

WHAT GOD WANTS

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MICAH 6

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MICAH 6:1-8

Key Verse: What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Micah 6:1-8 (NRSV)

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?

WORD POWER!!!

- **Plead** – To ask earnestly.
- **Controversy** – A disagreement.
- **Wearied** – Tired.

GETTING READY!!!

Micah was a prophet who lived in a village filled with poverty and hardship. Due to war and exploitation of the poor and weak by the rich, Micah's messages were more like warnings against the people who had treated the people poorly. Even though Micah's message to the leaders and rulers was harsh, he wanted them to know that their demonstration of injustice to others was not going to lead to favor with God. The corrupt rulers believed that they could get away with the mistreatment of others by performing religious sacrifices and other rituals.

In this passage, Micah is calling the people to accountability. He tells them that God required of all "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God." In order to do these action items, Micah reminds the people that they can't buy or earn God's love. God's love is a gift of grace in response to their actions. In today's society, injustice is still prevalent among us. Name a couple of injustices (unfair situations) that you have seen in real life or on television. What is one way you can help to combat the injustice that you have seen? Faith in God enables us to endure even in the midst of troublesome times. What is one way that you can show kindness and walk in peace today?

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Today we are going to re-tell the story of Micah 6:1-8 in an interactive way. At the direction of the teacher, divide yourselves into two groups. Group A sits on one side of the class and Group B on the opposite side.

Group A will read verses 1-2.

Group B will read verses 3-5.

The teacher will read verses 6-7.

Everyone will read verse 8 together.

After you engage in this experience, discuss with your peers how this helped you look at the scripture differently.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Have you ever wondered what God wants you to be or wants you to do? It seems like we can find one of the answers in Micah 6:8. Doing the work of justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God looks different for everyone. Though it looks different for each of us, we are still ALL called to do it! What is one way that you can embody these teachings in the **Key Verse** today?

Have you ever heard of RAK, otherwise known as Random Acts of Kindness? RAK is a movement in which one can show radical acts of kindness towards people they do or do not know. One example of RAK is that you can collect socks and other toiletry items and make care packages for those who are homeless. Other ideas range from writing positive messages and leaving them in public places, or even leaving a thank you

card for the postal worker. What are some other ways that you can display kindness? When we extend kindness to others expecting nothing in return, we are showing how to love our neighbors. Decide with the group present today, and create 30 random acts of kindness that you can do for the entire month of April. Make sure you check with an adult to help you facilitate some of your ideas.

No matter how young or old you are, we are all called to love our neighbor and to show love, mercy, and justice. To you a pair of socks, or even a card, might not mean very much. However, to someone else it can be not something just nice, but something that is needed. As we participate in acts of justice and kindness, we are impacting the world in a positive way. We are being champions of hope for those who may have lost hope.

In order for us to continue to be agents of kindness, we must also make sure our hearts are in the right place. Therefore, Micah reminds us that we need to walk humbly with God. This means that we should remain humble and thank God for all the gifts (material possessions, etc.) God has given us to help others. As Christians we should never forget that our hearts and minds should always be in tune with God, and look for ways to serve humankind. As you complete your *Random Acts of Kindness in April* exercise, share with the class why it was important for you to participate in this activity.

REMIX!!!

Micah's message was a message of action. Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God requires us to do something! As people of faith, we

are called to not only learn about our faith, but put it in action. This week talk to a parent or guardian about the lesson today. Share with them the ways you are going to intentionally extend kindness to others this week at church, school, and other activities in which you participate.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the **Key Verse** today?
2. What is one random act of kindness that you can do this week?
3. What community/school issue can you address to help people feel more welcomed?

PRAISE GOD!!!

We are family. We are all connected. We are called to change the world. We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves! You are not too young to think of ways that you can make your community a more welcoming environment. Micah gives us a starting place where we can continue to grow as Christians. The Bible is filled with examples of people and situations where love, justice, and kindness were extended even when it wasn't deserved. We thank God for God's mercy and grace for each of us that shows us divine kindness even when we don't deserve it.

CLOSING PRAYER

God of all creation, we give you thanks for all humankind. We thank you for the gift of community. Help us, dear Lord, to remember that we are all connected and

made in your image. Help us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Remind us that we are called to be agents of hope in this world by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with You. Amen.