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# MAY 2009 TEACHING PLANS

## THE PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH AND MICAH

### LASTING TRUTH

Life as a prophet must have been pretty rough at times. Often people didn’t want to hear what they had to say — and the rest of the time? No one believed them. Such were the lives of Isaiah and Micah, messengers of God, who spoke both difficult and life-saving truth to the people of Israel and Judah. And much of the truth they spoke of is still being revealed today.

### WHAT’S INSIDE . . .

The goal of the *Collegiate* online features is to bring you a structured teaching plan with additional helps and relevant questions to equip you to lead a strong discussion-based lesson. Here’s a breakdown of what’s inside: *Getting Started* helps introduce the topic and get your students engaged in the lesson. *Need to Knows* highlights the main characters, historical context, and key verses of each lesson. *Explore the Bible* leads your students through the Scripture passages of the lesson, helping them understand the text, its historical and cultural context, and what it means to them today. *Apply to Life* gives you ideas for furthering the application of the Scripture, so students can take active steps to process what they’re learning and how it impacts their lives. Be sure you also utilize the commentary provided ([threadsmedia.com/collegiate](http://threadsmedia.com/collegiate)) to help with your preparation and personal study of the lessons.

As always, we’re here for you. Please e-mail us your questions, thoughts, and suggestions, or drop us a line at the *Collegiate* blog at [threadsmedia.com/collegiate](http://threadsmedia.com/collegiate), a place where we can communicate with each other about what’s going on, what’s coming up, and how we can better serve the college students around you. Let us know what we could do better and how these teaching plans could be even more relevant to your students and your ministry.

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## → THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 42 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONGS "ALL WHO ARE THIRSTY" BY KUTLESS, FROM THE ALBUM *STRONG TOWER*, AND "HUNGRY" BY JEREMY CAMP, FROM THE ALBUM *RESTORED TO PLAY* FOR THE CLASS AS THEY ARRIVE.

## NEED TO KNOWS

### LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about the Lord's inclusive invitation to receive His forgiveness. The emphasis is on the Lord's promise to satisfy the spiritual hunger of those who seek Him.

### FOCAL PASSAGES

ISAIAH 55:1-13

### KEY VERSES

ISAIAH 55:6-7



## ONLY GOD SATISFIES SPIRITUAL HUNGER

### GETTING STARTED

Have the song "All Who Are Thirsty" by Kutless playing in the background as students arrive.

If possible, make and/or bring something to eat to your Bible study, like donuts, brownies, or pizza — anything that will provide a nice aroma as people are entering.

Ask students as you get started:

- Are you hungry? When you're really hungry, what do you crave?
- What's your favorite junk food?
- How would you feel if that was all you could eat?

Bring out the snacks and begin to chow down.

- What are some other things besides food that people have an appetite for? (acceptance, not feeling alone, love, power, peace, meaning, pleasure, money)
- How do people try to fill these appetites?
- How are these things helpful or harmful to us?
- Would you say you typically live off junk food or healthy food? How does that compare with your spiritual food?

Today, God is using this picture of hunger and thirst to relate to our spiritual lives. God desires for us to find true satisfaction in Him, just as we're physically satisfied with food and drink. We will explore God's design for His people to find ultimate satisfaction in Him.

### Alternative:

Consider the following:

1. "I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" by the Rolling Stones
  2. "Obey Your Thirst!" Sprite slogan (Play a commercial from YouTube if possible.)
  3. "Pamper yourself. You deserve it." (advertising catch phrase)
  4. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they will be filled." (Jesus, Matthew 5:6)
- What are the similarities and differences in the above statements?
  - What is the inherent focus of each? What do they teach in regard to satisfaction?
  - Which one could be your motto these days?

### DIG DEEPER

Have a student read John 4:1-30 in his or her Bible, and then read the brief insight into this passage on page 42 of *Collegiate*.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the lesson on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

## 1). AWESOME BARGAIN (ISAIAH 55:1-5)

### READ ISAIAH 55:1-5.

<sup>1</sup>Come, everyone who is thirsty, come to the waters; and you without money, come, buy, and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost! <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend money on what is not food, and your wages on what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and you will enjoy the choicest of foods. <sup>3</sup>Pay attention and come to Me; listen, so that you will live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the promises assured to David. <sup>4</sup>Since I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples, <sup>5</sup>so you will summon a nation you do not know, and nations who do not know you will run to you. For the LORD your God, even the Holy One of Israel, has glorified you.”

