

Micah - the Poet, the Preacher, the Prophet.

GRADE 6, LESSON 3

Micah 6:1-8



¹ Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the Lord has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?



MEMORY VERSE:

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Funny fact: the rock above the memory verse has flecks of MICA in it!

Student Introduction

Micah- what do you know about him? Did you know that he was a native of the land, Moreshath, or that his full name was Miciah, which meant, “Who is like Jehovah?” Micah, much like his name, likes questions. He asks a lot of questions as we read his poetry. It gets a bit more challenging when you remember that Micah is also a Prophet, and spoke in prose (in a poetic style) as a way to tell us important facts of life! Let’s take a closer look and see what answers we can find.

Discuss: What did you understand from reading Micah 6:1-8? Who are the different narrators? To whom are the narrators speaking to?

Bible Exploration

Micah 6:1-2 begins with the voice of the Prophet Micah asking the people of Israel (his community) to pay attention to God, and to the mistakes they are making in being His Chosen People! He asks that the mountains and foundations of the Earth (creations of God) to be witnesses to the situation, much like a courtroom!

Micah 6:3-5 switches to God’s voice. Here, God lists the many blessings He gave to His people. Freedom from slavery, victory over evil, the blessings of powerful leaders- all of these things, and more! God continued to be kind to His people, and in return, He received nothing- no thanks, no honor, no worship. God asks the reader just how He has ‘wearied’ us, to make us not show Him the respect and love He deserves. Ouch!

Micah 6:6-7 switches to a nameless person of Israel answering God’s questions. Verse 6 starts off harmlessly enough: the nameless person asks if God would be pleased with sacrifices, like the type that Abraham gave on his journeys. Verse 7, however, becomes exaggerated and mocking! Maybe the nameless person meant to point blame at God. Why? Do you remember— God requested the sacrifice of a famous Old Testament baby as a way to test Abraham’s loyalty. (Can you name him?) Whatever the case, this attitude was totally uncalled for, and Micah immediately puts this person in their place!

In Micah 6:8, the bold prophet answers the questions posed by the nameless person: what does the Lord expect of us? Micah’s answer is clear: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Let’s break it down:

1. Act Justly Jesus is the best example of doing what is right which can be seen in the story where Jesus heals the man with the withered hand. (Mark 3:1-6) During the time of Jesus, the Sabbath was considered the day of 'rest', and medical assistance could not be given to anyone- except in matters of life and death.

As Jesus entered the synagogue, He saw a man with a withered hand. Jesus spoke directly to the Pharisees (who were watching Him), saying, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save your life or kill?" Jesus then healed the man's withered hand, deliberately going against the wishes of the Pharisees, who valued law above what was right. By healing, Jesus made it clear that doing 'good' was more important than any law!

2. Love Kindness Jesus is again another great example of how to love and appreciate kindness. Remember the story of when a group of friends tried bringing their paralyzed buddy to see Jesus, and were so determined that they lowered him through the roof of a house? (Mark 2:1-12) Well- Jesus was so touched by the faith and kindness of these friends, that He forgave the sins of the paralyzed man! Later, Jesus healed the man physically so that he was able to walk, but because Jesus loved and appreciated the kindness of friends, he was willing to heal this paralyzed man where he needed it most- his soul.

Vocabulary

Controversy: A long disagreement, often done in public.

Wearied: Past tense of 'weary'; tired.

Transgression: something that goes against a rule; a sin.

Justice: Moral rightness; the quality of being fair.

Humble: Modest or meek in spirit; not proud or bold.

3. Walk Humbly Think of the kind of person Jesus described in the Sermon on the Mount as being "blessed." (Matt 5:3-12). Here's a hint- it's commonly referred to as the 'Beatitudes'. The truly 'blessed' person, according to Jesus, include the "poor in spirit," "the meek," "the merciful," "peacemakers," "pure in heart," and so on. Only humble-minded individuals would even think of having these qualities! It's tough to be humble, especially when we see so many others proudly showing off their lives. But Jesus needs us to go against the flow! Can you take the challenge?

Fun Fact: Micah is the prophet that foretold the birthplace of our Savior 500+ years before it happened! See Micah 5:2!

Activity

The three characteristics (as listed by Micah), and defined by you!	What would this characteristic look like in real life?	If you were in a situation like what you just wrote in column 2, what would you say to follow Micah's rules?

Let's Review!

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, we thank You for Your gifts that You have given to us. Please help us to use the teachings of Micah and Jesus in our lives, and to positively help those around us by acting justly, loving kindness, and walking humbly. Amen.

Fill Ins

1. Micah calls the _____ and the foundations of the _____ to be witnesses to the problems Micah and God see with Israel.
2. God lists a sibling trio that helped lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Their names are: _____, _____, and _____.

