



Micah and God's Courtroom

Lesson Aim: To know the three choices God expects us to make.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Is Faithful

THE WORD

Bible Story: Micah 6:1-2, 8; 7:9, 13, 19

What He has done: God sent Micah to the people in Judea with a message of judgment and hope.

Key Verse: Micah 6:8

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Matthew 2:4-6

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Philippians 2:8b-11a

Unit 8: The Prophets and God's Faithfulness			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	The Prophet Isaiah, Isaiah 53:6; 45:22; 9:2, 6-7	God gave Isaiah the message of hope about the coming Savior.	To know we all need the Savior whom God gave us in Jesus.
39	Micah and God's Courtroom, Micah 6:1-2, 8; 7:9, 13, 19	God sent Micah to the people in Judea with a message of judgment and hope.	To know the three choices God expects us to make.
40	The Prophet Zephaniah, Zephaniah 1:12; 2:3a; 3:17	God sent Zephaniah to warn the people about complacency and encourage those who seek Him.	To find security and comfort in the knowledge of God's love for those who seek Him.
41	Jeremiah and the Linen Belt, Jeremiah 1:4-9; 13:3-11; 29:11-13	God sent Jeremiah to tell of His plans for those who do and do not seek Him.	To know God wants us to seek Him and be close to Him.
42	God Answers Habakkuk, Habakkuk 1:2; 2:2-4, 20; 3:17-18	God answered Habakkuk's questions.	To show God wants us to trust Him to punish evil and keep all His promises.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Micah 7:14-20. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for hearing our prayers. Thank You for showing compassion on us and forgiving us. Help the children to accept Your forgiveness and walk humbly with You. Amen."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Judgment Relay	4 buckets (same size), 4 cups, water, 24 toy blocks, 2 jump ropes, 4 pieces of bubble gum, 4 large balloons
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "At the Name of Jesus" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Justly" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Trust and Obey" "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 98:7-9	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 39 The Love Sub script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Micah 6:1-2, 8; 7:9, 13, 19	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Matthew 2:4-6	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards Treasure Treats—ASK ME ABOUT MICAH sticker, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Seafood Snack	Fish-shaped crackers, optional: Bible
	Up to 10	Game: Sin Stomp and Toss	Paper, pencils, trash can, blue streamers, tape
	Up to 15	Craft: Micah's ID Tags	Heavy cardboard, very sturdy gray paper, dog tag chains (or thin cord or yarn), assorted craft supplies, scissors, hole punch, markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Passing the Light	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, extra large paper, tape or tacks, marker, flashlight
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Kneel & Say	Kneeling pad (small cushion or pillow), Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: How has God kept a promise to you?

GAME: JUDGMENT RELAY

Purpose: Children will play a relay game officiated by a judge before learning about God's judgment.

Supplies: 4 buckets (same size), 4 cups, water, 24 toy blocks, 2 jump ropes, 4 pieces of bubble gum, 4 large balloons

Prepare: For each team, set two buckets (A and B) five feet apart. Fill both Bucket A's with water. Mark a line on both Bucket B's to show the half-full point. Set up the following materials for each team: 2 cups, 12 toy blocks, 1 jump rope, 2 pieces of bubble gum, and 2 balloons. May set up 5 tasks in one place or in 5 different locations.

Options: If bubble gum is not available or if blowing bubbles is too difficult for the age children in your class, substitute a task of molding a ball of dough or clay to match the size of a fist. Make your own relay course based on the supplies and space available for your class. Increase or decrease the number of relay tasks, as needed. If you have limited space, design tasks which can be performed at the table such as coloring, paper folding or crumpling, marbles, molding clay shapes, or word puzzles.

How quickly can your team move through a relay course? A judge will decide if your team has completed each task correctly. Do not begin the next task until the judge signals his or her approval.

