

# Doing Justly

Micah

## **MEMORY VERSE**

MICAH 6:8

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A lamp and baby powder.

One copy of the “God’s Scale” template, scissors, poster board and paper fasteners.

A sheet of black construction paper, a white sheet of regular copy paper, and a couple of sheets of a light color card stock or construction paper for each child, markers, scissors, and glue stick.

## **ATTENTION GETTER!**

### **God’s Promises**

You will need a lamp with a light bulb that is easily exposed and baby powder. In Micah 5:2, we read about a promise of a coming Messiah that would be born in the city of Bethlehem 700 years before it happens. Can you think of whom we serve and worship who was born in Bethlehem? God’s Word is always true.

Before class, practice the following experiment to make sure it goes well during the class. Plug in the lamp, remove the lampshade, and turn on the light. Wait until the bulb is hot (remember caution around children). Next, sprinkle a tiny bit of baby powder just above the bulb. The powder will be carried upward by the rising warm air current.

When class begins ask your class, “Who can tell me what a promise is?” Tell them that a promise is an agreement to do or not to do something. Next, tell them that you are going to make a promise to them--you are going to make powder fly up in the air without blowing it or throwing it. Ask, “Who believes that I will keep my promise?” Sprinkle a bit of baby powder just above the bulb. As the children watch the powder rise, say, “I kept my promise. I did not have to blow on the powder to get it to rise up. The bulb made the air hot, and because hot air rises, it leaves room for the cooler air to come in underneath it. The powder was carried up with the warmer air.”

Explain to the class that God always keeps His promises. In fact there are over 300 prophecies that were made concerning Jesus in the Old Testament and all of them (except the ones talking about His Second Coming) have been fulfilled perfectly.

## **LESSON TIME!**

The book of Micah was written by Micah the prophet who preached to the oppressed people of Judah in the south. Micah’s name means, “Who is like the Lord?” Micah preached between 750 BC and 687 BC, during the reigns of kings Jothan, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Isaiah prophesied about the same time that Micah did. In fact, there are many similarities between passages in Isaiah and Micah (Micah 4:1-5, Isaiah 2:2-4).

It would seem that the prophecies of Micah caught the ear of the people of Judah, at least for a time, for they understood their guilt and estrangement from God and wanted things to be different. The big question was, “How can we make things right?”

### **MICAH 6:6,7**

**With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old?**

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn  
for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the  
sin of my soul?

God had chastened His children, desiring that they might turn back to Him and enjoy restoration and fellowship. God had just spoken to the people through Micah (Micah 6:3-5) bemoaning the estrangement (drifting apart) He felt with His children. Now, Micah, it seems, speaks to God on behalf of the congregation of Israel, who recognized themselves guilty before the Lord.

What is it that the Lord requires? What could they do to repair the bond of fellowship that had been broken by their sin? Would God be pleased with ten thousands of rams, even the offering of their own children? No doubt the people recognized the extent of the gap between them and God. Could they, by offering their best, atone for their sins?

But God was not interested in their ritualistic offerings. He was interested in their hearts. In Psalm 51:16,17 David declares, “For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart--These, O God, You will not despise.” Read also Isaiah, chapter 1:10-18.

## God’s Scale

Use this activity to illustrate one of the points of today’s lesson. Our sins “weigh us down.” Sometimes, we think that doing religious things will make us right before God—as though we thought they could balance the scale when weighed with our sin, but that is not so. You will need a copy of the “scale” template included with the curriculum, scissors, poster board and paper fasteners.

Cut out the scale from the template. Cut the horizontal bar of the scale to make the bar movable. Glue the vertical stand and bar to the poster board. Next, cut the two baskets to include the small circles at the top. Using three paper fasteners, attach the horizontal bar to the vertical bar. Next, attach the two baskets to the horizontal bar. What this should produce is a scale with movable parts. The horizontal bar will tilt to either side and the two baskets will move accordingly. You can make this at home before class.

