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MICAH 4:6-8; 5:1-9

A FRESH START



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

The bigger the group of people, the harder it is for everyone to get along. Why? Because we all think we know best. Unfortunately, what we think is “best” is often just best for us. Our perspectives are skewed by personal experience, and what benefits one of us doesn’t always benefit everyone. We’re often better off if we agree to let one person lead the group, putting aside our personal agendas to work toward a common goal. Because human wisdom is unreliable, our only real hope of getting along for any extended period of time is to follow God’s wisdom, obeying Him and serving His purposes. When we do, we can let go of our need to compete, and our tendency to bump heads with each other disappears. Under God’s authority, we can experience the kind of peace and security we crave.



CENTRAL **truth**

When we obey God, we can experience true peace and security.



EXPLORE

scripture

MICAH 4:6-8; 5:1-9

MICAH 4:6-8

6 On that day — this is the LORD's declaration — I will assemble the lame and gather the scattered, those I have injured. **7** I will make the lame into a remnant, those far removed into a strong nation. Then the LORD will reign

over them in Mount Zion from this time on and forever. **8** And you, watchtower for the flock, fortified hill of Daughter Zion, the former rule will come to you; sovereignty will come to Daughter Jerusalem.

MICAH 5:1-6

1 Now, daughter who is under attack, you slash yourself in grief; a siege is set against us! They are striking the judge of Israel on the cheek with a rod. **2** Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times. **3** Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of the ruler's brothers will return to the people of Israel. **4** He will stand and shepherd them in the strength of the LORD, in

the majestic name of the LORD his God. They will live securely, for then his greatness will extend to the ends of the earth. **5** He will be their peace. When Assyria invades our land, when it marches against our fortresses, we will raise against it seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men. **6** They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, the land of Nimrod with a drawn blade. So he will rescue us from Assyria when it invades our land, when it marches against our territory.

MICAH 5:7-9

7 Then the remnant of Jacob will be among many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for anyone or linger for mankind. **8** Then the remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, among many peoples, like a lion among animals of the

forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which tramples and tears as it passes through, and there is no one to rescue them. **9** Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries, and all your enemies will be destroyed.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE MICAH 4:1-5

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

MICAH 4:1-5

DWELL

We live in a world filled with conflict: fear, anger, division, war, and violence. If you read or watch the news, it may feel hopeless. Will it ever end? We who trust in God know that it will—but in His timing, not ours. We know that one day, Christ will return and will rule over all nations. People from all over the world will learn from the Lord, and instead of training for war, they will turn their weapons into tools for farming. When people have disagreements, Christ will settle them all—no one will resort to violence against each other. There will be no more fear, and people around the world will enjoy peace and security.



Why did Micah mention the gods that other people follow in verse 5? Why does this matter in light of verses 1-4?



How can these verses give you hope when you feel discouraged? How can they inspire you to pray?

MEMORIZE

Add reminders to your phone, computer, or calendar to read Micah 5:2 every morning and night this week.

PRAY

Say a prayer thanking God for this hope-filled picture of Christ's future reign.

day 2

MICAH

4:6-8

DWELL

Micah went on to describe the future days of peace to give the Israelites hope in the midst of their present circumstances. Yes, God was going to judge them for their sin, but one day, He would restore their nation. He would gather up those who followed Him faithfully, and Jerusalem would once more be the center for temple worship. Micah described the city as the “watchtower for the flock,” meaning that the capital city would once again give strength and security to the whole nation.

↓ What words did Micah use to describe the remnant (the portion of Israel that God would preserve after His judgment)? What do these words teach us about them?

→ How can you turn to God for hope when life is difficult—especially if it’s difficult because of your own wrong choices?

MEMORIZE

Write Micah 5:2 on a sticky note and place it on your bathroom mirror. Read it to yourself each time you brush your teeth or wash your hands.

PRAY

Thank God that He can use even difficult times to show us His love and bring us back to Him.

day 3

MICAH

5:1-6

DWELL

Israel was going to mourn and suffer. But one day, God would bring a new leader to them out of David’s hometown of Bethlehem. Even though this town seemed to be insignificant, this leader would rule with the power and strength of God Himself and rescue them from their enemies. This passage describes none other than Jesus, the Messiah. God had made a promise to King David long ago that one day, one of David’s descendants would rule over an eternal kingdom (see 2 Sam. 7:12-14). God had not forgotten about His promise—and He still hasn’t.

↑ How do we know this passage is about Jesus? What details do you see in the verses that remind you of Him?

→ How should we live while we wait for Jesus to return? What does this look like in your life?

MEMORIZE

Pick a song you enjoy and read or sing Micah 5:2 aloud to the beat of that song. Read the verse this way throughout the week, trying to recite more of it from memory each time.

PRAY

Thank God that one day, He will send His Son again to right all the wrongs in our world and that “his greatness will extend to the ends of the earth” (v. 6).

day 4

MICAH

5:7-9

DWELL

When God restored Israel after their time of judgment, the remnant would include people from all the twelve tribes of Israel. They would be a blessing to many other nations—like the moisture of dew or rain showers—but they would also be a force to be reckoned with and would triumph over their enemies. God would completely reverse their situation. Soon, Israel's enemies would destroy them, but one day, Israel would be the one with God's strength on their side



Why do you think Micah told the people of Israel about their future restoration when God was still going to judge them first?



What are you waiting for God to restore in your own life? How can you be patient while you wait? How can you pray?

MEMORIZE

Write Micah 5:2 on the center of a sheet of paper, then add drawings or doodles around the edges that relate to the verse. Hang it somewhere you will see it every day.

PRAY

Pray that your actions and words would bless others and draw them closer to God.

day 5

COLOSSIANS

1:19-23

DWELL

As we've studied the words of God's prophets, we've learned that God judged Israel when they forgot about Him and started behaving like the nations around them. But at the right time, God sent His Son to redeem His people once and for all. Because of Jesus's sacrifice on the cross, God no longer sees us as a rebellious people. He sees believers as "holy, faultless, and blameless" (v. 22) because of Jesus's blood shed on the cross. Jesus made peace between humanity and God forever.



What does it mean that all of God's fullness dwelt in Jesus (see v. 19)?



How should we remain "grounded and steadfast" in the faith? Who can help us do this?

MEMORIZE

Write each word of Micah 5:2 on a separate note card. Shuffle the cards and try to put them in the correct order. Do this throughout the week until you can do it without checking the answer.

PRAY

Thank God that He sent His Son so that our sin would be forgiven and that our relationship with Him would be restored.