

Home Groups Questions

October 2, 2011

What Does God Want? Micah 6:1-8

Leaders: The questions below are inspired by Sunday morning's sermon. Please take time to review the questions and use them as a tool for discussion in your Home Group. It may be that we have provided more questions than you will have time to answer. If this is the case, please adjust or adapt the questions to fit your group.

Icebreakers/ Conversation Starters – These are random questions designed to create community and encourage conversation.

1. What did you want to be when you grew up? If you didn't end up following that dream, what changed your mind?
2. What is/was your favorite law show or movie? –OR – Who is your all time favorite television or movie lawyer? (Perry Mason, Matlock, Law & Order, etc.)
3. Have you ever sat on a jury? If so, what was the experience like and what did you learn? If not, would you like to serve or would you prefer not to be called?

Turn to Micah 6:1-8 and read it.

What stands out most to you about the passage or message from this morning?

I. What Does God Want from Israel?

Micah 6:1-5 “ Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

- 1) The setting of this passages is a trial and the Lord is bringing a case against the people of Israel. Are the hills and mountains (the everlasting foundations of the earth) the proper ones to sit in the jury box in this case? Why or why not?
- 2) In verses 3-5, the Lord offers a few examples of how he has not been a burden, but has been a blessing to his people.

- a) The first example is that of redemption. God brought them out of Egypt, redeemed them, and sent them leaders. Where have you seen evidence of God's hand in your own personal faith journey? Are there circumstances or people that God placed in your life or in the life of your family that have helped you experience his love and grace?
 - b) The second example is of Balak and Balaam (Num 22–24). It is an example of God's desire to bless his people instead of curse them. Describe some of God's blessings in your life. How are these evidence of God's grace?
 - c) The third example is of the crossing of Jordan river (Josh 2–4). It is a reminder that God keeps his promises! What are some of God's promises that you hold on to?
- 3) If the Lord were to bring a case against us (Americans), what would be his charges? What evidence could he point to as examples of how he has blessed our nation?

II. What Does God Want from Us?

Micah 6:6-8 - "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

- 1) The response of the people to the charges quickly escalates. It might be reasonable to assume God would welcome sacrifices, but God is not asking for thousands of rivers of oil nor the firstborn. Why would God's requirements or expectations ever seem unfair or unrealistic?

Walk Humbly

- How does remembering God's grace and the abundance of his blessings help us to walk in humility?

Love Kindness

- On a scale of 1 to 10, how good are you at loving kindness? And, who is it hardest for you to show kindness towards?

Do Justice

- Has the American church lost its voice in issues regarding justice? Why or why not?
- In what areas of our society or the world could believers be more active in “doing justice”?
- How could this home group be more active in praying for, participating in, and supporting justice issues around the world?

2) In what ways did Jesus model these 3 areas?

Prayer Time

Calendar:

October 9 – Home Groups
October 16 – Home Groups
October 23 – Home Groups (SCHEDULE CHANGE)
October 30 – Evening Worship Service (SCHEDULE CHANGE)
November 6 – Home Groups
November 13 – Home Groups
November 20 – Harvest Dinner