

# Micah

Hear and Hope in God's Word



A Bible Study for Well-Watered Women



## Meet the AUTHOR

Gretchen Saffles is the founder of Well-Watered Women and the author of *The Well-Watered Woman: Rooted in Truth, Growing in Grace, Flourishing in Faith*. She is passionate about encouraging and equipping women to drink deeply from the well of God's Word, and she longs to see women grasp the fullness of the gospel in everyday life. Gretchen loves going on adventures with her husband and three kids, traveling to new places, daydreaming of wildflower fields, baking chocolate chip cookies, painting, reading good books, and teaching women to know and love Jesus. On any given day you can find her with a cup of coffee in hand, a message stirring in her soul, and a God-sized dream in her heart.

# Micah

Hear and Hope in God's Word



A Bible Study for Well-Watered Women

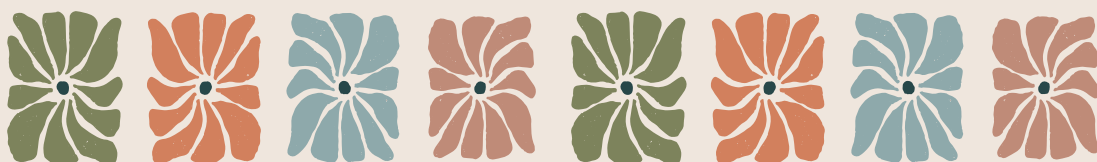
By Gretchen Saffles

# Well-Watered

W O M E N C O .

JOIN THE WELL-WATERED COMMUNITY!  
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @WELLWATEREDWOMEN  
VISIT WELLWATEREDWOMEN.COM FOR MORE  
GOSPEL-CENTERED RESOURCES

WE'D LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE LEARNING!  
TAG US WITH #WWWMicah



Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ESV® Text Edition: 2016.

Designed in the U.S.A. | Printed in China.

© 2023 Life Lived Beautifully, LLC. All rights reserved. All contents of this product are copyrighted and cannot be copied or reproduced for any purposes without prior written permission of the editor, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other non-commercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Written by Gretchen Saffles. Design by Rachael Milner. Content edit by Lauren Weir and Maggie Combs. Copy edit by Abbey Wysocki. "Abstract. Art. Prints. A4 Posters" by Gaikova Natallia via Creative Market.



# Table of Contents

WEEK ONE .....	PERCEIVING THE PROPHETS
Day One   Preparing to Study Micah .....	06
Day Two   The Value of Old Testament Prophets .....	11
Day Three   The Purpose of Old Testament Prophets .....	15
Day Four   Studying the Old Testament Prophets .....	19
Day Five   Reading Micah Through Gospel Glasses .....	23
Observations About Micah .....	27
Weekly Reflection .....	29
WEEK TWO .....	THE HEART OF IDOLATRY
Day One   The Word of the LORD .....	32
Day Two   Order in the Court .....	36
Day Three   An Incurable Wound .....	40
Day Four   Names and Identities .....	43
Day Five   A Word of Woe .....	48
Weekly Reflection .....	51
WEEK THREE .....	THE FOLLY OF FALSE PROPHETS
Day One   The People's Preacher .....	54
Day Two   The Shepherd-King .....	58
Day Three   Micah's Second Message .....	61
Day Four   Prophets Without Vision .....	64
Day Five   It Shall Come to Pass .....	68
Weekly Reflection .....	71
WEEK FOUR .....	THE BREAD OF LIFE
Day One   Hope for the Hopeless .....	74
Day Two   House of Bread .....	77
Day Three   The Remnant Delivered and Idols Shattered .....	80
Day Four   Don't Forget to Remember .....	84
Day Five   Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly .....	87
Weekly Reflection .....	91
WEEK FIVE .....	LOOK TO THE LORD
Day One   The Rod of the Shepherd .....	94
Day Two   Micah's Lament and Hope .....	98
Day Three   Darkness to Light .....	102
Day Four   A Day of Restoration .....	105
Day Five   The Final Promise .....	108
Weekly Reflection .....	111