Have someone read “Awesome Bargain” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What’s the significance of the “Awesome Bargain” title over this section of Scripture?
- How does verse 2 strike you?
- Put verse 2 into modern language: The Lord asks the question, “Why do you spend money on what is not food, and your wages on what does not satisfy?”
- Why might God have chosen bread as the example of that which satisfies?
- What are some things we work really hard for that don’t really satisfy?
- How does seeking after things that continually let you down make you jaded?

There is some foreshadowing here of people outside of Israel coming to faith (v. 5). This is a beautiful picture of redemption for those of us who get to experience God’s “Splendor” who are not of Israel.

- What do these few verses speak to in regard to our satisfaction?

## 2). AMAZING GRACE (ISAIAH 55:6-7)

### READ ISAIAH 55:6-7.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while He may be found; call to Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup>Let the wicked one abandon his way, and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, so He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will freely forgive.

Have someone read “Amazing Grace” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- What do these verses call us to do?
- In light of verses 6-7, would you say you have been seeking the Lord or hiding from Him this week?
- Why do you believe there are limits and what are they? (For example, we are limited by time and our finite existence and unlimited distractions. Also, we are often faced with a fork in the road; we may have missed a previous opportunity but that doesn’t mean we’ve missed the only opportunity.)
- What are the barriers to people choosing to follow Christ? How can you help your friends move beyond these barriers?
- Notice that the Lord invites everyone to receive freely His forgiveness and grace by repenting of their sins and turning to Him in faith. What has God’s grace meant in your life?

## 3). ASTONISHING POWER (ISAIAH 55:8-11)

### READ ISAIAH 55:8-11.

<sup>8</sup>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways.” This is the LORD’s declaration. <sup>9</sup>“For as heaven is higher than earth, so My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup>For just as rain and snow fall from heaven, and do not return there without saturating the earth, and making it germinate and sprout, and providing seed to sow and food to eat, <sup>11</sup>so My word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and will prosper in what I send it to do.”

Have someone read “Astonishing Power” on page 42 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- There are many things of God beyond our human understanding. As a group, list a few.
- Why did God make it clear here that He is God and His wisdom and understanding is beyond ours? (It must have been surprising for Israelites to hear that salvation would be given to all — even the “wicked” and the “nation you do not know.”)
- Do you feel like you need to understand God on an intellectual level before you can embrace Him on an emotional level? How does faith play into your intellectual understanding of God?
- Notice the comparison between rain and the Word of God. What was the importance of rain for Isaiah’s time? (necessary for life, difference between life and death) How does this give us a picture of God’s Word?
- What does it mean that His Word does not come back to Him empty?





## → THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 43 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "WE ARE BROKEN" BY PARAMORE, FROM THE ALBUM *RIOT!*, TO PLAY FOR THE CLASS AS THEY ARRIVE.

## NEED TO KNOWS

### LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about judgment the Lord pronounced on the Northern and Southern Kingdoms for their rebellion against Him. The emphasis is on the inevitable destructive results that come from rebelling against the Lord.

### FOCAL PASSAGES

MICAH 1:1-9; 2:1-4

### KEY VERSE

MICAH 1:2



## HOW DO I SUBMIT TO GOD'S RULE?

### GETTING STARTED

Have the song "We are Broken" by Paramore playing in the background as students arrive.

Show the clip from *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* of Edmund telling the White Witch about his brother and sisters.

- Discuss the reasons why the group thinks Edmund was giving her the information.
- Discuss some of the things Edmund gained because of this and some of the things he lost.
- How is this similar to the way the enemy works in our lives? (promises us one thing but gives us something else)
- It didn't take Edward long to realize his rebellion had serious consequences. Can you relate to this feeling? Describe some of the emotions that moment of recognition conjures up.

