



Week 7
21 - 27 November 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 7 While God is in the picture no-one and nothing is hopeless

Sunday 21 November

Week 7

While God is in the picture no-one
and nothing is hopeless

BIBLE READING:
Sunday: Micah 7:1-13

PRAISE AND WORSHIP:
My life is in You Lord <https://youtu.be/GPqHufcoreg>



Reflection

by Tony Matthee

Someone has written: "A man can live 40 days without food, 3 days without water, and 8 minutes without air, but how long can a man live without hope?" From our reading it would appear that Micah was prophesying to the Israelites as a nation that had no hope. He says; "The godly have been swept from the land; not one upright man remains." He uses expressions like "doing evil,...shed blood,...demands gifts,...accepts bribes...dictate what they desire,...conspire together." We cannot read our newspapers or watch the news on TV without coming across these same terms. The Israelites were in a hopeless state, much like we are today.

Micah says they will eat but not be satisfied, they will store up but save nothing, they will plant but not harvest, etc. God was punishing them, but not deserting them. He wanted them to turn from their wicked ways and ask for forgiveness. Good deeds or offerings was not what God required. He wanted the Israelites to “act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Ch. 6:8). This can only be achieved by a radical change of heart. The ‘self’ in their lives had to be replaced with ‘God’ at the center of their lives.

Having achieved this Micah is very upbeat about the future of the Israelites. Although they were still to be carried off into captivity and “bear the Lord’s wrath,” there is hope for God’s chosen race. A day will come for building walls and extending boundaries. “While God is in the picture no-one and nothing is hopeless.” But what is the hope that we have as Christians with God in control of our lives?

There are many reasons for hope in the life of a Christian. Here are just some. We live in a world of sin, but Jesus came to this earth to provide a means for the sins of humankind to be forgiven. He bore our sins on the cross at Calvary. When we have asked God for forgiveness, our sins are forgiven. They will not be held against us. Is it not wonderful to live with the knowledge that we will not have to suffer the consequences of our sin, no matter how bad it was? We do not even have to carry any feelings of guilt any longer.

Another reason for hope is that God is now in control of our lives. He never promised us a life free from pain, disappoints, failures or bad things happening to us, but he did promise to be with us until the end of the age. Not only is he with us but he gives us the strength to persevere, to overcome, to be victorious. We may feel abandoned, but that is only a perception. The truth of the situation is far from that. In our darkest moments, even in death “Your rod and your staff comfort me.” It’s really uplifting to have a friend with us when confronted with a daunting situation, but to have Jesus by our side, who knows the future, and who will not let us face a situation that we and the Holy Spirit in us cannot handle together, gives us hope beyond measure.

Perhaps the greatest hope we have as Christians is that because Jesus rose from the dead, we who believe in him will also rise. This life is not all there is. We are just passing through. We are just “aliens and strangers” in this world. Our ultimate home is in heaven with our Lord and Savior and all those who have died believing in Jesus. There is therefore no fear of death.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. Do you see your environment as hopeless? If so, why?
2. What do you understand by God’s punishment? Do you think Covid 19 may be God punishing us? Please elaborate on your answer.
3. “Why do bad things happen to good people?” Make your contribution to this debate.
4. Are you afraid of death? Why?



DAILY BIBLE READING:

MONDAY: I Peter 1:3-16

Memory verse:

“He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (vs 3)

Prayer:

Thank you, Lord God, for this wonderful hope that we have through Jesus that because he lives, we shall also live. Amen

TUESDAY: Job 4:1-6

Memory verse:

“Your words have supported those who have stumbled; you have strengthened faltering knees.” (vs 4)

Prayer:

Almighty God, how we thank you for always being with us and supporting us. Your hand has reached down to us and pulled us out of the pit and out of the miry clay. Praise the Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 12:15-21**Memory verse:**

"In his name the nations will put their hope." (vs 21)

Prayer:

O Lord, in this dark world you are the only hope we have for a better life for all. Please open the minds and hearts of all people to see this truth and then to act upon it by committing their lives to you. Amen.

THURSDAY: Zechariah 9:9-13**Memory verse:**

"He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River (Euphrates) to the ends of the earth." (vs 10)

Prayer:

Gracious God. Your Word promises that Jesus can give us peace such as the world cannot give. We pray that you will give us this peace as we put our faith and trust in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

FRIDAY: Romans 8:18-27**Memory verse:**

"We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." (vs 26)

Prayer:

Our Father, we acknowledge that we do not know what to pray for, as what we pray for may not be what is best for us. May your Spirit intercede for us when words fail and we are unsure of what your will for us is. Amen.

SATURDAY: Psalm 25**Memory verse:**

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long." (vs 5)

Prayer:

O Lord, we have no-one other than you to turn to because you have the words of eternal life. We put our complete faith and trust in you. Fill us to the brim with tangible hope in this life and in the life to come. 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 21 November Week 7

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: Romans 8:18-27 *International Children's Bible*

Our Future Glory

¹⁸ We have sufferings now. But the sufferings we have now are nothing compared to the great glory that will be given to us. ¹⁹ Everything that God made is waiting with excitement for the time when God will show the world who his children are. The whole world wants very much for that to happen. ²⁰ Everything that God made was changed to become useless. This was not by its own wish. It happened because God wanted it. But there was this hope: ²¹ that everything God made would be set free from ruin. There was hope that everything God made would have the freedom and glory that belong to God's children. ²² We know that everything God made has been waiting until now in pain, like a woman ready to give birth. ²³ Not only the world, but we also have been waiting with pain inside us. We have the Spirit as the first part of God's promise. So, we are waiting for God to finish making us his own children. I mean we are waiting for our bodies to be made free. ²⁴ We were saved, and we have this hope. If we see what we are waiting for, then that is not really hope. People do not hope for something they already have. ²⁵ But we are hoping for something that we do not have yet. We are waiting for it patiently. ²⁶ Also, the Spirit helps us. We are very weak, but the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us. The Spirit speaks to God with deep feelings that words cannot explain. ²⁷ God can see what is in people's hearts. And he knows what is in the mind of the Spirit because the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way that God wants.

Activity/Family Moment: Play pass the parcel.

How to play:

Wrap a gift, it could be a chocolate or a small toy, in many layers of paper. I suggest starting with newspaper and then once it's at a big enough size wrap it in wrapping paper (if you wish).

You can play music and pass the parcel to each person. When the music is paused unwrap a layer. Continue until you unwrap the gift. This game shows that there is only one person who wins the prize. But God has made sure that everyone can have God's prize. Sometimes life feels like we are never the winner. But if we have God nothing is hopeless.

- Talk about what did everyone hope the prize was?
- Did your hopes change as the parcel got smaller?
- How did you feel if you won/ didn't win?

Sometimes life can be like that. We hope for something huge and great, which is fine, but we don't always end up with it. God gives us what we need. If we got absolutely everything we ever wanted all the time, we would not appreciate what we have.