

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 33

Micah

Objects to have:

The sign for the new book: MICAH

Hope for the Future

A chisel and a hammer

Chalk and chalkboard

Pictures of some idols

Something to represent an offering to idols: some flowers, fruit, a toy animal, etc.

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Review with the children the books of the Bible learned thus far. If you have a chart with the names of the books of the Bible on it, it would be a good review for the children to pick out those names that are the same as men's names. Stress again with the children that men wrote down the words that are in the Bible, but that God the Holy Spirit told the men the words to write down.)

The book of the Bible for today is called Micah. Micah was the name of a man.

Telling the story:

When Micah was a little boy, he probably wondered, just as you wonder, what he was supposed to be when he grew up. Micah told God he would be whatever God wanted him to be. One day God told Micah what He wanted him to do; He wanted him to preach. Micah was supposed to be a preacher. Micah obeyed God and became a preacher.

People went to church when it was time. They sat down in the church building. The church service began. When it was time, Micah stood up to preach. The people listened to Micah preach. Micah said, "People, listen to me. Mothers, daddies, boys and girls, hear what I have to say. King, you listen, too. Princes, you listen, too. All the leaders in the country, you listen to me. There is wickedness in the land. God sees the wickedness."

"You have built bad places on top of hills. Noises of wrongdoings have been coming from the tops of those places. First of all there have been the noises of hammers hitting chisels" (demonstrate with your hammer and chisel) "as you have made something out of stone. The thing that you were making was not a good thing. You were making something that would take you away from God. You were making a statue," Micah preached, "and this statue was an idol." (Hold up your pictures of idols.) "You did not stop with one idol; you made many. Now think of what you have been doing," Micah preached. "You have been going to these idols and bowing down and praying to them. You have been acting as if there is no true, living God. Instead of taking the sacrifices to the temple of God" (pick up the objects which you have brought and pretend to lay them before an idol), "you have been taking sacrifices and offerings to the idols. Idols cannot see you, they cannot hear you, they cannot help you."

Micah said to his people, "You are doing wrong in having these idols. Please do not sin any more. Break down the idols. Turn back to God."

The people heard Micah. The church service ended, and the people went home. The people did not obey the preaching of Micah, however. They did not break down the idols. They kept on sinning. How sad!

God saw that His people would not turn to Him and stop their sinning. God told Micah, “Micah, tell the people that I am going to have to bring terrible punishment upon them. There will always be wars in their country. They will be scattered to other nations of the world.”

Then God did a very strange thing. He started talking to some cities. (Draw a dot on the chalkboard to represent Jerusalem and another dot for Samaria.) God said, “Jerusalem, you think that you are so grand. You are big and you are famous and you are rich.” God said to Jerusalem, “I am going to see to it that you are destroyed. All the buildings in you are going to be broken down, burned up and plowed under.”

All the buildings in Jerusalem were to be destroyed! That huge, beautiful temple that God, many years before had told His people to build, would be destroyed! The temple was made of huge stones; it had gold on the walls, gold on the furniture; it had beautiful, expensive, heavy curtains hanging in it. How could the temple be destroyed? God would take away His protecting hand from the temple and from all of Jerusalem. God would let enemy armies come into the city and completely destroy it. Why would God do this? It was because the people in charge of the city would not obey God’s preachers and do right; it was because the people who lived in the city would not obey God, either. Jerusalem was an important city; it was the most important city of the Southern Kingdom of Israel. (Indicate the bottom part of your chalkboard.)

(Point to the dot that stands for Samaria.) God said, “Samaria, you are going to suffer, too, because you would not love Me any more.” What was the city of Samaria? It was the most important city of the Northern Kingdom (indicate the top half part of your chalkboard.) God said, “Samaria, where you have beautiful lands and houses, there will be weeds growing, and no food will be growing. The houses will be broken. The people are happy now, but they will become miserable.”

All of God’s people, except for a very few of them, stopped loving God. They stopped loving God’s Word. They all wanted to have their own, wicked ways. God said, “These troubles are going to come. You, Samaria and Jerusalem and all the cities and towns around you, are going to cry to Me.” God said, “You are going to cry, and you are going to say, ‘Help us, Lord,’ but I am not going to listen to you when you cry for help,” God said to His people. “You have not listened to Me for hundreds of years, and now I cannot listen to you when you cry for help. I have loved you and begged you to start loving Me again, but you would not.”

(Pause and smile at your class.) But God cannot stay angry forever. God said, “Jerusalem, Samaria, I still love you. I have a plan. Years from now the people who live in you will see a wonderful plan that I have.”

(Draw a dot on the board for Bethlehem.) God told Micah to write, “Bethlehem, you are a little town. You are not famous now. You are a short distance from Jerusalem, so people do not think about you. But, Bethlehem, I am going to show My love for My people through you.” Micah was preaching about something wonderful that God was going to have happen in Bethlehem!

God said, “After My people have suffered and been punished, they will see that I still love them. Into Bethlehem someday I will send God the Son. The Saviour will come to earth from Heaven, and He will come into Bethlehem. My people will see Him. They will learn that He is their Saviour from sin and from sin’s punishment.” What good news that was!

Hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth as a baby, hundreds of years before Mary laid Baby Jesus in the manger in the stable, Micah preached that Jesus was coming to earth! Most of God’s people did not care about this news. They just did not really care to listen to Micah’s preaching. But, Micah was excited about this news! Micah heard God saying, “Tell My people that there is hope. Someday the Saviour will come into the world.” Micah happily reported that news.

Many years later, the shepherds outside Bethlehem thought about the news that Micah had reported. They wondered when the Saviour would come. While the shepherds were watching their sheep that night, the angel told the shepherds the good news, and the shepherds who loved God got to see Jesus! (As time permits, tell in a little more detail the Christmas story.) Others got to see Him, too, as He grew to be a boy and then a man. He

became their Saviour by taking their punishment for their sins on Himself. He is our Saviour, too, if we have trusted Him.

The book of Micah is mixed with good news and with bad news. The people who will not trust and obey God have to suffer for their own sins. The people who will trust God and obey Him have the punishment for their sins put on Jesus. Micah was a preacher who told the people that.

We have a preacher. Our preacher is Brother Schaap. When we are in church services and Brother Schaap stands up to preach, we need to listen to everything he says. When Brother Schaap tells us about our sins, we should listen. Then we should pray to God and say, "I have sinned. Please forgive me. Help me not to do that bad thing again." The Israelites should have done that! From our Bible stories in Sunday school we can know what is right and what is wrong; let's always ask God for help to do right.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Micah 7:19, "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."