

Supplemental Questions for The Twelve

MICAH

Deepest Sorrow, Greatest Joy (Introduction)

- In Micah's day God was saying that the wickedness and perversity that His own people had continually exhibited could not continue. If He is just, He must step in to act in righteousness. Yet God also helped Micah see past his own day to a time to come when Jesus the Messiah would come to make all things new. Why is it important to read and consider the parts of Scripture that express "deepest sorrow" as well as the ones that share "greatest joy"?

Time Machine (2 Kings 14:23-17:6; Isaiah 43:18-19; Micah 1:9)

- The history of God's people recorded in the Bible can be a roller coaster ride to say the least. Some of their political and religious decisions by corrupt leadership are truly awful. But God still works in the lives of His faithful children no matter what may be going on around them. How have you observed God working in your life, church, or country despite moral breakdown all around?

Inside, Outside, Upside Down (Micah 1:5-9; Matthew 23:25-26)

- Whether in business, politics, church leadership, or in personal life, it can be tempting to make the outside appearance look shiny and attractive while inside the goings-on are a mess. God looks on the heart and works from the inside out. That process can be difficult if we're focused on appearances more than reality. Why do you think God is more interested in the workings of the heart, mind, and soul of a person than in checking the box of religious duty?
- How do the inner workings of the mind, soul, and heart affect our church life, business affairs, community influence, and world impact?

The Power Of Lament (Psalm 10; Micah 1:8)

- Lament is the hard expression of the faithful heart. It is not doubting God's goodness; it is the deep cry of a real faith in God who hears us. At what times do you think lament is the most appropriate expression of faith?

Pick A Lane, Pal. (Micah 2:1-2, 6-11)

- In which areas of life do you find it easiest to try and “own the whole road”?
- What if in our relationship with God, we assume that whatever we decide to do is right and are annoyed by any consideration of our actions in the light of Scripture? What would that say about what we think of God?

The Breaker (Micah 2:12-13; Matthew 24:30-31)

- This was no weakling Messiah presented here. Only Jesus was strong enough to fulfill this long hoped for prophecy. He breaks us out of our bondage to sin and leads us out into new life and freedom. It is a powerful picture of a conquering leader. Do you see Jesus as this strong victorious Christ? How so?

From The Top Down (Micah 3:1-2, 3-6, 7-8, 9-12; 2 Chronicles 26; 2 Kings 16)

- If peace, safety, and blessing are what we long for, strong Godly leadership from the top down is required in our government, churches, communities, and our homes. How have you seen bad leadership affect a situation poorly?
- How have you seen good leadership inspire confidence and Godly action?

What God Wants Is Always Better (Isaiah 1:16-20; Luke 18:18-30; Micah 4:1-4)

- Have you had God take something away from you that was taking His place in your life—a relationship, a job, a project? Did you feel good about God’s work at first or did you have bad feelings about losing something that was actually becoming unhealthy?
- Is it possible that we can get in the way of what God is doing in our lives by trying to do things our own way and in our own strength? How?
- How in your life have you seen God’s way be much better than the way you were working towards at first?

The Strong Shepherd (Micah 4:5, 5:2-5; Ephesians 2:11-17)

- What does it mean to you to say, “Jesus *is* my peace”?

- What if all churches were suddenly closed and meeting together as a church body was forbidden—what would you do then? How would you live? Would you continue following Jesus?

He Has Shown You (Micah 6:1-5, 6-7, 8)

- Why might it be tempting to try and earn our salvation instead of resting in the grace of God through Jesus' finished work on the cross?
- Why do you think God focused on doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with Him as what it means to walk in His ways? How do those three things describe Godly living in Christ?

I Shall Rise (Micah 7:2-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9, 18-20)

- Even if the world around us collapses under the weight of its sinful structure, and if the church stumbles because it has taken its eyes off of Jesus in favor of worldly acceptance, the believer in Jesus can face the future with a smile just as Micah did. What does waiting confidently for the Lord mean for us today as Christians?
- What is that confident hope based on?