### Alternative 1:

Rebelling has consequences, and from time to time everyone disobeys, even just a little bit. Think about a time when you intentionally defied or resisted the instruction of someone else — a parent, a teacher, a friend — maybe while you were in high school or even since you've been in college. Try to stay away from simple conflicts, like jumping on the bed or not eating your veggies as a child. Consider things like going out with someone your friends didn't approve of, ignoring the rules you and your roommate established to

keep the peace, lying to your parents about the money you spent on their credit card, or going 10 miles over the speed limit and getting your first ticket. Break into small groups and discuss:

- When you rebelled, why did you do it, and what was the consequence?

Come back together as a group to share some rules people had and how they felt about them. Take students' suggestions and ask the group to share.

- Why were these guidelines in place?
- What made them so important?
- What would they do (or what would happen) if those rules were broken?
- What's the significance of a consequence?

### DIG DEEPER

Refer to the "Dig Deeper" section on page 43 of *Collegiate* magazine for definitions of "rebellion" and "sin" that relate to this lesson.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the lesson on page 43 of *Collegiate* magazine.

## 1). REVELATION FROM GOD (MICAH 1:1)

### READ MICAH 1:1.

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD that came to Micah the Moreshite—what he saw regarding Samaria and Jerusalem in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Have someone read “Revelation from God” on page 43 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- God gave Micah messages pertaining to the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. Why do you think God chose Micah to reveal this message?
- What role do you think Micah will play in this chapter?
- What is required of us to allow us to hear God’s Word?
- What does God require of us after we hear His Word?
- What happens when we disobey?
- Think about something God is asking you to do right now. How have you been responding?

Remember that when God reveals things to us He requires us to take that revelation and do something about it, to take action. If we don’t take action, then we may miss out on His blessings and perhaps even suffer the consequences. Choosing to do nothing (or pretending like you didn’t hear Him) is considered disobedience.

## 2). RESPONSE TO REBELLION (MICAH 1:2-5)

### READ MICAH 1:2-5.

<sup>2</sup>Listen, all you peoples; pay attention, earth and everyone in it! The Lord GOD will be a witness against you, the Lord, from His holy temple. <sup>3</sup>Look, the LORD is leaving His place and coming down to trample the heights of the earth. <sup>4</sup>The mountains will melt beneath Him, and the valleys will split apart, like wax near a fire, like water cascading down a mountainside. <sup>5</sup>All this will happen because of Jacob’s rebellion and the sins of the house of Israel. What is the rebellion of Jacob? Isn’t it Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Isn’t it Jerusalem?

Have someone read “Response to Rebellion” on page 43 of *Collegiate* magazine.

It’s unwise to consider all contemporary natural or military disasters as judgments of God; however, Micah 1:4 has some interesting imagery in it. Some would say that it’s literal. Others would say it’s illustrative of the invincible Assyrian armies, and others would say it’s descriptive of human impotence in the face of God’s judgment.

- What are your thoughts about this verse?

Samaria and Jerusalem were the capitals of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms respectively and were a representation of their nations.

- Why is God judging these nations?
- Were God’s actions justified? Why or why not? (Emphasize that the Lord warned He would respond to His people’s rebellion with devastating judgment.)

## 3). RESULTS OF REBELLION (MICAH 1:6-9)

### READ MICAH 1:6-9.

<sup>6</sup>Therefore, I will make Samaria a heap of ruins in the countryside, a planting area for a vineyard. I will roll her stones into the valley and expose her foundations. <sup>7</sup>All her carved images will be smashed to pieces, all her wages will be burned in the fire, and I will destroy all her idols. Since she collected the wages of a prostitute, they will be used again for a prostitute.

<sup>8</sup>Because of this I will lament and wail; I will walk barefoot and naked. I will howl like the jackals and mourn like ostriches. <sup>9</sup>For her wound is incurable and has reached even Judah; it has approached the gate of my people, as far as Jerusalem.

Have someone read “Results of Rebellion” on page 43 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- These verses describe the total destruction of Samaria for its rebellion and corruptive influence on Judah. Does God still judge today?
- How is His judgment different from what we see here? How is it similar?
- How does Jesus’ atonement on the cross affect how God judges us?

Think about the Prodigal Son who squandered all of his father’s money. Consider the people you know whose defiant actions have caused hard circumstances for them to deal with. While decisions seem careless, hidden, and even fun in the moment, rebellion against God eventually will come to the surface.





## → THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 44 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "GOD OF ALL GLORY" BY JEREMY RIDDLE, FROM THE ALBUM *FULL ATTENTION*, TO PLAY FOR THE CLASS AS THEY ARRIVE.

## NEED TO KNOWS

### LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about the Lord's condemnation of corrupt leaders, priests, and prophets. The emphasis is on fulfilling God-given responsibilities in a godly manner.

### FOCAL PASSAGES

MICAH 3:1-2,5-7,9-12

### KEY VERSE

MICAH 3:11



## LIVING A LIFE PLEASING TO GOD

### GETTING STARTED

Have the song "God of All Glory" by Jeremy Riddle playing in the background as students arrive.

- When you hear the term "corrupt leaders," who comes to mind and why?
- Out of your list, which of these are spiritual leaders?

Martin Luther was a catholic priest who began to speak out against corruption within the church. Some within the church were asking for money to pray their friends and family out of "purgatory." This theology took advantage of people and made the church leaders rich.

- How does this kind of stuff affect how outsiders see the church?
- How do you respond to this kind of corruption?
- How do you think God responds to such corruption by "leaders" of the faith?

**Alternative:** In the movie *Family Man* with Nicholas Cage, the main character has an opportunity to get a "glimpse" of what life would be like had he made different choices. Ask someone who has seen the movie to recount the choice he made and where it led him, alongside what choice he could have made and the life it could have led him to.

- What principle does this movie appear to be teaching? (Relationships are more valuable than power, money, success, stuff ...)
- What kinds of things keep us from recognizing this principle (or at least distract us from it)?
- How do we combat our culture's insistence on pursuing power, money, and success for happiness and satisfaction?
- As believers, we understand that Scripture points us to more — much more — in life than these things, specifically to finding satisfaction in our relationships with Jesus and others. How do we combat our own desires to pursue stuff over Jesus?

### DIG DEEPER

Refer to the "Dig Deeper" section on page 44 of *Collegiate* magazine for ideas on getting involved that relate to this lesson.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the lesson on page 44 of *Collegiate* magazine.

## 1). ACT ON WHAT YOU KNOW (MICAH 3:1-2)

### READ MICAH 3:1-2.

<sup>1</sup>Then I said: “Now listen, leaders of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel. Aren’t you supposed to know what is just? <sup>2</sup>You hate good and love evil. You tear off the skin of people and strip their flesh from their bones.

Have someone read “Act on What You Know” on page 44 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- Who is God angry with and what is their crime?
- What picture is being painted of their deceit?

As believers, we all function in some way as leaders. We set examples for our friends, family, and those in our circle of influence. You may not have a title, but you still have influence — whether you choose to use it as good or bad.

- How do you feel responsible for what you know?
- How does having a more formal position or title in the area of spiritual leadership enhance our influence and our responsibility?
- The Lord rebuked these leaders for perverting their power and exploiting the people. What does this teach us about God?
- Even as “just a believer,” Christ has called you to act against the injustices in the world. What are some things you can do on your campus, in your community, and across the country?

## 2). AVOID MATERIALISM (MICAH 3:5-7)

### READ MICAH 3:5-7.

<sup>5</sup>This is what the LORD says concerning the prophets

*who lead my people astray, who proclaim peace when they have food to sink their teeth into but declare war against the one who puts nothing in their mouths. <sup>6</sup>Therefore, it will be night for you—without visions; it will grow dark for you—without divination. The sun will set on these prophets, and the daylight will turn black over them. <sup>7</sup>Then the seers will be ashamed and the diviners disappointed. They will all cover their mouths because there will be no answer from God.*

Have someone read “Avoid Materialism” on page 44 of *Collegiate* magazine.

In this passage, the spiritual leaders were “prophesying” based on what they were given by people and not what they were shown by the Lord. They promised peace when given food, and war when they weren’t. They used their power to become prosperous.

- What are some other possible examples of this — both inside and outside the church?
- In 1985, Madonna sang about living in a material world. What evidences that these words are true?
- How do you see this lived out even among “poor” college students?
- Why do people choose certain majors over others and how does that point us to this “material mentality”?
- How do falsehood and flattery play into achieving prosperity?
- How can we as the church promote real change?

