



Week 3
24 - 29 October 2021

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

“The day for building your walls will come,
the day for extending your boundaries” Micah 7:11

THE BOOK OF
MICAH

GOD'S OFFER of HOPE

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

CONTENT: THE BOOK OF MICAH GOD'S OFFER OF HOPE

- Week 3 The God who is among us
- Week 4: Moving away from unrest towards peace
- Week 5 The hope of being saved from sin
- Week 6 Who God really wants us to be
- Week 7 While God is in the picture no-one and nothing is hopeless

- Sunday 24 October
- Sunday 31 October
- Sunday 7 November
- Sunday 14 November
- Sunday 21 November

Week 3

The God who is among us

BIBLE READING:

Sunday: Micah 3:8-11

PRAISE AND WORSHIP:

 YouTube Song: Hillsong - Who You Say I AM
<https://youtu.be/OPhJ2reGrdc>



Reflection

by **Lusi Badi**

In Micah the prophet is trying to restore hope to a hopeless community. He was not like the other prophets: he did not write from a point of privilege. The prophet Isaiah was a cousin to the King, but prophet Micah comes as a simple man with no connections or power. He prophesied at a time where people with abilities had turned them into disabilities: those that had ears had turned them deaf and those that could act wanted some form of compensation to do good. He opens this chapter asking for God's people to give God their undivided attention.

The leaders in prophet Micah's time didn't want to see good; they lived in darkness. Those that were supposed to be an embodiment of the Holy Spirit rather had their pockets filled to overflowing with money and were prone to saying whatever the highest bidder dictated. The question would then arise, "Was God among the people of God?"

The theme that is used for this current devotion – "Is God not among us?" was a hypocritical statement said by all those that participated in evil doing and would then wrap it up in religious language saying God would never let bad things happen to us because isn't He among us?! Religious men, men of stature, people who were believed to be good to us stood at the face of God saying that if He is a present God then darkness shouldn't have prevailed. A mockery of God's word was happening whenever the scales of justice were tilted, a mockery of the presence of God is happening whenever we choose to be unjust, unloving, uncaring or not bearing each other's pain. These realities push the presence of God into mockery.

Now let us gather our thoughts and think in the spaces where we exist... In you being there, is the name of God being exalted or is the name of God being brought to shame? Let us fetch a new way and a new life of living; a life that gives praise to God. By doing so, we prove that God is in our midst.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. In your circle in your life in your family are you able to show - by good qualities, that God is among those people, do you change the status quo, or do you blend in to fit the environment?
2. Life is about choices. How many times have we chosen the narrow road of showing Christ is present over that of serving our own interests? If you were to take stock of your life, is your life made on the narrow roads of Christ or on serving your own interest?
3. Does it seem fair that we must distance ourselves from what seems like fun activity for the sake of bearing the cross?
4. If God is among us, why can't he ensure peace and order himself?



DAILY BIBLE READING:

MONDAY: 2 Sam 12:1-13

Memory Verse: "Then Nathan said to David 'you are the man!'" (v7)

Prayer: Loving Father, Creator of heaven and earth, in many instances we burn with the fire to rebuke evil that is not done by us but if we look deeper Heavenly Father, we find that in our own lives we "are that man". Help us Loving God that we might reach a point where we are as critical with ourselves as we are with others. We ask all this in your wonderful name **Amen**.

TUESDAY: 1 Peter 5:6-7

Memory Verse: "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." (v7)

Prayer: Gracious Father, we live a life of constant anxiety, a life of questions... I live with no solutions at times, but with all of that you welcome our anxiety, our society is filled with people trying to deal with anxiety. Because you are our one and true God you welcome that. Help us surrender everything to you. Help us to trust that everything will be okay in your hands. We ask because we are hopeful **Amen**.

WEDNESDAY: Psalms 81:6-10

Memory Verse: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt." (v10)

Prayer: You are the Lord of our forefather's accord. You have never left us on the side of the road certainly you will not leave us now. We rely on the promises made that when we open our mouths, You as God, will fill them in the very same way you fed your people with manna. Continue to give us our daily bread, for Lord you know what we need. May we never want anything outside of your help. **Amen**

THURSDAY: Isaiah 6:1-8

Memory Verse: "With it, he touched my mouth and said, 'See this has touched your lips. Your guilt is taken away and you sin atoned for.'" (v7)

Prayer: Holy Trinity, with visible and invisible hands, I invite you to touch my lips today, not only my lips, but all my areas of struggle... touch my heart to ensure that everything I do started with your touch. Help me to realize that you have removed all my guilt, everything has been made new. **Amen.**



FRIDAY: Acts 13:49-52

Memory Verse: "So, they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium." (v51)

Prayer: Give me the courage to remove myself from spaces where I am no longer needed. Through your Holy Spirit, ensure that I never take unnecessary dust or remove the dust of the past I no longer have space for. You are the Creator of all things; a Way-maker. Create a new way for me. **Amen.**

SATURDAY: John 16:5-1

Memory Verse: "But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I'm going away. Unless I go away, the advocate will not come to you but if I go, I will send him to you." (v7)

Prayer: In your complete nature you are a 3-character God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We welcome your full self in us. We realize that your plan of salvation didn't end at the cross. You gave us an advocate which pleads on our behalf when we cannot carry ourselves any further. We pray that we never forget that we are not alone. Your spirit is over us. I invite you to be over your church. I invite you to be over my family, to be over the work I do and the things that are yet to be delivered. **Amen.**



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER WEEK 3

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Micah 3:8-11

Allow children/teens to read out loud for the family.

Activity/Family Moment:

In this scripture Micah is not holding back. He is calling out people who say they are one with God but do the opposite. Micah is warning these people that God is a just God and will see to justice.

- What do you think justice is?
- How does God treat people with justice? (Isaiah 61:8-9, Psalm 33:5, Deuteronomy 10:17-21)
- When you know what someone loves and hates, you know something special about them. What do you know about God by what God loves and hates?
- Have there been times when you have redefined what is "good" and "evil" to suit your own purposes or wants? What were the results?