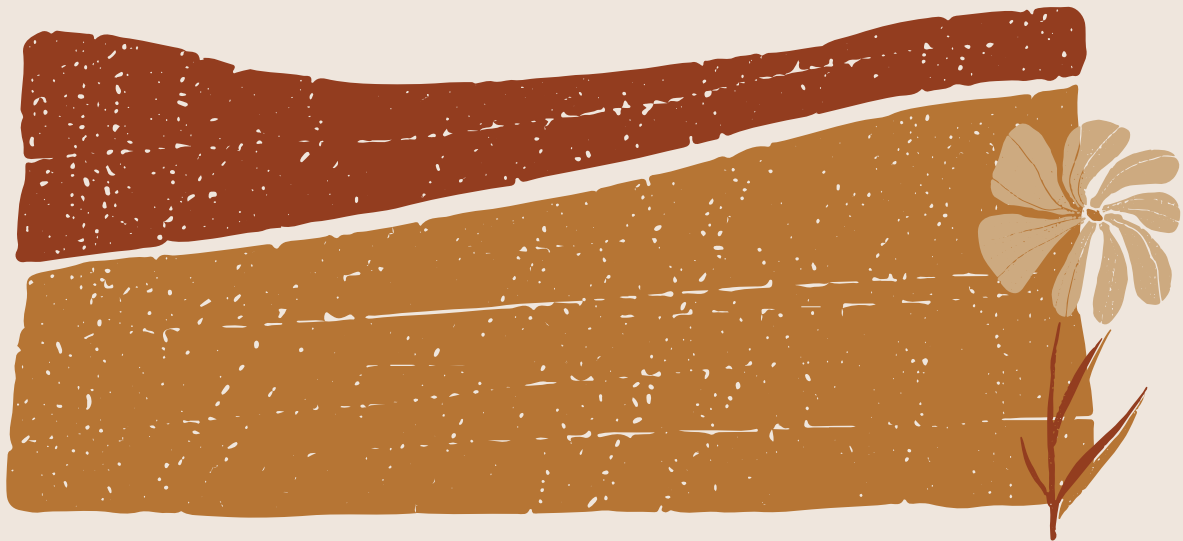
# Week One

## Perceiving the Prophets

### *Memory Verse*

FOR NO PROPHECY WAS EVER PRODUCED BY THE  
WILL OF MAN, BUT MEN SPOKE FROM GOD AS THEY  
WERE CARRIED ALONG BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

2 PETER 1:21



*Holy Spirit, cultivate within us hearts of repentance. Open our eyes to see our sin clearly and make us aware of our desperate need for your cleansing work. Help us to look to your Word as the lighthouse of our lives. For even when we begin to drift into patterns of sin, the light of Christ still shines, exposing our dark paths and drawing us back to the illuminated shores of mercy. Work your Word into us as we read and study it, then work it out in our daily lives. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## Day One | Preparing to Study Micah

### DEAR SISTER,

Checking the news has a way of sobering my soul. I can be happily going about my day, tending my to-do lists, picking up my kids' messes, completing work tasks, and keeping our home, only to be derailed by a gut-wrenching news story. Harrowing headlines cause my mind to worry about tomorrow and evoke anger as I read about the injustices happening in our world. My husband has witnessed many of my emotional rants concerning the outrageous crimes, inequality, and oppression happening in our society, listening to me highlight all that is wrong around me while neglecting to look within my own heart. It's easier to focus on the injustices of this world than to consider the injustices taking place in my heart and home because it means considering what idols exist in my own heart.

My friend and our Theology and Content Editor at Well-Watered Women, Lauren, once told me that what we fear, treasure, and desire most—in short, our idols—are displayed in our actions. The person or object of our worship is revealed in our words, our responses, and even our rants. This concept is displayed in the book of Micah, where one of the major themes is that idolatry breeds injustice.

Just this last week, my own life demonstrated this concept when my idol of having well-behaved children and making perfect memories led me to lose my temper with my kids because they didn't obey on a special outing. And this past Sunday, when my idols of comfort and control led to me stomping around our home in frustration at the mess, creating a negative atmosphere that my whole family had to suffer through. And yesterday, when my idol of wanting to be the best created jealousy of another woman's success that led me to assume the worst about her. These small acts of injustice against the people around me all came from my idols.

Micah is often known as the book of the Bible about justice. You're probably familiar with Micah 6:8, "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?" However, you might not be as familiar with the context of this verse. The book of Micah calls out the Israelites for their idol worship that led them to unjust actions.