## 3). AFFIRM ACCOUNTABILITY (MICAH 3:9-12)

### READ MICAH 3:9-12.

<sup>9</sup>Listen to this, leaders of the house of Jacob, you rulers of the house of Israel, who abhor justice and pervert everything that is right, <sup>10</sup>who build Zion

*with bloodshed and Jerusalem with injustice. <sup>11</sup>Her leaders issue rulings for a bribe, her priests teach for payment, and her prophets practice divination for money. Yet they lean on the LORD, saying, “Isn’t the LORD among us? No calamity will overtake us.” <sup>12</sup>Therefore, because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become ruins, and the hill of the temple mount will be a thicket.*

Have someone read “Affirm Accountability” on page 44 of *Collegiate* magazine.

- We see in verse 8 a purpose statement of Micah. What is it and how does that contrast with the so-called prophets around him?
- In these verses we see clearly God’s judgment for the leaders’ falsehood. What is ironic about the attitude of the false prophets? (They seem to believe God is on their side and will protect them despite their lies.)

It appears that part of the problem was that the cultural acceptance of what they were doing led them to believe it was OK in God’s eyes.

- Does this still happen today? Give some examples.
- There are many things that our culture deems OK that God would not accept. How do you wade through the gray to discover truth?
- How do we stay on the narrow path despite cultural norms pushing us away from it? (Stay rooted in the Word, find accountability)
- Do you have someone you are currently being accountable to? If not, who is someone you would trust and respect to talk to you about the things you want to be held accountable to?



## → THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 45 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "OUR HOPE ENDURES" BY NATALIE GRANT, FROM THE ALBUM *RELENTLESS*, TO PLAY FOR THE CLASS AS THEY ARRIVE.

## NEED TO KNOWS

### LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is primarily about the future messianic kingdom. The emphasis is on the bright future God's Word promises to believers.

### FOCAL PASSAGES

MICAH 4:1-4; 5:1-4

### KEY VERSE

MICAH 5:2

## HOPE IN ETERNITY WITH GOD

### GETTING STARTED

Have the song "Our Hope Endures" by Natalie Grant playing in the background as students arrive.

There is an 80s song by the band Timbuk3 that's called "The Future's So Bright, I Gotta Wear Shades."

- When you think about the future being bright, what would that look like?
- Do you feel your future is this bright?
- How would your friends view the future if it were this bright (how would they describe what that would look like?)
- How does that picture contrast with how you might think God views one's future being bright?

\*Teachers, you might want to write on the board the three categories — what it looks like to you for the future to be bright, to your friends, and to God as you are answering the above questions so that you can contrast the three.



### Alternative:

- Has anyone here read the book *The Shack*?
- In this book, the main character, Mack, experiences what he calls the "great sadness." He suffers great loss, and then struggles with turning inward. How do you find yourself responding to your own "great sadness"?
- How does difficulty affect your relationship with God?
- How does God offer you hope for a bright future even in the midst of dark times?

### DIG DEEPER

Refer to the "Dig Deeper" section on page 45 of *Collegiate* magazine for an alternative video intro idea for this lesson.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have someone read the introduction to the lesson in the *Collegiate* magazine guide, page 45.

## 1). SEEKING GOD'S PATHS (MICAH 4:1-2)

### READ MICAH 4:1-2.

<sup>1</sup>In the last days the mountain of the LORD's house will be established at the top of the mountains and will be raised above the hills. Peoples will stream to it, <sup>2</sup>and many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us about His ways so we may walk in His paths." For instruction will go out of Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Have someone read "Seeking God's Paths" in the *Collegiate* magazine on page 45.

Earlier in Micah (3:12), the Lord's judgment was declared for Jerusalem. This passage looks beyond that to His restoration of the city.

- What are some of the descriptions here of this time of restoration?
- Who will come in these last days to "... walk in His paths"?
- What's the significance of people from many nations going to the city of Zion?
- How does God's restoration of the Holy City speak to us in times of our own need for restoration?

