**Micah - Week 1**

**Small Group Discussion Guide**

Opening Discussion: Have you ever done a study of Micah or any other prophets in the Bible? If so, what do you know about the prophets? What do you like/dislike?

**Read Micah 1:1-5**

The message is geared towards the capitals of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms (Samaria and Jerusalem). He he lists the problem, he names them specifically (verse 5). Do you think it’s fair to point problems back to leadership?

Are leaders (religious, political, and otherwise) ultimately responsible for the state of their people? When and when not?

*Here, we see God coming like a bulldozer. God’s judgement is a trick thing to talk about. Some don’t talk about it all, others only talk about. Let’s try to find a better balance.*

How have you understood God’s judgement?

Some people only know God for God’s judgement. Why do you think that is?

Do you have any ideas on how to have a healthy understanding of God’s judgement?

In what ways is God’s judgement a good thing?

**Read Micah 1:6-7**

The problem is rooted in their idol worship. We don’t worship idols in the same way as ancient cultures. But we still give our attention and money to things that aren’t God. What are some examples of modern-day idols?

The Israelites had two major sins: they worshiped idols and failed to care for the poor. Another way of saying this (i.e. Jesus), the two greatest commandments are to love God and to love your neighbor.

Humans have always struggled with these two commandments. When you think of your life right now, which one do you think is missing the mark? Do you struggle to take time to love God or take time to love your neighbor, both your next door neighbor and the one hurting on the other side of town? Why?

These two often go together: if there’s idol stealing your attention away from God, it might be preventing you from loving your neighbor as well. Can you think of any examples for how failure to love God might result in failure to love your neighbor, or vice verses?

Any other thoughts on this passage or topic?

Close in prayer.