

# Small Group Guide



## Leader Notes

- Be vulnerable about your own struggles with hearing difficult truths
- Create a safe space where people can be honest without fear of judgment
- If someone shares a sensitive area of struggle, thank them for their honesty and pray for them
- Remind the group that conviction is different from condemnation—God convicts to bring life, not shame

## Opening Prayer

Begin your time by asking God to open hearts and minds to hear His word, even when it's difficult, and to give your group the courage to be teachable.

## Sermon Overview

This week we explored the book of Micah, focusing on how God's people refused to listen to messages they didn't want to hear. Micah warned both the northern and southern kingdoms about coming destruction, but the people preferred prophets who told them everything was fine. Their greatest problem wasn't their sin itself, but their unwillingness to hear truth that required repentance.

## Key Scripture

- Micah 1:1
- Micah 2:1-11
- 2 Timothy 4:3

## Discussion Questions

## Understanding the Text

1. What was the historical context of Micah's prophecy? Why does understanding the "when and where" matter for us today?
2. What were the people doing wrong, and what was their response when Micah confronted them? What does this reveal about human nature?
3. What does Micah mean when he says God's words "do good to the one whose ways are upright" (Micah 2:7)? How is "upright" defined in this context?

## Personal Reflection

4. The sermon identified several ways we avoid hearing what we don't want to hear (social media algorithms, curated news sources, etc.). Which of these resonates most with your own experience?
5. Jeff noted that the people "wanted reassurance without any surrender, comfort without any correction, belonging without any transformation." Which of these three phrases describes an area where you might be resisting God's word right now?
6. Can you think of a time when you avoided or resisted a difficult truth, only to later realize it would have been better to listen? What did you learn from that experience?

## Application

7. The sermon mentioned that God has been repeating this theme throughout the year. When God repeats something in our lives, what should our response be?
8. What are some practical ways we can cultivate a "teachable spirit" rather than seeking only voices that affirm what we already believe?
9. How can we distinguish between God's corrective word (which leads to life) and condemnation or shame (which doesn't come from God)?

## Key Takeaways

1. Context Matters: God speaks to particular people at particular times in particular places. Understanding context helps us apply His word correctly.
2. The Greatest Problem: Israel's greatest problem wasn't their specific sins but their refusal to listen to correction. Sins can be forgiven; unteachable hearts prevent transformation.
3. We All Drift Toward Affirmation: We naturally gravitate toward voices that tell us what we want to hear rather than what we need to hear.
4. God's Word is Good for the Teachable: "Upright" doesn't mean sinless perfection; it means teachable, listening, and trusting. God's word does good for those who are willing to hear it.

5. Repetition is Invitation: When God repeats a theme in our lives, He's not boring us—He's trying to get our attention.

## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose one of these practices for the coming week:

#### Option 1: The Listening Audit

- Examine your media consumption (news sources, podcasts, social media). Are you only hearing perspectives that affirm what you already believe?
- Intentionally seek out one Christian voice or perspective that challenges you in a healthy way.

#### Option 2: The Teachability Prayer

- Pray daily: "God, show me where I'm not listening to You. Give me courage to hear what I need to hear, not just what I want to hear."
- Journal any insights or areas God brings to mind.

#### Option 3: The Accountability Conversation

- Ask a trusted friend or family member: "Is there an area of my life where you think I'm not hearing truth or resisting change?"
- Commit to listening without defending yourself.

#### Option 4: Scripture Meditation

- Spend time with Psalm 139:23-24 each day: "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

## Closing Reflection

The sermon ended by pointing us to Holy Communion and the cross. Jesus loved us enough to die for us. When He speaks a hard word, it's not to condemn us but to lead us into life. His corrections come from love, not hostility.

Final Question: How does remembering the cross help you trust God's word, even when it's difficult to hear?

### **Closing Prayer**

Thank God for loving you enough to speak truth into your life. Ask for grace to be teachable and for courage to turn when He calls you to change. Pray for each other by name, that you would all grow in your ability to hear and respond to God's voice.

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