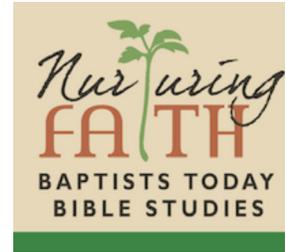


Youth Teaching Resources

January 29, 2017



Looking Forward (January 1-February 26)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 – “It’s Always Time”

Isaiah 42:1-9 – “A Time for Justice”

Isaiah 49:1-7 – “A Time for Light”

Isaiah 9:1-4 – “A Time for Hope”

Micah 6:1-8 - “A Time for Mercy”

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A Time For Mercy

Micah 6:1-8

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

PARENT PREP

One of the most frequent questions I hear from parents is “Is _____ normal about my kid?” I think this question has as much to do with the parent wanting to be validated as their youth. Not only are there expectations heaped on our students, but there are also expectations heaped parents as well. What do you use to measure your expectations? Where do these expectations come from? There are all kinds of voices out there telling you what should be expected of you, but why not start with some biblical expectations: the Fruit of the Spirit, the Beatitudes, or Micah 6.8. These expectations are not only attainable, but they are what we are called to do and be. So the next time you have questions about expectations, ask yourself what you are really measuring.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

Begin your session by showing the clip “You’re Not What I Expected” from *Prince Caspian*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability, and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Does Peter look like a king? What type of person do you believe Prince Caspian was expecting?
- 2) How does Prince Caspian’s demeanor change when he realizes who he is fighting?
- 3) When have you been in a situation when your expectation was different than what really occurred? What made reality different than the expectation?
- 4) What do you believe is expected of you? How does your faith influence what you believe your expectations to be?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading Micah 6:1-8. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information found in Tony's commentary to answer their questions. When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) What scene does Micah set for the hearers of the text to visualize?
- 2) What defense does God get from Micah?
- 3) What was going on with the people of Israel that Micah believe needed to be changed?
- 4) What does God want from the people of Israel? Is what they are doing matching what God has expected of them?
- 5) How do you believe this was received by the people of Israel?

If you group would like to dig deeper in their discussion, share some of the insights that Tony provides in the "Digging Deeper" portion of his commentary. You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) Can you exceed God's expectations?
- 2) Who was Micah?
- 3) Who does God expect these things from?

You may also want your group to discuss "The Hardest Question" if they would like to continue their discussion on this passage. Tony poses the following question to consider as "The Hardest Question": Is it mercy or love?

Transformation

Conclude your time together by creating three small groups. Assign each group one of the following expectations: 1. doing justice, 2. loving kindness, and 3. walking humbly with God. Prompt each group think of ways that individuals and group like theirs can live out each of these expectations. Provide questions like the following for the groups to think about:

- 1) Who are the groups doing the action?
- 2) What groups of people need to receive the actions?
- 3) What barriers are there to live each expectation out?
- 4) How can you overcome these barriers?

When the groups have had time to answer their questions, bring the groups back together to share what they discussed with the larger group.

Close with a prayer where each group prays for the groups that were listed during their small group discussions.