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## CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What are you planning to do over Christmas this year? Does it make you excited, anxious, or disappointed?
- Tell about a time when someone was really generous to you.
- Which of the organizations we're partnering with for the Big Give excites you and why?

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## TRUTH *UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

This time of year you'll spend time talking with neighbors, friends, and family about holiday traditions, shoveling snow, travel plans, and movies you intend to rewatch. You probably won't discuss how much your salary was this year, what your budget is for gifts, or what percentage of your income you gave away. Money isn't a comfortable topic to discuss, let alone generosity. That said, being a disciple of Jesus is a call to generosity. More than that, as we see in the book of Micah, it's something God requires of us.

### The Indictment

**READ:** Micah 6:1-5

**DISCUSS:** From these verses in Micah – 1:7 / 2:2,9 / 3:1-3,9-11 / 6:10-11 – what things are included in God's indictment against the people of Israel?

In Micah's time, Israel wasn't at its worst, but it certainly wasn't at its best. Yet God's tone is intense. After all, Israel was the nation God rescued out of slavery so that they could bless the whole world. (That's why God gives them the history lesson in verses 3-5.) Pharaoh once used his power to exploit them, but now they were using power to exploit vulnerable people inside their own borders. The Exodus generation worshipped idols at Shittim, but now Judah's worship was mixed in with idol worship in Jerusalem. Gilgal is where Israel first camped when God brought them into the promised land, but Israel wasn't doing what they were supposed to do from the promised land. To sum up God's indictment: Israel forgot the purpose of its prosperity.

### The Requirement

**READ:** Micah 6:6-8

**DISCUSS:** Why do you think Micah tells Israel that God requires them to "do justice," as opposed to just supporting justice or knowing justice?

This is a pretty good question: "What does God require of me?" God is just as clear about the answer as he was about the indictment – do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly. Israel may have put up the appearance that they "stood" for these things, but they weren't doing them. For them to keep doing ritual sacrifices, but not do

justly or do kindly, was nothing more than going through the motions. If they were going to be who God called them to be, they had to do what God required them to do.

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## **GRACE** *SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

### **What Jesus Did**

Rather than easily dismissing the citizens of ancient Judah, we should see the weaknesses we have in common—how easy it is to forget the purpose of our prosperity. Jesus came to succeed where Israel failed, and to empower us with his Spirit so that we can *actually do* what God requires of us. Disciples are apprentices of Jesus, and walking in his footsteps means doing the justice that God enables us to do, doing kind things for others and not just virtue signaling on social media. It means to walk in generosity, humbled by a God whose generosity was seen in what he *did* for us through Jesus Christ. If we'll do what he requires of us, we'll be living out what it means to be God's rescued people of blessing.

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## **CHANGE** *APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- What have you learned from this passage and how will you apply it to your life?
  - Has anything been preventing you from generosity? How does this passage speak to that issue?
  - In what ways in your life right now is God calling you to do justice and love kindness?
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## **PRAYER** *RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- We'll never be generous unless the Holy Spirit shows us the surpassing worth of following Jesus. Pray for a deep revelation of how much more valuable Jesus is than the cost of being his apprentice.
- Pray for clarity about ways in which God is calling you to be generous.

### **Discipleship Check-In**

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?