

Treat Others as You Would Like to Be Treated

TEXT: Micah 6:1-16

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Know: Micah shared God’s message for His people to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him.

Think: It matters to God how we treat others.

Do: Stop and think about how we can treat others how we would like to be treated.

APPLICATION VERSE: Micah 6:8

THEME: Practice True Religion

THE MORE YOU KNOW:

How we treat others matters to God. Before we act, we should pause to think about what Scripture says and how God wants us to treat others. We know we are to act honorably toward others. We are to show mercy to others as well. But Scripture also tells us to *love* showing mercy to others (Micah 6:8). At times, this might feel like an insurmountable task. But if we focus on who God is and how *He* treated others, we will find it easier to walk in humility (Psalm 25:9).

Jesus knows the human heart and the selfishness it so easily harbors. For this reason, He gave us what is now referred to as the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12). Jesus understands the human desire to be respected, loved, and appreciated, so He uses this as a starting point to promote godly behavior in the treatment of others.

This is a command to show love to others in a proactive way. This approach sets Christianity apart from all other world religions. In fact, Scripture even tell us to love our enemies, which is such a countercultural practice (Matthew 5:43-44). Loving others is an outward display of obedience and the mark of a true follower of God (John 13:35).

PREPARATION CHECKLIST

CONNECT

Option 1

- Large bowl or bucket
- Water
- Small rocks, marbles, or other small objects
- Towels

Option 2

- Beach ball
- Permanent marker

LEARN

- TE 2-2
- TE 2-9
- TE 2-10
- Two males to role-play Micah and the defense attorney
- Gavel

EXPLORE

- TE 2-11
- Crayons

APPLY

- TE 2-12
- TE 2-22
- Baseball or softball

RESPOND

- TE 2-1
- TE 2-1b
- Field Notes* ST-2
- Crayons

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Day 1—Micah 6:1-2

Day 2—Micah 6:3-5

Day 3—Micah 6:6-8

Day 4—Micah 6:9-12

Day 5—Micah 6:13-16

Option 1

Items Needed: Large bowl or bucket

Water

Small rocks, marbles, or any other small object that will sink in the water

Towel (in case of spills)

Before class, place a towel on the floor and place the large bowl or bucket on it. Then pour the water into the large bowl or bucket. **Have any of you ever dropped a rock or heavy object into the water? Encourage response. Do you remember what happened? Encourage response. It probably looked like circles going out from the object, which is called the ripple effect. The water around where the object was dropped also moved, and the water around it moved and so forth. Let's see how that works.** Drop a rock into the bowl or bucket to demonstrate the ripple effect. Continue to drop a rock each time you mention the right ways to treat others to help keep the students' attention. **This rock** (or whichever object you used) **reminds me of how we treat others. When we treat others the way we would like to be treated, it affects us and those around us too. For example, when you are kind to those you live with, (drop an object in the bowl or bucket) that helps keep peace at home. Someone tell a way you show kindness at your home.** Encourage response. **When you share with others** (drop an object in the water), **others will be more likely to share with you, rather than being selfish. Tell us something you have shared with others.** Call on volunteers for examples. **When you treat others with honesty and fairness, others realize you can be trusted** (drop an object in the water). **Tell about a time when you were honest and fair and how that affected that person or situation.** Encourage response.

Today we will study the Old Testament book of Micah. We will discover how God's people were not honest or right in how they treated others. Even though God treated them well and gave them good leaders and other things they didn't deserve, the people disobeyed Him. Listen carefully to see how they were affected.

Option 2

Items Needed: Beach ball

Permanent marker

Divide the students into two groups and have the group get on different sides of the room.

For the first round, have the first student in the first group toss the beach ball to the first student on the other side. Only the first student in the first group is allowed to catch it no matter where it goes. Then he or she will throw it back to the first student in the first group. Then the second student in the first group throws to the second student in the other group who, in turn, throws it back to the second student in the first group. Continue down the line.



Take Note:

Beach balls are easily available and cheap in stores with the summer season. Buy them when on sale to use throughout the year.

For the second round, add a twist to the activity. Give the ball to the students in the second group, allowing them to go first and tossing the ball to the students who were in the first group. Before the first student is allowed to throw the ball to the first student in the other group, he or she has to call out a way to treat others the way he or she would like to be treated. Give an example of this. **The first student**, (insert the first student's name), **says, "No name calling" and throws the ball to the first person in the other group** (insert the first person in that group's name). **That student repeats what was just said, "No name calling" and tosses the ball back to the first student. As you might have guessed, today's focus is on treating others like you'd like to be treated. Today we will study the Old Testament book of Micah and learn whether or not God's people were truthful and honest.**

LEARN



The Bible is God's Word.