Explain to the class that our sins weigh us down, and we are found lacking. Have the class think of various sins (lying, cheating, stealing, etc.). Write them on small pieces of paper and glue or tape them to one of the baskets. Show that the basket moves down with each sin. Next, think of religious things that some people like to do (go to church, live a moral life, etc.). Tape these to the other basket, but don't move the basket at all. Explain to the class that doing "good" things has no effect on canceling out our sin. Next, take out the enclosed picture of Jesus and tape or glue Him over the "good" things. Now tip the scale the other way so that the sin becomes light. Explain that this is what Jesus does for us. He is the only way to the Father. Good works (doing good things) will not give us access to God.

### MICAH 6: 8

He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

God desires that man simply walk in relationship with Him. As he does, good fruit follows. Certain characteristics will be seen in the life of a true worshiper of God—justice, mercy, and humility. What does it mean to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly? Let's break some of the words down to get a clearer picture. **God wants justice, mercy and humility in our lives.**

DO is defined as “to perform, achieve; cause to bring about; make ready for some object or purpose; to act or behave.”

JUST is defined as “conformable to divine or human laws; upright; impartial; faithful; exact; regular; fair.”

MERCY is defined as “the disposition to forgive, spare, or pity; clemency; forbearance; compassion.”

WALK is defined as “to advance by alternate steps; pursue a certain course of life or action.”

HUMBLE is defined as “having a proper estimate of one’s self; modest; meek; submissive; lowly; obscure; not viewing self as better than others.”

In summary, God is pleased when we act or behave in an upright, impartial, faithful, and fair manner: forgiving, showing compassion, forbearing, pursuing meekness, showing modesty, and submitting to each other and God.

To allow the fruit of God’s Spirit to be evident in our lives is indeed the most costly sacrifice we can give to the Lord, for it means that we must die to ourselves. We must die to our desires, dreams, our will, and love others selflessly. God does not demand religious activities from us; rather, He loves it when we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1).

In 1 Samuel 15:22 we read, “So Samuel said, ‘Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams’.” Obedience (doing what God asks us to do) is better than any sacrifice we could offer.

**God desires justice, mercy, and humility in our lives.** Without these things in our lives, God receives no pleasure in our worship. Yet, we cannot do these things in our own strength, so how can we please God? We can surrender our lives to Jesus Christ who gave Himself for us on the cross that He might redeem us and restore our broken fellowship with God. With His help and strength inside, we can do what we cannot on our own—do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before Him.

God loves you! If you have never asked Jesus into your heart, right now is the perfect time. If you have asked Christ into your heart before, but have not been pleasing Him in the ways that really matter; ask Him to forgive you. Rededicate your life to Him. Either way, you cannot lose if you invite Jesus to be the Lord of your life.

## **Micah 5:2 Prophecy Scratcher**

Use this craft to witness to a friend about Jesus. You will need a sheet of black construction paper, a white sheet of regular copy paper and a couple of sheets of a light color card stock or construction paper for each child, markers, scissors, and glue stick.

Out of the cardstock, ask each child to cut out letters to make the word, “Bethlehem.” For the younger students, you may need to help them or obtain pre-cut letters to give to them. Once they have cut out all of the letters, have them glue the word onto the black construction paper. *Note:* Make sure that they leave enough room to cover the word “Bethlehem” with the white copy paper. Next, glue the white copy paper over the word “Bethlehem.” Also make sure to leave enough room to write a sentence at the bottom.

With a marker write, “Where did God tell His people that Jesus would be born 700 years before it happened?” at the bottom of the craft. Then explain to the children that they can use this question as an opportunity to tell a family member or friend about Jesus. Can they answer the question? Let them check their answer by giving them a pencil or crayon and letting them color over the white on the page. The name “Bethlehem” will make an impression on the paper. You can then tell them that there are over 300 prophecies in the Bible about Jesus that have all come true. For more information on this, look up Micah 5:2.

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be obedient and show justice, mercy, and humility before the Lord. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.