Short Answers

1. What are the three characteristics that God requires us to do?
2. Is it easy to act like this in real life? Why or why not?

Values for My Life

Acting justly, while demonstrating kindness and yet remaining humble... sometimes it feels like we need superhero-like skills to be able to maintain all of these attributes! But God gave this assignment to us "mortals". So roll up your sleeves, get out into the world, and start showing others what sort of people Micah is challenging us to be!

Faith in Action

I will live a life filled with justice, kindness, and humbleness, as stated by Micah and demonstrated by Jesus.

Teacher Guide for Lesson 3

Micah- the Poet, the Preacher, the Prophet.

Aim: Students will successfully decode Micah’s poetry, and understand the concepts of acting justly, loving kindness, and walking humbly.

Bible Passage: Micah 6:1-8 (NSRV)

Teacher Preparation: Micah is not typical ‘reading’ for the average Sunday School student. For this reason, make sure you read and re-read the Bible portion. Familiarize yourself with the references Micah makes, especially in case any of your students have questions about who King Balak of Moab was. (See Numbers 22-24.)

The focus of this lesson is primarily on verse 8. Note- the listed ‘requirements’ of the Lord in this verse do not negate the need for sacrifice, but are in and of themselves a sacrifice. Stress this to your students, and don’t hesitate to reference other lessons covered (like Abram/Abraham).

Bible Exploration (See Student Guide)

In-Class Activity

Goal:

Using the chart in their book, students will plan possible real-life scenarios where they can implement the 3 characteristics listed in Micah 6:8.

Teacher Preparation:

Start the assignment by leading a discussion on what each of the 3 characteristics in Micah 6:8 mean to the students. Keep the conversation brief, before leading them into the actual assignment. You can allow the students to work on the activity on their own, with partners, or as a group- depending on the class dynamic.

Activity:

- 1) Have the students create a definition of the 3 characteristics in their own language. Encourage them to come up with something that has not been printed.
- 2) Once this is done, ask the students to come up with pretend (or real) scenarios where these characteristics might come up, and jot their ideas down in column 2.

Examples:

“Act Justly”- standing up to a bully

“Love Kindness”- appreciating a younger sibling or friend

“Walk Humbly”- quietly accepting an A+ without bragging.

3) Have students brainstorm verbal answers they can give to an instigator in these scenarios, and have them write these down in column 3.

Examples:

Standing up to a bully- "Leave that kid alone. I still cry sometimes, don't you?"

Appreciating a younger sibling- "Thanks for the homemade gift you made for me!"

Accepting an A+ -"Yeah, I got my test result. Hey, wanna study together for the next test? This last one was tough!"

Extension:

Have students pair up and practice acting out any given scenario. Discuss the difficulties that might come up from following these ideas, like standing up to a bully, etc.

Note to 6th Grade Teachers:

As you teach the 5 trial lessons, please be aware that they have been designed with the intention of seeing which curriculum style works best for your Sunday School classroom.

<i>Lesson 1 (Abraham)</i>	<i><u>Teacher Centered</u></i>	<i>The teacher leads, the students follow</i>	<i>Activity is separate from content</i>
<i>Lesson 3 (Micah)</i>	<i><u>Teacher Centered</u></i>	<i>The teacher leads, the students follow</i>	<i>Activity supplements content</i>
<i>Lesson 5 (Elijah)</i>	<i><u>Teacher Centered</u></i>	<i>The teacher leads, the students follow</i>	<i>Activity supplements content</i>
<i>Lesson 6 (Boaz)</i>	<i><u>Teacher and Student Centered</u></i>	<i>The teacher leads, but there are built in elements of student independence</i>	<i>Activity is built into the content</i>
<i>Lesson 7 (Joseph)</i>	<i><u>Student Centered</u></i>	<i>The students lead, the teacher facilitates</i>	<i>Activities are built into the content</i>

At any point during the trial 5 lessons, please e-mail AnissaKurian@gmail.com with your feedback, including:

How is the length of the Bible portion?

How appropriate are the Bible lessons and Memory Verse?

What lessons worked best for your class? What lessons were easiest to teach? (And vice versa)

Based off of question 4- do you prefer a Teacher centered or a Student Centered curriculum?

Do you prefer a paper-based activity, or an 'out of the box' activity (like Lesson 1)?

STUDENT FEEDBACK- what did your students like or dislike about the new lesson format?

Ultimately, it is your talent and your willingness to donate your time, energy, and love that will impact the 6th grade students the most. This curriculum is simply a tool to aid you in your vital ministry. Any and all feedback (good and bad) will help us to make the curriculum as beneficial as possible to our Mar Thoma children.

Thank you, and God Bless!

Anissa Kurian and George P. Babu

6th Grade Curriculum Editors

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