

A LEADER GUIDE FOR

Micah

Hear and Hope in God's Word



A BIBLE STUDY FOR WELL-WATERED WOMEN



A Letter from Gretchen

DEAR SISTER,

First of all, I want to thank you for your willingness to lead a group of women through this study. Christ sees you, and he is greatly honored by your heart to serve him through serving others. Acts 2:42–47 is a beautiful picture of what fellowship among believers looked like in the early church. Verse 42 says, “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Fellowship begins with worship and the Word. I pray that your group looks like this verse—devoted to Scripture, to serving one another, and to praying in Jesus’ name. I believe God is going to do a mighty work in your group as you meet together weekly to share what you’re learning and to encourage one another in the Lord.

Second, it’s my goal to help equip you to lead your group through this leader guide. Coordinating a group can be intimidating. Maybe this is your first time leading a group and you’re nervous just thinking about it, or maybe you’re a seasoned Bible study leader and already feel comfortable in this setting. Either way, I pray you would come to the Lord with open hands and a humble heart as you seek to pour into the women around you. Recognizing how small we are and how great God is is the best place to start.

On the following pages, you’ll find some practical encouragement for leading your group and questions to help spark conversation during your meetings. As you lead, prayerfully ask God to direct your time together in his Word, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth (John 16:13) and to convict and transform your hearts. May this study of Micah grow your love for God and his Word as you gather to discuss it with your group each week.

Before you begin, I want to pray for you.

Father, you are high and holy, yet you are also near and always with us. The treasures you have stored up within your Word are innumerable. We want to spend our days digging for treasure and dining at your table. Thank you for the woman leading this study. Thank you for her heart to serve you and to teach others the truth of the gospel. I pray you would first change her own heart as she studies, and in turn, that you would give her the strength to teach and lead the women around her. As they study your Word together, open their eyes to behold wondrous things from your law (Ps. 119:18). I pray Christ would be glorified through this study and in all their lives. In Jesus’ mighty name I pray, amen.

YOUR SISTER,


FOUNDER

Preparing to Lead a Group



Create a space that's inviting and welcoming. If you're meeting in your home, don't feel that everything has to look perfect each week. God might use the mess to bring freedom to another woman! The way you show hospitality and welcome women will show them the unfailing love of Christ. If you're meeting in a church or another local area, try to find a spot without distractions that will be a safe place for women to talk and participate in the group.



You set the level of vulnerability for your group. As you share from your own heart and personal experiences, other women will open up to share. As this happens, make sure your group is not a place to gossip. Set the standard from the start that group meetings will be confidential and that any conversation steering in the wrong direction will be redirected.



Pray to begin and end your time together. It's easy to rush through group meetings without first quieting our hearts to pray, but this is vital. Lead the group in prayer and ask other women to pray as well.



Protect your meeting time. It's good to have some structure and a time limit for your meetings. That way, each group member knows the allotted time and will feel comfortable leaving once the meeting time is over, even if some women decide to stay and fellowship.

Introductory Session



1. Share the dates and times that you'll meet so your group members can commit to being there.

Pass out the study books if the women don't already have them and instruct them to complete the first week before the next meeting. There are five days of study each week plus a weekly reflection.

2. Share the guidelines of the group.

Guidelines could include:

- This group is a confidential, safe place, unless there is any indication of harm or danger.
- This group is a commitment.
- This group is a place to ask questions, encourage one another, and seek Christ together. It's a place where we will speak life, hope, and freedom into others, not a place to gossip.

3. Consider beginning with an icebreaker game or question to introduce the women to one another.

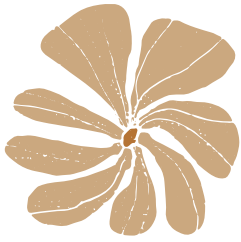
You could ask get-to-know-you questions such as: If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have three items with you, what would they be and why? Or, if you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go and why? Questions like these are designed to help women become comfortable with one other.

4. Next, share your story.

As the leader, sharing your testimony will help the women in your group to know you and trust you. Tell them how you came to know Jesus and why you're leading the group. Remember, women will follow your lead about how to share. There will be plenty of opportunities to share more of your story throughout the following five weeks, so you can keep this just a brief introduction.

5. If you have time, give each woman three to five minutes each to share her own story with the group.

6. Close your time together by sharing contact information and praying for one another.



Week One

Perceiving the Prophets

OPEN IN PRAYER: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION: Begin with the weekly memory verse. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

DISCUSSION: Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions.

