

Belmont Exeter House Group Notes
w/c 15th October 2023
The Bible Jesus Read – Micah 6:8 – The Prophets

The Old Testament can often feel confusing and out of date but at heart it is a drama with people playing their part on the grand story of God's work in creation. The Old Testament is the scripture that Jesus read and taught. It is the scripture that all the New Testament writers relied upon. This series is based around the book by Christopher J Wright 'The Old Testament in Seven Sentences' if you would like to read a bit more background. You don't need a copy of the book for the Home Group studies.

Although each week of the sermon series is based on a single verse, it is intended as a way to discover some key themes of the overall Old Testament story. Each study will offer some longer sections to read and consider.

In this study, we're looking the books of the prophets with a focus on the prophecy of Micah. "God sends his prophets primarily to remind the Israelites of the covenant relationship that exists between them and to point out its implications. The prophets are recalling, reinforcing, explaining and applying what the people should already know on the basis of all that God has done for them and said to them in the past" (Christopher Wright, p115).

BIG IDEA: The prophets call us to live out who God has made us. We're expected to be different in everyday situations in order to make a difference.

Context: The bible is a set of books, written across 1500 years by many authors, in 3 languages (OT mainly in Hebrew with small portions of Aramaic, NT in Greek). The Bible speaks of the work of God from beginning to end. Micah is one of a group of 12 books often referred to as the minor prophets. That description is to do with the length of the writings and not their message! By the time of Micah the nation of Israel had split into a Northern (Israel) and Southern Kingdom (Judah). Micah was a prophet from Judah to Judah. He was a contemporary of Isaiah.

WAY IN:

What does the idea of prophecy / prophetic mean to you?

Or

Can you recall a time when a message / idea / instruction / challenge has made an impact on you? What happened?

Or

What part of the text or sermon had the greatest impact on you? Did you learn anything new about Jesus? The Bible? God? *This is an open question to see if there are particular themes to explore which are on the minds of the group.*

DIG IN

READ: Micah 1:1-5

1. To whom is Micah speaking and when?
2. What is the motivation for his writing? And what is the evidence for his accusations?
You can look back at 2 Kings 15:32 – 20:21 to see what was happening during the reign of these kings.

READ: Micah 2:6 - 11

3. What is the difference between a false prophet and a true one?
4. There are preachers and prophets today claiming to bring messages with God's authority. How does Micah's warning help us to discern the true from false?

READ Micah 6: 1 – 8; Micah 7:7 - 9

5. Try to summarise the word picture and the questions being put to the people.
6. Why is it that God calls His people to such radical discipleship?
Notice how this is an echo of Exodus 20:2 – first know who you are then act accordingly.
7. Are there places in Jesus teaching where you can hear the words of Micah informing Jesus kingdom agenda?
8. How does the hope of Micah 7:7- 9 equip us to live out the call of Micah 6:8? How does Jesus life, death and resurrection strengthen this hope?

LIVE IT OUT *work in pairs or triplets*

9. Taking any one of the three parts 'act justly, love mercy and walk humbly' where can you live this with greater clarity and impact this coming week?
10. Are there situations of injustice that you can address directly and indirectly? How will you do this?
11. What will remind you to walk humbly with Lord this week?

PRAYER together in the pairs

Give thanks for God's word to call us back to be His people, living His way. Pray for the 'live it out' discussions to make a difference in our communities and to demonstrate the kingdom of God to those around us.