

Stephen Um

# Micah

*What Does God Require of Us?*



 6-Session Bible Study

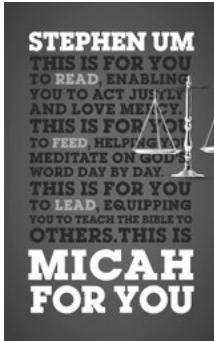
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✔ **6-Session Bible Study**



## Micah For You

These studies are adapted from *Micah For You*. If you are reading *Micah For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Micah For You*:

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Study One > Ch 1     | Study Four > Ch 6-7 |
| Study Two > Ch 2-3   | Study Five > Ch 8   |
| Study Three > Ch 4-5 | Study Six > Ch 9-10 |

Find out more about *Micah For You* at:  
[www.thegoodbook.com/for-you](http://www.thegoodbook.com/for-you)

Micah: What Does God Require of Us?

A Good Book Guide

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# Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God’s word as “a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we’ve discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They’re perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let’s take a look at what is included in each session.

**Talkabout:** Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

**Investigate:** These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

**Apply:** These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

**Explore More:** These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

**Getting Personal:** These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

**Pray:** Here, you’re invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you’ve seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven’t got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you’ll find a **Leader’s Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God’s light-giving word.

# Why Study Micah?

We long for justice.

The world is not the way we would like it to be. Exploitation tells us that something about this world is off. Oppression tells us that things are not the way they are supposed to be. And when we are honest, our hearts tell us that we are not the way we are supposed to be, or would like to be. We easily choose greed over generosity. We easily choose our comforts over others' needs.

This longing for justice is not just a 21st-century reality. It's a human reality. Ancient people have always been, and modern people still are, exploring the ideas of fairness, mercy, and goodness. What should these look like? How do we experience them? How do we pursue them? What prevents us from experiencing these realities in every moment we are awake?

Micah—this Old Testament prophet sent to speak God's word to God's people—deals with these tough questions. And he tells us that God is a God who cares deeply about justice. He cares enough to judge injustice; to restore the world one day to complete justice; and to charge his people with doing good by pursuing justice:

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (6:8)

This is a book that resonates with our desires to see goodness all around us. But when we take the time to read the entire book of Micah carefully, we realize that God is not simply giving us a homework assignment about justice. The message for us is not simply a call to action to do good. God wants us to know the reason and the need for doing good—for his glory and for the flourishing of his creation—and to find the power to do it. As we read this prophet in light of the coming of Jesus, we find that Micah can inspire and transform us to do the justice we yearn for, and love the kindness we long to see.

These six studies will thrill and challenge you as you see how to walk through life in a way that honors and pleases the God of consistent justice and overwhelming kindness.

Creation

Fall

Noah

Abraham

Joseph

Exodus  
from Egypt

Israel reaches  
promised land

King David

Kingdom divided  
(Judah/Israel)

Israel exiled

Judah exiled

Judah returns

Jesus Christ

Revelation  
written

Now

Jesus' return  
New creation



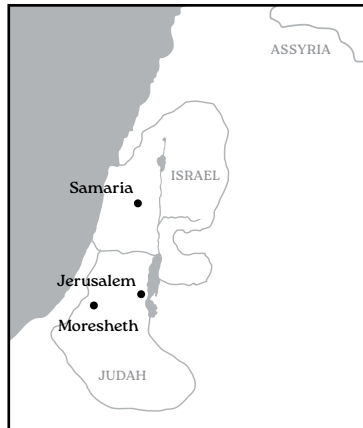
## Micah c. 750–686 BC

930 Kingdom divided

740–681 Isaiah prophesying

722 Fall of Samaria

596 Fall of Jerusalem



# 1

## The End of Idolatry

Micah 1:1-16

### Talkabout

1. How would you define idolatry, and how serious would you say it is?

### Investigate

 Read Micah 1:1

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#### DICTIONARY

**Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah** (v 1): kings of Judah in the 8th century BC.

**Samaria** (v 1): the capital of the northern kingdom of God's people, named Israel. Jerusalem was capital of the southern kingdom of Judah.

---

2. What does this opening verse tell us about this book, and its author?

 **Read Micah 1:2-7**

---

**DICTIONARY**

**High places** (v 3): places where pagan gods were worshiped.

**Jacob** (v 5): God's people, the Israelites.

**Transgression** (v 5): sins.

---

3. What picture of God do verses 2-4 give us?

- Why is God coming in this way (v 5)?

Verse 7 tells us the central sin of the nations of Israel and Judah. There are “idols” in both lands—false gods being worshiped among God’s people.

4. Look at what God will destroy in verse 7. What do these destructions suggest the Israelites have been making idols of?



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## Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

An idol captures the hearts and imaginations of those who worship it.

Consider: What are those things for you? (If you do not know what your idols are, it is not that you have none, but that you worship them without even realizing it.)

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## Investigate

 Read Micah 1:8-16

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### DICTIONARY

**Lament** (v 8): expressing grief and overwhelming sadness.

---

8. What is going to happen to the people (v 16)?

Verses 11-15 list out names of towns that are hard to pronounce. Why are they included? First of all, because Micah is tracing out the path of the Assyrian army, which ultimately ends up taking over Israel. These are all the places that its king, Sennacherib, will come to in order to take control over these regions. This is the path of the means of God's judgment.

Second, Micah is also trying to show that even though these cities have hopes based on their particular location, those things will not come to fruition.

For example, "Beth-le-aphrah" means the "house of dust" (v 10). Micah says to them, *Guess what. You're going to ultimately roll yourselves into dust.*

"Shaphir" (v 11) means "beauty town," and yet Micah tells them that they are going to live in nakedness and shame.

9. What point is Micah making about their idolatry?

10. How does Micah show the correct response to understanding the idolatrous nature of God's people, and the judgment they deserve to face (v 8)?

## Apply

 Read James 4:4-10

---

### DICTIONARY

**Adulterous** (v 4): unfaithful to God.

**Grace** (v 6): undeserved kindness.

**Enmity** (v 4): opposition.

---

11. What should "adulterous people" (v 4) who love idols do (v 8-10)?

- What does the Lord do when his people do this (v 6, 10)?

12. How can we foster a church community that is honest about idolatry, serious about its effects, and quick to repent and enjoy grace?

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## Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Is this how you treat your own idolatry?

“He gives more grace.” How will this free you to repent right now, to mourn your sin right now, and to seek to change right now?

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## Explore More | OPTIONAL

### Read Psalm 1

- What is the key to true flourishing—the antidote to and opposite of the idolatrous behavior in Micah’s day?

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## Pray

*Thank God that he speaks so honestly to us about what we are like.*

*Thank him that when we humble ourselves before him in confession and repentance, he does forgive us and lift us back up.*

*Use your answers to questions 6 and 12 to shape your requests to God.*