



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 5: The Message of the Prophets

Lesson 5: God's People Are Sheep In A Pen—Micah 1-2

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Micah 1-2 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Word. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY

What do you think qualifies as a "remnant" of people who represent God?

- The word "remnant" is typically one of six Hebrew root words or a Greek word that can mean "what is left," "what remains," "survivors," "escapees," or "the rest."

What might be the purpose of God bringing His people into a holding place, symbolized by the sheep pen, before leading them out?

- Having a relationship with God shouldn't lead us to boast or feel prideful. The time he spends with us is to become contagious among others.
- "Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:10-11).

OUR STORY

Reflect on the direction of your life and the depth of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. What changes need to take place to draw you closer to God?

- If we're in an environment that we can't totally control, where our spiritual battery is being drained, then it's important that we do something to recharge our spiritual batteries.
- One of our greatest challenges is hearing the truth even when it's painful. Once we embrace it, we usually begin to experience our greatest breakthroughs.

Are you doing the simple things in your everyday life to keep your relationship with God grounded?

- If you find yourself in environments you can't control, it's likely that a part of you will become drained. It's key to do something each day to recharge yourself back to God.
- Common core spiritual disciplines include prayer, Bible reading, worship, fasting, serving and gathering with other Christians to sharpen one another spiritually.

How can you tell if your worship is sincere?

- The ability to make a choice in how we worship requires responsibility and accountability.

OTHERS' STORY

In what ways does being a sheep with God as your shepherd affect your relationship with others?

- When people hear us say we're Christians yet watch us live our lives in an ungodly way, we hurt their perception of God. When they see integrity in our lives, they will find credibility about our claim to be Christ's followers.
- There are many prejudices attached to Christianity, and it can often be difficult to share openly about your relationship with God. You may need to unearth if people around you really believe these labels or have latched onto them as a way to avoid doing any real work at understanding you.

How might you be a type of shepherd to others in your life?

- Jesus is our example of a good shepherd.
- "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:10-11).

Are there things you do that might be negatively influencing others? How comfortable are you at giving up something to better serve those around you?

- Every choice we make has a consequence. Sometimes these ripples have nothing to do with another person's journey with God, while other times it has everything to do with it.
- "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak" (1 Corinthians 8:9).

THE WORLD'S STORY

What do you sense the world's attitude toward God's authority is?

- It's difficult for a person who can't stop looking in the mirror to look up at God.

When do you see people planning evil or doing evil in the world?

- Many things people get caught up seem harmless, but it's not always the case. Certain things can leave people marked for life, often because of the ignorance they don't realize they're operating with.

What hope do you sense Jesus brings to an evil world?

- Jesus uses several metaphors to describe His impact on the world, from light shining in the darkness to the bread of life. It was as if amidst all the word pictures He was trying to say, "Think of an inner need, and I can meet it." He is the only real answer for evil, for even a penal system cannot solve the deeper issues in a person's heart.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

*LORD, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.
Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

*You turn people back to dust,
saying, "Return to dust, you mortals."
A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.
Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:
In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.*

*We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.
You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
All our days pass away under your wrath;*

*we finish our years with a moan.
Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
If only we knew the power of your anger!
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.
Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

*Relent, LORD! How long will it be?
Have compassion on your servants.
Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.
May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendor to their children.*

*May the favor of the LORD our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.*

(Psalm 90)

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Knowing God's love toward humanity can help us see the suffering in the world in a different light. Sometimes our thoughts can distract us from realizing that Christianity is not just a belief system, but a relationship between us and a living God.

Go online to a news website and begin to scroll through the stories. As you do, do your best to slow down and feel the pain of those involved in suffering. Invite God to make His presence real in your life. Begin to open yourself to see things as God see them. Pray a responsive prayer in light of your experience.

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

2 Kings 19
Acts 15

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above Scriptures. In the context of Micah 1-2, consider the following questions:

How is God calling you to be separate from the world?
How is God calling you to be a part of the world?

Consider other passages you might know related to Micah 1-2 and read them this week, journaling as you go.