Day One | Preparing to Study Micah

Where do you turn for help when faced with a particularly difficult passage of Scripture? (page 9)

What do you know about idolatry in the Bible? How often have you contemplated idolatry in your own life? (page 9)

Where do you run to for comfort when faced with particularly difficult circumstances? (page 9)

In what circumstances does it feel hard to continue hoping in God? (page 9)

Day Two | The Value of Old Testament Prophets

Read Deuteronomy 6:4–6. What is Israel commanded to do in verse 4? What message do they hear? (pages 12–13)

How are they to respond to this message? (page 13)

How does God expect hearing to affect one's daily life? (page 13)

What tends to prevent you from obeying God's Word? (page 14)

Day Three | The Purpose of Old Testament Prophets

What was the role of a prophet according to Deuteronomy 18:18? (page 16)

How were the people to test if a prophet's message was from God according to Deuteronomy 18:20–22? (page 16)

According to Hebrews 1:1–2, how did God speak to his people under the old covenant? How has he spoken to us now? (page 17)

What do you hope to gain by studying Micah? (page 18)

Day Four | Studying the Old Testament Prophets

What is noted about prophecy in 2 Peter 1:21? How did men speak from God? (page 20)

What does Matthew 5:17 teach about Christ? (page 20)

Discuss the historical context, cultural context, literary context, and scriptural context of Micah. (page 21)

In what specific ways could you grow in valuing God’s Word more? (page 22)

Day Five | Reading Micah Through Gospel Glasses

Share your summaries of the gospel. (page 23)

What did you learn about God as Judge from the Psalms verses? (page 25)

How is God’s justice different from how the world defines justice? (page 26)

How does the biblical metanarrative offer hope for your current circumstances? (page 26)

Is there anything else from this week’s study that stood out to you?

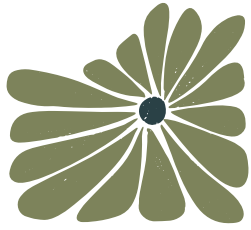


Weekly Application

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, 2 Peter 1:21, to guide your closing prayer.

God, thank you for speaking to your people through the prophets under the old covenant. We trust that these words in Micah are from you. Give us understanding as we study both your words of judgment and your words of hope, for every word of yours is valuable and helps us know you more. We praise you for revealing yourself to us through your Word. Help us to hear and hope in your Word alone. Amen.



Week Two

The Heart of Idolatry

OPEN IN PRAYER: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION: Begin with the weekly memory verse. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

DISCUSSION: Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions.

Day One | The Word of the LORD

What came to Micah? In what days did this message from God come? Who does this message concern? (page 32)

What did God call Israel and Judah to do through the prophets according to verse 13? (page 33)

How did the people respond to God according to verses 14–16? (page 33)

In what area of your life do you need to remember that God is still in control and his way always prevails? (page 35)

Day Two | Order in the Court

How are the elements of the legal trial between God and the Israelites displayed in the text? (pages 36–37)

According to Micah 1:3, what will the true God do to the high places used to worship other gods? (page 37)

What does Romans 1:18–25 tell us about those who suppress the truth about God and instead turn to idols? (page 38)

Micah 1:2–7 poignantly reveals how God views idol worship. What response do you have to God's initial indictment of his people? (page 39)

Day Three | An Incurable Wound

What did Micah prophesy about Samaria in judgment of her sin? What specifically did he prophesy about her carved images? (page 40)

What was Micah's response to this? (page 40)

What do Psalm 32:5 and Proverbs 28:13 teach us about bringing our sins to God? (page 41)

Recall the last time you were convicted over your sin. What was your response? (page 42)

Day Four | Names and Identities

Which wordplay from Micah 1:10–16 stood out to you most? Why? (pages 43–46)

What is a name or identity you are known for? (page 47)

How might that name or identity tempt you to find your purpose or value in it? (page 47)

In what ways can you find your identity in God's name? (page 47)

Day Five | A Word of Woe

List the accusations made against the oppressors in verses 1–2. (page 48)

What specific commandments were the Israelites in Micah's day transgressing? (page 48)

What does Ecclesiastes 12:14 reveal about sin? (page 49)

In what painful circumstances in your life do you long for the justice of God? How might you experience God's love for you in this place? (page 50)

Is there anything else from this week's study that stood out to you?