Directions:

1. Divide children into two teams.
2. Each team assigns their players to one or more of the five different tasks on the course:
 - Team members scoop cups of water from Bucket A to carry and pour into Bucket B. The task is completed when the waterline reaches the half-full line on Bucket B.
 - Team members stack twelve blocks, one on top of the other. When finished, the judge will count to ten. If the tower remains standing, the task is complete.
 - One team member jumps rope twelve times without stopping.
 - Two team members each chew a piece of bubble gum and blow a bubble larger than a fist.
 - Two team members each blow up a balloon to full size.
3. Assign a judge to each team. If possible, the teacher should judge one team and a teen or adult assistant should judge the other team.
4. On your signal, the teams begin the first task of the relay.
5. The team's judge will watch and give his or her approval when the task is correctly completed.
6. When a task is approved, the team may begin the next task.
7. The goal is to be the first team to finish all the events in the relay.

Our judges made sure the game was judged fairly. Did you know God is our judge? (Children respond.) **God sent the prophet Micah to tell us how God judges us. Let's read from the book of Micah and find out what God expects us to do.**



The God who is faithful

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship the God who is faithful. That means He keeps all His promises. God gave the prophet Micah messages for the people about the choices He expected them to make. One way we can worship God is by making choices that are right in His eyes. We can act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him. Let's sing Micah's words about those choices as we give our offerings to God's church. Sing: "Do Justly" as the offering is collected.



Read Psalm 98:7-9.



Micah told everyone God would judge all people and nations one day. Because Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, we do not need to fear that day of judgment. God is a fair judge who will show mercy to all who believe in His Son. Mercy is undeserved kindness, such as God's kindness, to not give us the punishment we deserve. Let's thank God for His great mercy. Sing: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

God shows His great mercy by forgiving the sins of anyone who believes in Jesus as Lord. Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins so we could receive that mercy. Sing the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's mercy.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 8, Lesson 39.



Micah and God's courtroom

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned God gave the prophet Isaiah visions and messages of hope about the coming Savior. Today, we will see God showed the prophet Micah three choices He expects us to make. If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Micah (Circa 700 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

God saw that many people were harming and tricking others, stealing, cheating, and lying. Micah showed us God was the perfect and fair judge who had a case against the people for their sins. He gave the people warnings from God about the coming downfall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the temple there. If map is available, point to Jerusalem, Israel.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share it with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Micah 6:1-2, 8; 7:9, 13, 19.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

God spoke to Micah as if God was a judge in a courtroom. The lawyer was Micah and the defendants were God's people. Read Micah 6:1-2.

The people knew they were guilty of cheating, lying, and hurting others. Check out Micah's confession for the people and God's warning. Read Micah 7:9, 13.

The people asked God what He wanted them to do. Micah said God had already shown them the answer. Listen as I read the three choices God wants us to make every day. Read Micah 6:8.

The people knew they deserved to be punished for doing wrong in God's eyes. The Bible calls those wrongs, sins or iniquities. Listen carefully to God's promise to forgive our sins and iniquities. Read Micah 7:19.



Three choices God expects us to make

THE WAY

God was angry because He saw the many sins of His people. He knew they were harming and tricking others, stealing, cheating, and lying. What are some examples of ways children your age steal, cheat, lie, harm others, or try to fool others by what they say? (Children respond.) God gave this WARNING to the people: "I will destroy you because you have sinned so much."

What were the three CHOICES God expected His people to make? (Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God.) To act justly means to treat everyone fairly. What are some ways you can make better choices this week to act justly by treating your friends and family more fairly? (Children respond.) To love mercy is to show kindness even to those who do not deserve it. Do you know someone who you believe has lied or bullied others and does not deserve to be treated with kindness? (Children respond.) How can you forgive that person and show loving kindness to him or her this week? (Children respond.) To be humble is to treat God and others as more important than yourself. To walk humbly with your God is to live the way He wants us to live. How can you do that in your life this week? (Children respond.)

God has shown us by His own actions how to act justly and love mercy. Micah described God as the perfect and fair judge over all people—a judge who sees our sin and fairly punishes it, yet loves to show mercy by forgiving us.