TEACHER: The court is in session. We will hear from Micah, the prosecuting attorney first.

MICAH: I am honored to speak on behalf of what God has said against the people of Judah and Israel. It seems they have forgotten how God has been good to them. God brought them out of the slavery years in Egypt. God gave them great leaders such as Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to guide them through the wilderness. God allowed Balaam to bless them when King Balak wanted to curse them.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: What is it that God wants from His people? Will God be pleased with burnt offerings of thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil, or the firstborn in each family?

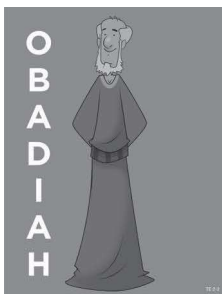
MICAH: God says He desires what He requires. It is to do justice by treating others the way they want to be treated. They should love others as they love themselves, but not to the point of neglecting their own families. They should be able to do all that they would do with God's law and not be too hard on themselves.

MICAH: They cannot blame God for their leaders or country's problems. There are leaders that lead us into sin and they are the ones who are the cause of our problems. It is not God's fault that we are in sin. We are the ones who are the cause of our problems. We are the ones who are the cause of our problems.

MICAH: People of God's law, they have defiled the name with lies and sin. They have defiled the name with lies and sin. They have defiled the name with lies and sin. They have defiled the name with lies and sin.

TEACHER: The court is in session. Micah has spoken for God and the matter is settled. We thank the jury for listening, but back to the judge giving them the law.

TE 2-10



TE 2-2



TE 2-9

Items Needed: TE 2-2

TE 2-9—TE 2-10

Two males to role-play Micah and the defense attorney

Gavel (optional)

Before class, copy TE 2-10 and give to the two males who will be role-playing Micah and the defense attorney to study. Display TE 2-2. **Last week, we learned from the book of Obadiah and how God spoke against the enemies of His people, the Edomites. God judged them severely because of the way they mistreated His children. Display TE 2-9. This week we will learn the message God gave the prophet Micah and how we can apply it to our lives. Throughout the book of Micah, God judged His own people for their sin. It is almost as if Micah wrote chapter six from a courtroom setting. Let's welcome two men who will be role-playing Micah and the defense attorney.**

If you have a gavel, use it to signal the start of the session in court.

TEACHER: *The court is in session. We will hear from Micah, the prosecuting attorney first.*

Allow the two men to role-play the drama for the students.

MICAH: *I am honored to speak on behalf of what God has said against the people of Judah and Israel. It seems they have forgotten how God has been good to them. God brought them out of the slavery years in Egypt. God gave them great leaders such as Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to guide them through the wilderness. God allowed Balaam to bless them when King Balak wanted to curse them.*

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: *What is it that God wants from His people? Will God be pleased with burnt offerings of thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil, or the firstborn in each family?*

MICAH: *God's people know what He requires. He wants them to treat others the way they want to be treated. They should love*

Notes

mercy, show mercy, and love to show mercy to others. God wants them to walk humbly which they should be able to do if they would remember who God is and how He has treated them so well!

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: *Please tell the court who has brought on this trouble to God's people.*

MICAH: *They cannot blame God for their trouble or coming judgment. Their sin caused their trouble. God saw their dishonesty, cheating, and violence. Is this how they want to be treated?*

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: *Is this all God's people are accused of?*

MICAH: *Even though God has been so good to them, they have dishonored His name in how they treat others and worship other gods.*

DEFENSE ATTORNEY: *Wait a minute! It was King Ahab who had idols, so they did what the king and his family did. They followed them in the worship of idols.*

MICAH: *God declares His people guilty, and judgment will come.*

Use the gavel to signal the end of the court session.

TEACHER: *The court is no longer in session. Micah has spoken for God, and the matter is settled. We thank the jury for listening, but God is the judge giving Him the final say.*

Have the students thank the two people for participating in the drama.

EXPLORE

Items Needed: TE 2-11
Crayons

Before class, copy TE 2-11 so each student will have one. **We know very little about the prophet Micah except he was from the town of Moresheth, which was about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem. He was a prophet during the reign of Kings Ahab, Jotham, and Hezekiah (Micah 1:1).**

Distribute TE 2-11 and crayons and allow the students to color the letter *M* and the picture of Micah.