Biblical counselor David Powlison explains, “Idolatry becomes an improper way to meet a legitimate need, and our failure to love others becomes a product of unmet needs.”<sup>1</sup> Rather than simply aiming to be better at loving other people, we need hearts that find our needs met by God alone. Such heart transformation begins with having ears to hear the Word of God and a heart that hopes in Christ alone.

Let’s not shy away from the hard work of heart transformation or from studying difficult books of the Bible. Micah is worth your effort.

✿ If we believe that “all Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable” (2 Tim. 3:16), we will prioritize the reading and study of all of the Bible, including the Prophetic Books.

✿ If we desire to rightly apply God’s Word to our lives, specifically Old Testament prophetic literature, we must seek to understand it in its original proper context.

✿ If we long to grasp the fullness of the gospel, we must know the judgment of God in response to sin to see the value of God’s justice and mercy mingled in Christ’s work on the cross.

This study will be challenging and downright uncomfortable at times as you receive the message God gave to Micah. Much will be required of you as you study, ask questions, and seek the Lord through his inspired Word. Prophetic books of the Bible won’t be completely understood in one study or one lifetime. Even among biblical scholars with similar theological backgrounds, there are often many different interpretations because of the poetic nature of prophecy.

But remember that you don’t have to understand every word to glean truth from this book and that you study Micah with the help of the Holy Spirit, who guides us into all truth (John 16:13) and leads us to full life in Jesus (John 10:10). You aren’t without help as you study Micah, and you aren’t without hope as you walk this journey of life. My prayer is that by the end of this five-week study, you will better see God’s mercy manifested through Christ and that you will hear and hope in God’s Word.

## PLACING MY HOPE IN CHRIST,

*Gretchen Saffers*  
FOUNDER

## What to Expect from This Study

- ✿ Five weeks of verse-by-verse study through the book of Micah
- ✿ Five days of in-depth Bible study per week
- ✿ A daily Hear & Hope section with application questions and space to practice committing God's Word to memory using your weekly memory verse
- ✿ Weekly reflections that give space to consider how idolatry has led to injustice in your own life, to apply what you're learning about God and the gospel through Micah, and to pray your memory verse
- ✿ Bible-centered study to discover the meaning of the text before making application to your current circumstances
- ✿ Gospel-rich content to draw your soul into the presence of God

# Heart Check

Where do you turn for help when faced with a particularly difficult passage of Scripture?

What do you know about idolatry in the Bible? How often have you contemplated idolatry in your own life?

Where do you run to for comfort when faced with particularly difficult circumstances?

What fears are you currently facing?

What desires currently remain unfulfilled?

In what circumstances does it feel hard to continue hoping in God?

## Heart Check Continued

Write a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to meet you in the pages of Micah, giving you ears to hear God's Word, a mind to comprehend its meaning, and a heart that is soft to his call to repent, turn from idols, and pursue God with all of who you are.



Practice this week's Scripture memory verse by writing 2 Peter 1:21 three times.

