

Week Four – *Families That Stay Together*
Micah 6:1-8

Spend FIFTEEN - Day One

1. Have you as a parent ever ranted over a repeated misbehavior of one of your children? Alternatively, has one of your parents ever done this to you? What causes this type of reaction from a parent?
2. Read Micah 6:1-3. What has God instructed Micah the prophet to do?
3. How did God address Israel in verse 3? What does that term suggest he feels about them?
4. Continue reading in Micah 6:4-5. What does God describe in the verses?
5. What feelings might this reminder have produced in those the prophet was addressing?
6. Like a parent that reminds a child of his or her protection and love before disciplining them, God reminded his people of the things he had done to take care of them. Is this likely to make them more or less receptive to his words of correction? Explain your answer.
7. Close your FIFTEEN by asking God to give you a willing spirit to hear and follow his correction.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Two

8. What does the saying, “The family that prays together, stays together.” mean to you? Do you think praying together is enough to keep God’s people living a life grounded in the ways he has instructed them to live?
9. Read Micah 6:6-7 and notice how the prophet starts small, with a simple sacrifice, but then continues as the list of sacrifices becomes greater and greater? Why might he have done this?
10. As we saw in yesterday’s reading, God had been gracious to Israel, taking great care of them, even rescuing them from slavery in Egypt. How does his act of redemption compare to the sacrifices they offer?
11. The sacrificial system was intended in part to help the Israelites remember what God had done for them. What started as a system to help them be contrite for their sins turned into a tit for tat repayment for wrongs, defeating the purpose of those acts. What types of things do you do to please God? (e.g. attending worship, saying grace before meals)

12. Read Psalm 51:16-17. How does using those things you listed in #11 as a way to please or even appease God also defeat the purpose for which he intended them for us?

13. End your FIFTEEN by asking God to help you realize his love for you is not dependent on what you do, but what he has done for you.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Three

14. As we were reminded earlier this week, God offers us so much more than we give him. Brainstorm a quick list of the good things he has specifically done for you. (Not a comprehensive list that would take much longer than FIFTEEN minutes!)

15. When you consider all he has done for you, is there anything he could ask of you that would be too much?

16. Read Micah 6:8 and write in your own words what the prophet says God requires of his people.

17. To whom is this verse addressed? What does that suggest about the personal nature of this charge?

18. Read Mark 12:28-34. What did the young man wisely say was better than sacrifices?

19. How did Jesus describe the man who answered wisely?

20. Jesus' response to the man did not refer to salvation. It meant that he understood the heart of God. Spend the rest of your FIFTEEN in prayer asking God to help you seek to love others out of grateful appreciation for all he has done for you.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Four

21. Read Micah 6:8. Does this verse bring to mind anyone you know? How do they live this out?

22. Does it come naturally to you to act justly and love mercy? Explain your answer.

23. Read Hebrews 13:15-16. How is serving others described in these verses?

24. Do you enjoy serving others or does it feel sacrificial for you to do so?

25. Now read Romans 12:6-8. How can you use your gifts to show love to others?

26. God has gifted each of us in different ways, yet he has called all of us to serve others and to love mercy and seek justice. As you finish your FIFTEEN, pray that God would help you recognize the opportunities to do just that as he puts them in your path.

Spend FIFTEEN - Day Five

27. Look again at Micah 6:8. What is the final command of that verse?

28. Take a moment and assess your walk with God. How would you describe your current “walk” with God?

29. Are you satisfied with the current state of your relationship? How could it be improved?

30. Yesterday we looked at a passage in Romans that talks about how we are all called to serve others no matter how God has gifted each of us. Now read Romans 12:3-5, a few verses prior to yesterday’s reading. What attitude do these verses encourage us to adopt?

31. How might adopting this attitude foster a spirit of humility in you?

32. Close your final FIFTEEN this week by using the words of Micah 6:8 as your prayer. Ask God to help live out these words as part of your daily life.