

## Taking It Home

What does being an agent for good look like today? Obviously the most important thing we have to offer the world is the good news of the Gospel that forever transforms a life and makes it whole. But we see in Micah that God not only is concerned about justice, but that he also will judge acts of injustice. He has compassion for those in poverty, those subject to famines and starvation, those subject to diseases that are easily treated in developed countries, gender inequality, racism, abuse, sex trafficking and slavery, among a list of other things. Have any of these issues ever tugged at your heart? If so, look for information about it and see how you might be able to get involved in efforts to address it. Let God make you become part of the church's answer to injustice.



### Life group lesson—Micah

Week of 2/22/15

#### Quick Review:

What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening or troubling?

#### My Story:

1. Have you ever been involved in a protest rally? Have you ever written to a Congressman or tried to change legislation? What motivated you to get involved?

## Digging deeper:

This week we looked at the prophet Micah. This book is written with prophecies of judgment alternating with prophecies of future blessing. While Micah recalls the promise to Abraham that all peoples on earth will be blessed through him, and therefore that the role of Israel and Judah should be as a source of blessing to the world, he also sees that they are hindered in that role by their continual sin, for which God will judge them. Where they should have been an agent for good, instead they were ineffective and guilty because of their sinfulness. Pastor Bob likened this to the church today. We are to be the agent for good in our world today. While it is important not to value a cause more highly than we value the gospel, it is also important that we don't go to the other extreme of living a life void of compassion and love for humanity. God cares about slavery, poverty, human trafficking, disease, clean drinking water, etc... Micah is calling Israel and Judah to lay down idols and take up mercy and justice as they walk more closely with God.

1. Micah 1 describes God's anger at the idolatry of Israel and Judah. Read Micah 2:1-3 and discuss what this idolatry led to and God's reaction to it.
2. Micah 3: 9-12 rebukes three kinds of leaders. What does this imply about God's expectations of those who are entrusted with upholding justice?
3. Read Micah 4:1-4. What does this passage reveal to us about the will of God for mankind?
4. Read Micah 5:1-5. Compare the hopelessness of Micah 5:1 with the security and peace that is described in the verses that follow. What brings about this change?
5. Micah 6:8 lists virtues that mark true spirituality. Micah 6:9-16 describes acts of injustice and God's reaction to them. Compare Israel's acts to the virtues described in 6:8 and discuss God's judgments on acts of injustice.
6. Discuss the rewards for following the Lord that are described in Micah 7:15-20.