

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year A – Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**  
*Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One*

**Scripture: Micah 6:1-8**

Most of the lessons are from Isaiah. Isaiah was an educated man, as was Micah. Isaiah, a member of the nobility, preached justice and love in obedience to God's call. It should be explained to the children that someone who was a “have” thought it was essential that he listen and obey the call of God... to represent his relationship with God through his relationship with others less fortunate. He was to represent God's Light to the world and preach about that Light coming into the world.

**A Notation for this week's Scripture**

The prophet Micah is trying to get the people of Israel to remember their covenant with God. They are to do justice and live humbly. God does not want extravagant offerings or sacrifices. Today we hear God having an argument with his people. Children sometimes have arguments and they will relate to this story. God is reminding the people about all the wonderful things that have been done for them. The people have gone back to their old ways and are not living their lives in a gracious way. They are no longer humble.

“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 told you, O mortal, 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? (Micah 6: 7-8)*

What does God require of you?

- Justice “mishpat” – fairness and equality in all relationships.
- Kindness “hesed” – better translated as mercy; loyalty or integrity.
- To walk humbly “hatsnea lekhet” – a way of life directly opposed to exploitation of power which is seen as the root of corruption and injustice.

**Theme: Justice, Mercy, Walk Humbly**

**Before:** You will need a Bible or a copy of the scripture for each child. You will need a large sheet of paper, markers, crayons, art supplies for the mural. You will also need a copy of the coloring sheet copied on heavy paper for each child.

**Beginning:** Write the words justice, kindness, and mercy up on the easel or whiteboard. Invite the children to try to define each of the words.

**Opening Prayer:** God of Grace, be with us this day and each day as we try to follow you and do what you call us to do. Guide us so that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

**This Week's Reading: Micah 6:1-8** Invite four readers to read verses 1-2, 3-5, 6-7, and 8.

### Questions

- In our lesson, we hear God having an argument with God's people. I wonder what it would be like to argue with God?
- What has God asked Micah to do?
- There appears to be a "breach in the contract." How is that possible?
- How are the people not obeying the commandments of God?
- What commandments are they disobeying?
- Why do you think they are having a hard time obeying God?
- What 3 things does God ask the people to do?

### Activity

#### Exploring:

Invite the children to reflect on these questions. Write their answers on the board.

- God wants us to do justice. How do we do that?
- God wants us to love kindness? How might we do that?
- God wants us to walk humbly with God. How can we do that?

**Micah Mural:** After reflecting on the questions above, how might they depict this in a mural. Imagine that you have been asked to paint this on the side of a building. How can we convey this message in words and pictures? Allow them plenty of time to create their mural.

**Micah Message Poster:** As a way of taking the message home, have them color and decorate their own "do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with God" sheet. If possible, this should be copied on heavier paper than normal paper so they feel like it is something to take home and hang up.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Dear God, please help me to remember to live each day of this week giving kindness and justice, and to walk humbly with you. Amen.

do justice

love

kindness

walk humbly

with God

## **This Week's Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> “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? <sup>7</sup> 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?”

<sup>8</sup> God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD requires of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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