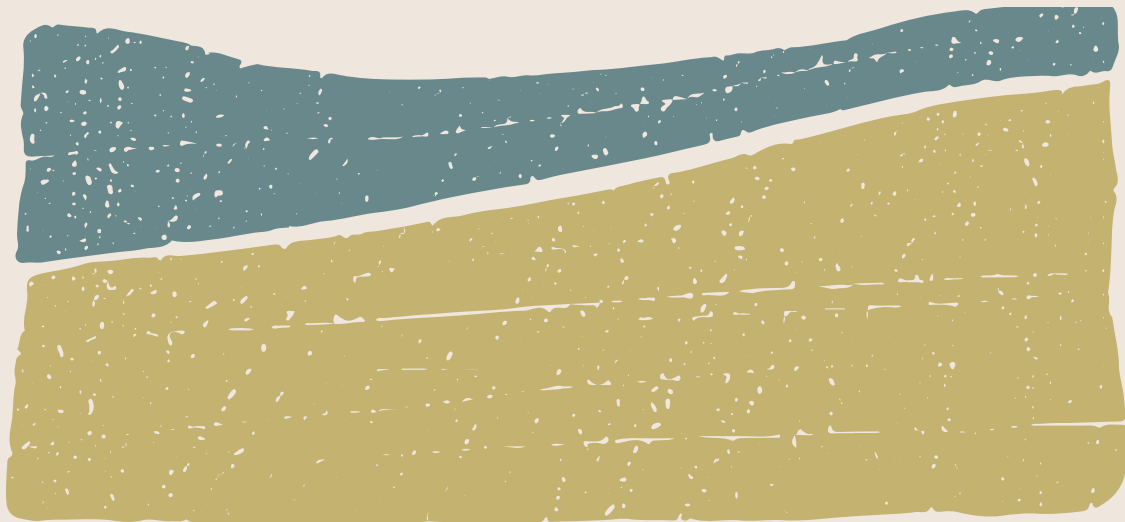
# Week Two

## The Heart of Idolatry

### *Memory Verse*

DO NOT TURN TO IDOLS OR MAKE FOR YOURSELVES  
ANY GODS OF CAST METAL: I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD.

LEVITICUS 19:4



*Father, humble our hearts as we open your Word. Open our ears to hear the message you spoke to the Israelites through Micah. We're just like the Israelites—our hearts lead us astray as we look to idols of this world to comfort us. But only you can truly comfort, strengthen, and give us life. Help us repent of the idols we're clinging to. And as we look in the mirror of the Word, help us see our sin for what it is and place our hope in your saving grace alone. In Jesus' name, amen.*



# Day One | The Word of the LORD

## *Micah 1:1*



*Pray for humility and insight before you study God's Word.*



Read Micah 1:1 What came to Micah?

In what days did this message from God come?

Who does this message concern?

At this point in history, the nation of Israel was divided in two:

**ISRAEL, THE NORTHERN KINGDOM, WHOSE CAPITAL WAS SAMARIA  
JUDAH, THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM, WHOSE CAPITAL WAS JERUSALEM**

God spoke through the prophet Micah to both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. We'll study these three kings of Judah and one king of Israel today.

### **KING JOTHAM**

Read 2 Kings 15:32–38 and describe the rule of King Jotham.

King Jotham's reign spanned sixteen years, around 750 B.C. At the time of his reign, the Israelites were enmeshed in corruption. They had abandoned God's law and worshiped false gods. While Jotham "did what was right in the eyes of the LORD," he failed to remove the high places.

## KING AHAZ

Read 2 Chronicles 28:1–5, 22–25 and describe the rule of King Ahaz.

## KING HOSHEA

At the same time that King Ahaz reigned over Judah in the Southern Kingdom, King Hoshea reigned over Samaria in Israel, the Northern Kingdom. Read 2 Kings 17:1–6 and describe the rule of King Hoshea.

Read 2 Kings 17:7–16. Why did the Assyrian invasion and captivity occur?

What did God call Israel and Judah to do through the prophets according to verse 13?

How did the people respond to God according to verses 14–16?

The people rejected God’s command to love and serve him alone and instead placed their hope in man-made idols. This period in Israelite history was rampant with the horrendous effects of sin. Sin blinds us, making us believe the ways of the world are better than God’s ways, leading us down roads of chaos and, ultimately, to death (Rom. 6:23). God is good not to ignore our sin and leave us to delight in our own destruction, and he shows his goodness and righteousness through his judgment on his people. As a parent to my children, I don’t delight in their sin, rebellion, or disobedience. When they disobey the rules my husband and I have given them, we discipline them out of love. Hebrews 12:6 explains, “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” At the heart of God’s discipline is love. By the power of the Holy Spirit, studying Micah will give us eyes to see the sin of Israel and Judah, the filth of our own sin, the just judgment of God, and the miraculous gift of God’s grace.

## KING HEZEKIAH

Read 2 Kings 18:1–7 and describe the rule of King Hezekiah.

Hezekiah’s reign was marked by his faithfulness to God, but even he failed to live in complete submission to God’s rule (see 2 Kings 20:12–19). It was during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah that the word of the LORD came to Micah of Moresheth concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. With this brief history of the context of this prophetic message, we will move forward guided by the Holy Spirit, carrying this knowledge with us.

## Hear & Hope

The three kings of Judah are included in the lineage of Christ (Matt. 1:9). This reminds us that God is still in control and working out his plan, even when people fail and fall short. His way prevails and his Word proves true. Despite their sinfulness and mistakes, God used the line of Judah to carry out his plan of redemption, ultimately displayed through Christ, the King of kings.

Where have you seen God's loving discipline in your life?

In what area of your life do you need to remember that God is still in control and his way always prevails?



Practice this week's Scripture memory verse by writing Leviticus 19:4 three times.