh, chopping people up like meat. These are just figures of speech which dramatically*

communicate how bad times were in Israel. Our God refuses to tolerate injustice!

*Let's drop down to verse 12. **Read Micah 3:12.***

¹²Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

Application: *There are always consequences for our actions, aren't there? A holy God will not allow us, as His people, to go on sinning and hurting others for long.*

*Let's move on to Chapter Four. Micah prophesies about the future for God's people. **Read verses Micah 4:1-6.***

¹In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. ²Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. ⁴Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. ⁵All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever. ⁶"In that day," declares the LORD, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. ⁷I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever.

Discussion: *So, even though Israel has rebelled against God, He is still ruler of all. In the last days, what will happen? [The LORD will return and rule over all people in glorious power.] Yes, God's people will be restored—all who rest in Christ for their salvation. Micah gives hope to Israel so that they will repent and look to God again.*

*Let's read more in Chapter Five. **Read Micah 5:2-4.***

²"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." ³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the

Israelites. ⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Discussion: *Now, who can tell me WHO this part of the prophecy is talking about? Who will come from Bethlehem and shepherd the flock of God? [Jesus Christ!]*

Application: *Do you see that our only hope for our future is in Jesus? There is no other way of salvation. He is the great restorer of God's people because of His perfect life and death on the cross.*

Let's move on to Chapter Six. Read Micah 6:1-4.

¹Listen to what the LORD says: "Stand up, plead your case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. ²Hear, O mountains, the LORD's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. ³"My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. ⁴I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.

Discussion: *Now, the LORD returns to accusing the people regarding their sins. Does He have a case against His people? [Yes!] Has He burdened the people so that He caused them to sin? [No!]*

Application: *It is easy to blame God for what goes wrong in our lives. Is He really to blame? Or, are you responsible for your own sin and your own bad decisions? Allow discussion.*

Let's continue. Read Micah 6:8

⁸He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Discussion: *This sums up the Book of Micah. Over and over, God has shown His people what He requires of them. He requires them to do JUSTICE, not injustice. He requires them to show mercy to others. He requires them to walk in humility instead of pride. Yet His people have done just the opposite.*

Application: *How can you and I live the "Micah 6:8 way?" How can we become just and merciful and humble? Allow brief discussion. We can live God's way only by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ!*

Let's continue. Read verses 9-15.

⁹Listen! The LORD is calling to the city— and to fear your name is wisdom— “Heed the rod and the One who appointed it. ¹⁰Am I still to forget, O wicked house, your ill-gotten treasures and the short ephah, which is accursed? ¹¹Shall I acquit a man with dishonest scales, with a bag of false weights? ¹²Her rich men are violent; her people are liars and their tongues speak deceitfully. ¹³Therefore, I have begun to destroy you, to ruin you because of your sins. ¹⁴You will eat but not be satisfied; your stomach will still be empty. You will store up but save nothing, because what you save I will give to the sword. ¹⁵You will plant but not harvest; you will press olives but not use the oil on yourselves, you will crush grapes but not drink the wine.

Discussion: *Again, God accuses Israel of injustice. What will be the consequence? Think of these descriptive phrases: Eat and not be satisfied, stomach will be empty, store up but save nothing, plant but not harvest, etc. Nothing would go right for Israel! This shows us who is in control, doesn't it? They can try all day long to take care of themselves, but God will not allow it. They are cursed before God and receiving JUST consequences.*

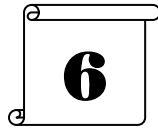
Let's finish in Chapter Seven. Read Micah 7:18-20.

¹⁸Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. ¹⁹You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. ²⁰You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.

Conclusion: *Just like the other prophets, the prophecy of Micah ends with words of grace about God. He is a forgiving God. He is a merciful God. He does not stay angry forever. He shows compassion.*

Boys and girls, why does God continue to forgive and love His people? Allow answers. Is it because we are such good people? No, it is because He is such a great God. He chooses to love out of His own mercy, not because we deserve it. Remember: God always keeps His promises!

We will return to II Kings next week.



Lesson-At-Home

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Micah 6:8) together.

Micah 6:8 (NIV)

⁸He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Say: *This is one of the most important verses in the Book of Micah. The prophet proclaims what God required of His people. Micah was moved by the great injustices he saw going on in Israel. We too should know what God requires of us.*

Review the verse.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.