Jesus showed us the perfect example of walking humbly with God. Whose lives did He treat as more important than His own? (The lives of all people including each person here.) Jesus treated all of our lives as more important than His own life by dying for us.

Prophets used the word "remnant" to mean the small group of God's people who stayed faithful to Him. Did Micah believe that even though God was angry, He still loved the people He called "the remnant"? (Yes.) If we believe in Jesus, we are part of that remnant. God PROMISED to tread our sins underfoot and hurl all of them into the sea. How does it feel to know God forgives you and throws your sins away? (Children respond.) To keep that promise of forgiveness, who did God send to pay for our sins by dying on the cross? (Jesus.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Micah also announced a PROMISE God made about where baby Jesus would be born. Do you remember where baby Jesus was born? (Bethlehem.) 700 years later, because the Magi (also known as the wise men) had studied Micah's words, they knew they would find this newborn king in Bethlehem when the time came.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Matthew 2:4-6. Let's find this scripture. Listen to what the Magi told King Herod about this promise. Read Matthew 2:4-6.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is an **ASK ME ABOUT MICAH** sticker. Tell everyone Micah was the prophet who told us about the three choices God expects us to make—to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Tell them about God's promise to forgive us and about the Bethlehem promise, too!

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 39 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of God as the judge of all people.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "At the Name of Jesus," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: SEAFOOD SNACK

Purpose: Children eat a snack as they discuss how God will get rid of our sins, as taught in Micah 7:19.

Supplies: Fish-shaped crackers, optional: Bible

God loves everyone He has made, but He hates sin. He cannot be near sin. In Micah 7:19, what are the two things God promises to do to our sins? (Walk on them. Throw them into the sea.) **It is as if God sends our sins to the bottom of the sea, so we can have a fresh start. Let's eat a fishy snack as we think about His amazing forgiveness.**

Directions:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"If you could throw your sins away, where would you throw them?"**

GAME: SIN STOMP AND TOSS

Purpose: Children will act out Micah 7:19 by stomping on and throwing away papers listing their sins.

Supplies: Paper, pencils, trash can, blue streamers, tape

Prepare: Tape blue streamers to the trash can to represent water.

What are the three choices Micah said God expects us to make? (Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.) **When we make different choices such as judging others harshly or treating others unfairly, it is sin. When we are sorry, God promises to eliminate our sins as if He is stomping on them and throwing them into the sea. What is one sin you want God to forgive and throw into the sea?** (Children respond.)

Directions:

1. Distribute a piece of paper and a pencil to each child.
2. Each child writes a sin he or she struggles with on the paper.
3. **Micah was talking about God when he said, "You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot"** (Micah 7:19).
4. Children crumple their papers, toss them on the ground, and stomp on them.
5. **Micah said God would hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.**
6. Children take turns throwing their sins (papers) into the trash can.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: MICAH'S ID TAGS

Purpose: Children will make identification tags to remind them of choices they can make that help others identify them as people who love God and make godly choices.

Supplies: Heavy cardboard, very sturdy gray paper, dog tag chains (or thin cord or yarn), assorted craft supplies, scissors, hole punch, markers

Prepare: Create several templates of 2" x 3" rectangles from the heavy cardboard. Print and display the following for children to copy:

**Act Justly
Love Mercy
Walk Humbly
With Your God
Micah 6:8**

Which prophet did we learn about today who delivered God's message? (Micah.) Micah presented God's Word as if we are all in God's courtroom and God is our judge. What are the three choices God expects us to make? (Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.) When others see you act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God, what might they think about you? (Children respond.) They may identify you as a person who loves God enough to do things His way instead of your own way. Let's make ID tags we can wear to remind us to make the godly choices God expects from someone who loves Him.