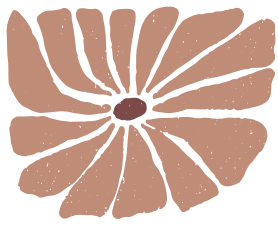
Weekly Application

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, Leviticus 19:4, to guide your closing prayer.

God, we confess that we're just like the Israelites, fearing, treasuring, and desiring things of this world more than we fear, treasure, and desire you. Search our hearts and expose the worldly things we worship. Help us to repent and place you in your rightful place as King of our hearts. You are the one true God, and you alone are worthy of our worship. Amen.





Week Three

The Folly of False Prophets

OPEN IN PRAYER: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION: Begin with the weekly memory verse. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

DISCUSSION: Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions.

Day One | The People's Preacher

Some theologians interpret verse 7 as being spoken by the prophet Micah, and others interpret it as being spoken by a false prophet. In your reading of the text, which speaker do you conclude is speaking? (page 54)

According to verse 11, what type of message do the Israelites desire to hear? (page 56)

How are we to recognize false prophets according to Matthew 7:15–20? (page 56)

Have you experienced any teaching that you discerned was false? Explain the circumstances. (page 57)

Day Two | The Shepherd King

What promise is given in verse 12? To whom is this promise made? (page 58)

How is God depicted through the language used in verse 12? (page 58)

What does God do according to verse 13 so the people can pass through the gate? (page 59)

In what ways do you see traces of how Jesus fulfilled this prophecy of salvation? (page 60)

Day Three | Micah's Second Message

How are the elements of the legal trial between God and the rulers of Israel displayed in the text? (page 61)

Summarize the commands in the covenant to judge fairly. (page 61)

According to Jeremiah 9:23–24, what does one who knows God understand about him? (page 62)

Though you may or may not be in leadership, think about those entrusted to your care or those you have the opportunity to be in relationships with. How might God’s message through Micah affect the way you interact with them? (page 63)

Day Four | Prophets Without Vision

What judgment does God issue in verses 6–7? (page 64)

What are the heads and rulers (judges), priests, and prophets accused of? (page 64)

How does Micah contrast himself with the false prophets in verse 8? (page 65)

How does the biblical description of trust in God convict you? How might God’s Word bring transformation to this area? (page 67)

Day Five | It Shall Come to Pass

What is the time period referenced in verse 1? What shall be established and lifted up? (page 68)

Why will they come according to verse 2? (page 68)

Share your two or three sentence summaries of Isaiah and Micah’s prophecies. (page 68)

What effect does God’s law have on your heart and life? (page 70)

Is there anything else from this week’s study that stood out to you?

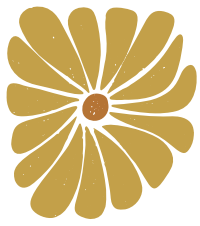
Weekly Application

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, Micah 4:5, to guide your closing prayer.

God, we confess that our hearts are easily deceived and that we sometimes find ourselves walking in ways contrary to your Word. Help us to flee from anything displeasing to you. Strengthen us through your Word and lead us in your ways, that we may walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. Amen.





Week Four

The Bread of Life

OPEN IN PRAYER: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION: Begin with the weekly memory verse. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

DISCUSSION: Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions.

Day One | Hope for the Hopeless

What people will God gather? What will he do to these people? (page 74)

What imagery does Micah use to describe the absence of a king in verse 9? (page 74)

How will the people experience new life according to verse 10? (page 75)

Where in your life do you experience lameness? How might that experience be part of how God meets you with his gospel? (page 76)

Day Two | House of Bread

When will the Ruler come according to verse 3? How does this relate to Micah 4:9–10? (page 77)

How is the rule of Jesus described? (page 78)

How does this contrast the rulers of Micah's day? (page 78)

What might be ruling you besides the Good Shepherd? (page 79)

Day Three | The Remnant Delivered and Idols Shattered

How does God's promise that "all your enemies shall be cut off" in verse 9 relate to the promises that follow? (page 81)

What desires do you think might be at the root of some of these idols? (page 81)

How is God's promise to cut off idolatry related to the peace described in Micah 4:1–5 and Micah 5:4–5a? (page 82)

How might these false refuges affect how you treat others? (page 83)