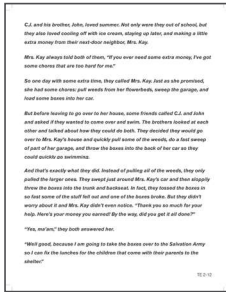


TE 2-11

APPLY

Items Needed: TE 2-12
TE 2-22
Baseball or softball

Notes



TE 2-12



TE 2-22



TE 2-1



TE 2-1b

As mentioned in last week's lesson, each week will have a relatable story to coincide with the lesson. **Listen to this story of some choices two brothers made.** Read the story from TE 2-12.

What is the problem with what C.J. and John did? Encourage response. **How do you think their choices could affect their relationship with Mrs. Kay?** Encourage response. **Who else might it have affected besides Mrs. Kay?** Encourage response.

Read or choose a student to read Luke 6:31 aloud. **What does God say about treating others the way we would like to be treated?** Encourage response. **Jesus told His followers to treat others like they would want to be treated. What are some choices C.J. and John could have made that would have changed the outcome?** Encourage response.

Read or choose a student to read Luke 6:38 aloud. **Jesus taught His followers you can never give too much to God. Many people think this verse refers to money (you can't out-give God), but in looking at the verses before and after this, it can also mean blessings, love, and other good things. Notice the ending of the verse when Jesus said the measure you use, will be measured back to you. That is similar to what Jesus said in a few verses before that in Luke 6:31. What are some ways C.J. and John could have showed a giving spirit to Mrs. Kay the way they would want to receive it back?** Encourage response.

Last week we discussed what the beginning words of Micah 6:8 meant. These commands were not suggestions, but they were requirements from God. Display TE 2-22 and review the application verse with the students by saying it together. **Let's focus on the first requirement. What does it mean to do justly or do justice?** Encourage response. **It means to treat others fairly or as we have been learned today—to treat others as you would like to be treated.** Say the verse together two or more times as a review. Then divide the class into two teams and consider allowing the students to name their team. Do a simple coin toss to see who starts the game. You will always hold onto the baseball and just point it in the direction of the team who won the coin toss to say the first word of the application verse. Then use the baseball to point to the other team to say the second word. Continue going back and forth until the verse (including the reference) has been said. Allow the students to refer to TE 2-22 as a guide. Repeat the activity allowing the second team to go first this time.

RESPOND

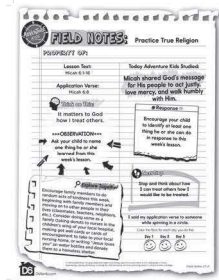
- Items Needed:** TE 2-1
 TE 2-1b
 Field Notes ST-2
 Crayons

Before class, copy *Field Notes* ST-2 so each student will have one. Display TE 2-1 and add TE 2-1b to it. **This week you learned to *treat others as you would like to be treated*. How we treat others matters to God. We've learned from Micah 6 how God's people were found**

guilty of *not* doing what God required. They wrongly treated each other with lies, cheating, and violence and God judged them for their sin. We've looked at how C.J. and John wronged Mrs. Kay by not only cheating her by doing only half the job, but they also lied to her that they had finished doing all she had asked and paid them to do. God saw the actions of His people and He sees our actions. If you are not sure about how to treat others in a particular situation, **stop and think** about how you would want to be treated. Have the students make a stopping sign with their hand when saying the word *stop*, and then point to their heads when saying the word *think*. Say the phrase several times while doing the motions. Distribute *Field Notes* ST-2 and crayons to the students. Allow them to color the stop sign and the thought bubble. **What are some ways you like to be treated and how can we use those ways to treat others?** Encourage response. **For example, if you like it when others listen to you, we can remember to be a good listener to others.** Allow time for the students to share different ways and discuss how to treat others in that way. Then have students refer to the *Next Step* section on their *Field Notes*. **Your Next Step is to stop and think about how you can treat others how you would like to be treated.**



Field Notes ST-2



Field Notes ST-2



Are you making a *Home Connection* with your kids? *Home Connection* is a FREE download that gives parents a simple way to practice faith at home by providing:

- A weekly Bible passage to **read** together as a family
- Suggestions to help you **pray** together as a family
- Suggested activities to **do** as a family to put your faith in action

It's a great tool for parents who want to pass their faith on to their children!

Also, if your church uses D6 Curriculum, *Home Connection* will let you know exactly what each member of the family is learning in small group, Life group, or Sunday School each week. Try it this week by downloading it at: www.D6home.com.