Directions:

1. Use one of the cardboard templates to trace four rectangles (tags) onto the gray paper.
2. Cut out the four tags. Round the corners using the scissors.
3. Punch a hole at one end of each tag.
4. Write **Act Justly** on the front of one tag, **Love Mercy** on the second tag, and **Walk Humbly** on the third tag. On the back of all three tags, write **With Your God**.
5. On the fourth tag, write **Micah 6:8**.
6. Decorate the tags with assorted craft supplies. You may trace the letters with a thin line of glue and cover the glue with glitter, attach ribbon or rickrack around the edges, color the tags or add jewel stickers.
7. Thread the tags onto the chain.
8. Wear your ID tags to remind you of the choices God expects you to make.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." Philippians 2:8b-11a

GAME: PASSING THE LIGHT

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster, extra large paper, tape or tacks, marker, flashlight

Prepare: Write "Jesus" in large letters and hang it as high as possible in your classroom.

Seat children in a circle. Read the Bible Memory Verse. **What did Jesus do when He humbled Himself?** (He obeyed God and died on the cross for us.) **God exalted Jesus. That means He gave Him the highest praise. He gave Him the highest place of honor—a seat on the heavenly throne. What should we do to honor our Lord Jesus?** (Bow to Him, say aloud that He is Lord, and praise His name.) **One way to honor His name is to remember His Word, the Bible. In this game, when the light is passed to you, it is your turn to shine the light on Jesus' name and say the next phrase of the Bible Memory Verse.**

Directions:

1. If possible, dim or turn off the lights. Shine the flashlight on the Bible Memory Verse poster. Lead the children in reciting the scripture together.
2. Give the flashlight to one of the children.
3. That child shines the flashlight on Jesus' name and says the first few words of the Bible Memory Verse. (Children may shine the flashlight on the Bible Memory Verse poster and read the phrase from there.) The child quickly passes the flashlight to the child on his or her right.
4. Repeat step 3 until each child has a turn holding the flashlight and reciting the next few words. You may need to repeat the passage so everyone may have a turn.

GAME: KNEEL & SAY

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Kneeling pad (small cushion or pillow), Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "At the Name of Jesus," CD player

In Isaiah 45:23, God promised that every knee would bow to Him. Then, over 700 years later, Paul wrote more about that promise in our new Bible Memory Verse. Because God is faithful to keep all His promises, we can trust that one day everyone will worship Jesus by bowing down on their knees. In this game, when the music stops, the person with the kneeling pad is to kneel on it and say the next few words of the Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Lead the children in reciting the scripture together.
3. Play and sing the Bible Memory Verse Song as children pass the kneeling pad around the circle.
4. Stop the music. The child holding the kneeling pad is to kneel on the pad and say the next few words of the verse. If the child does not know the verse, encourage others to help.
5. Start the music and play again. Play several rounds.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Create or purchase a Bible Timeline to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done. Hang your timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the questions noted below. Prophets & Promises Part 2 segment of the Bible Timeline begins circa 870 B.C.

Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) God sent Amos, a shepherd and fig farmer, to warn Israel and say, "Prepare to meet your God." God gave Amos visions and messages telling the people that God saw they would not return to Him. What did Amos' vision of God holding a plumb line show him? (God's Word is like a plumb line for our lives, showing us that we are not perfect and we need to return to God.)

Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) God gave Isaiah a vision of worship around God's throne. What creatures were praising God in that vision? (Six-winged seraphs.) How did Isaiah compare all of us to wandering sheep? (We are all like sheep who have strayed from God.) What did the great light in the darkness stand for? (The coming of Jesus.) How did God promise the Savior would come? (As a child.)

Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) God showed the prophet Micah that God was the judge with a case against the people. He warned the people they would be punished for their sins. What were the three choices God expected the people to make? (Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God.) What did God promise to do with their sin when He forgave them? (To tread on their sins and hurl them into the deep sea.)

How to create a Bible Timeline:

1. Print the story title or person's name with historical date (whenever available) on a card.
2. Before each lesson, add that new card to the Bible Timeline.
3. Attach the card to a wall or clothesline in the following order for Prophets & Promises Lessons 32-47: Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)
4. For Unit 10, add cards labeled 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-0 B.C.) and The Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.).

Teacher Tip: For a comprehensive list of stories for Genesis through Revelation in timeline form, see ResourceWell.org.