Day Four | Don't Forget to Remember

In Micah 6:1, who is God commanding to plead their case? What questions does God ask them? (page 84)

What do these accounts from Israel's history reveal about God's character? (page 85)

Why does God want his people to remember what he had done in the past according to Micah 6:5? (page 85)

Which account of salvation from Israel's history did you meditate on? How did it impact how you view your own story? (page 86)

Day Five | Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly

What kind of relationship does Israel's attitude about sacrifice foster with God? (page 87)

What, instead, does God require according to verse 8? What kind of relationship would this foster with God? (page 88)

What kind of relationship would it foster with others? (page 88)

Where are you tempted to see your personal sacrifices as payment to God for his grace? How does this stand in opposition to the spirit of humility required by God? (page 90)

Is there anything else from this week's study that stood out to you?

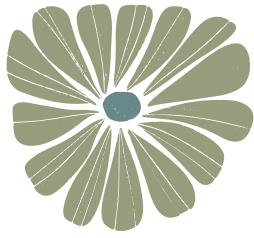


Weekly Application

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, Micah 5:2, to guide your closing prayer.

God, we praise you for Jesus, our perfect, promised Ruler! We know we can trust you because of the prophecies and promises you've fulfilled in Christ. Thank you for sending the Shepherd King, who laid down his life to rescue his sheep and who always rules with wisdom and justice. Help us to submit to his gentle rule this week. Amen.



Week Five

Look to the LORD

OPEN IN PRAYER: Ask God to open the eyes of your hearts as you study.

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION: Begin with the weekly memory verse. Offer to practice as a group or ask if a volunteer wants to recite it. Be willing and prepared to share yourself.

DISCUSSION: Walk through the following questions from each day with your group. Remember that answering the simple questions can help women feel prepared to answer the more difficult questions.

Day One | The Rod of the Shepherd

Based on our study of the book of Micah so far, describe how that idolatry has led to injustice. (page 94)

How do the actions described in Micah 6:16 oppose Micah 6:8? (page 95)

For what purposes does God discipline his children? (page 96)

How might understanding that emptiness as God's loving discipline change how you respond to it? (page 97)

Day Two | Micah's Lament and Hope

How is his relationship with God a contrast to those just described? (page 98)

Where do you see these elements of lament in Micah 7:1–7? (page 99)

What did you learn about waiting on God and looking to him for help from the Psalms verses? (pages 99–100)

What elements of lament do you see present in Christ's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane just before he endured betrayal and the undeserved punishment of the cross? (page 100)

Day Three | Darkness to Light

What evidence of repentance do you see in verses 8–9? (page 102)

What did the enemies of God's people want to see? What happens to these enemies in Micah 7:10? (page 102)

Share the similarities you saw in Micah 7:8–10 and Psalm 27:1–6. (page 103)

What confidence and courage does the Light of the World give you to endure this darkness? (page 104)

Day Four | A Day of Restoration

What plea does Micah make to God in verse 14? (page 105)

How will the nations respond to the redemption of God’s people according to verses 16–17? (page 106)

Which truth about Jesus’ role as the Good Shepherd from John 10:7–18 stood out to you most? Why? (page 106)

Identify ways that your Good Shepherd has given you abundant life in your current circumstances. (page 107)

Day Five | The Final Promise

What will God do according to verses 19–20? How does this display his faithfulness? (page 108)

As Micah looks ahead to what God will do, how does he communicate in language reminiscent of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt? (page 108)

As Micah looks ahead to the hope of God’s salvation, what does he look back to in verse 20? (page 108)

How does God’s faithfulness to his covenant and his promises change how you view your failures? (page 110)

Is there anything else from this week’s study that stood out to you?

Weekly Application

Before you wrap up, share something new you learned about God or the gospel in your study this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

End your time together by using the weekly memory verse, Micah 7:18, to guide your closing prayer.

God, we praise you for who you are! Your Word shows us over and over again that you are forgiving, compassionate, and faithful and that you delight in steadfast love. May our hearts never grow calloused to the good news that you pardon our iniquity and pass over our transgression. Thank you for the ways we’ve seen your holiness, your justice, and your mercy through Micah. Help us to remember and apply what you’ve taught us through your Word. Amen.





Gathering a group of five or more
to study God's Word together?

Contact hello@wellwateredwomen.com
for a special group discount on *Micah:
Hear and Hope in God's Word.*