## 2). ENJOYING SECURITY (MICAH 4:3-4)

### READ MICAH 4:3-4.

<sup>3</sup>He will settle disputes among many peoples and provide arbitration for strong nations that are far away. They will beat their swords into plows, and their spears into pruning knives. Nation will not take

*up the sword against nation, and they will never again train for war. <sup>4</sup>But each man will sit under his grapevine and under his fig tree with no one to frighten him. For the mouth of the LORD of Hosts has promised this.*

Have someone read "Enjoying Security" in the *Collegiate* magazine on page 45.

- What was the source of security for people in this time that could not actually bring security?
- What would you say people today in the 21st century cling to for security?
- How does the pursuit of the "American Dream" impact people's security or lack thereof?
- What is the picture of security that you see God bringing here?

## 3). ACCEPTING CONSEQUENCES (MICAH 5:1)

### READ MICAH 5:1.

*<sup>1</sup>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.*

Have someone read "Accepting Consequences" in the *Collegiate* magazine on page 45.

Read Micah 4:9-13 to place this verse in context. God is revealing to Israel their future exile in Babylon and their redemption. Here in 5:1 there is a recognition of sin's consequences as we see Micah speak of a siege laid against 'us.'

- How do we see Israel's choices playing out here?
- What are some of the consequences of people's choices to not listen to and walk with God?

- How does accepting the consequences for our actions contribute to our own spiritual journeys?
- Have you ever had to accept the consequences for someone else's mistake? How did you deal with it?
- How does the prophecy in verses 4:9–5:1 give us hope in light of our own discipline?

## 4). HOLDING TO A BRIGHT PROMISE (MICAH 5:2-4)

### READ MICAH 5:2-4.

*<sup>2</sup>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 eternity. <sup>3</sup>Therefore, He will abandon them until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers will return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd them in the strength of Yahweh, in the majestic name of Yahweh His God. They will live securely, for then His greatness will extend to the ends of the earth.*

Have someone read "Holding to a Bright Promise" in the *Collegiate* magazine on page 45.

- When have you seen despair give birth to hope?
- Why do you think God uses this picture in describing both the future discipline of His children and the beauty of their restoration?
- The Lord promises a shepherd would come out of Bethlehem who would make things right for His people. What is the significance of this prophecy in light of what we know about the Messiah?



## → THIS WEEK YOU'LL NEED

- A COPY OF THIS LEADER GUIDE
- THIS WEEK'S LESSON IS ON PAGE 46 OF THE SPRING ISSUE OF *COLLEGIATE*.
- THE SONG "THE RIVER" BY MEREDITH ANDREWS, FROM THE ALBUM *THE INVITATION*, TO PLAY FOR THE CLASS AS THEY ARRIVE.

## NEED TO KNOWS

### LESSON OVERVIEW

This lesson is about Micah's description of the sinful society in which he lived, his commitment to the Lord, and his confidence in Him. The emphasis is on living faithfully in the midst of a godless and immoral society. The lesson encourages adults to commit to living for the Lord.

### FOCAL PASSAGES

MICAH 7:1-7,18-20

### KEY VERSE

MICAH 7:7



## PERSEVERING IN LIVING FOR GOD

### GETTING STARTED

Have the song "The River" by Meredith Andrews playing in the background as students arrive.

On a dry erase board create a column titled "Culture" on one side of the board and "Christian Culture" on the other. Brainstorm and write down on each side of the page characteristics, activities, attitudes, and life choices that define or describe each.

- What are some of the similarities and differences from these two cultures?
- Circle the parts of the different cultures that make the other uncomfortable.
- What are some of the parts of culture that you personally struggle with?
- How do you deal with those things in light of walking with Jesus and caring about people like He did?

Today we will discuss how we can persevere in living for the Lord while being surrounded by distractions and, at times, even opposition.

### Alternative:

- If you were to give a state of the union address regarding the moral climate in the U.S., what would you say best measures our morality? What are some of the key factors that lead you to your conclusion? (It might be good to write some of these things down on a dry erase board.)
- Of these factors which ones are the most discouraging to you?
- Which of these issues impact you and your spiritual life the most? How?
- What are some of the key principles or actions that help you counter and stand up under the temptation of these factors?

Today we'll be discussing Micah's response to his own country's moral struggles.

### DIG DEEPER

Refer to the "Dig Deeper" section on page 46 of *Collegiate* magazine for suggestions on verses related to perseverance.



