



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: *What is God asking of us in this moment?*
Lesson connected to Sunday, September 8, 2019

A note before you start: This curriculum assumes you have a bible in front of you as well as access to a computer to use some of the links. You can borrow a bible from the church, or you can purchase one at a minimal cost through Amazon.com. Generally, we recommend a New Revised Standard Version of the bible although others are acceptable. Also, there are parts of this material that can be used without access to a computer. If you have difficulty utilizing any of the links, please speak with Rev. Ruth anytime.

Today's Scripture: Micah 6:6-8

Key Verse: "He has 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 6:8

Contexts of the Scripture:

- Locate the book of "Micah" in the Bible. Look at the Table of Contents if you don't know where it is in the bible. Micah is in the Old Testament, sometimes called the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Knowing that Micah is in the Old Testament tells us a little about its place in time. For one thing, we know it comes from the time known as "B.C.E." or "Before the Christian Era" meaning it was written before Jesus was born.
- What else can we figure out about Micah and where it falls in the chronology of the bible? There are several ways to find out this information:
 - Some bibles will have brief introductions of each book at the beginning of each book that give basic background information. If your bible has this introductory material, read through it noting any details provided on its historical placement, as well as where Micah was living at the time he wrote the book.
 - Another excellent source of basic information is Wikipedia. Here is the link to get some information on Micah:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micah_\(prophet\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micah_(prophet))

Questions to go deeper:

- What is Micah's question in this text? To whom is his question addressed?
- Verses 6 & 7 are describing actions one could take when worshipping in the Temple in Jerusalem as acts of penance for sins committed. What are those actions?
- How is Micah's suggested responses different from the rituals described in verses 6 & 7? Which responses would be more difficult, Micah's or the traditional ones he describes first? Why?
- What would be some specific examples of Micah's response to "do justice" and to "love kindness" and to "walk humbly with God?" When have you done one of these? How did it make you feel?

Activity possibilities:

- **Family activity.** Create a Bible timeline to use for this year's lessons. Take several pieces of white 8.5 x 11 plain white unlined paper and tape together end to end. Draw a line down the middle of all three pages with an end-point noted at either end. Look at this bible timeline to get an idea of how to set yours up: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/110197522118878472/?nic=1>
Once you have written in some key dates, draw a line on the timeline around 650 BCE and mark it as "Micah." Now, set your timeline aside for next week!
- **Younger children activity:**
 - Follow this link to a coloring page for today's verse from Micah. Print one out and color it using your favorite colors!
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/205124958003349656/>
 - Ask an adult to help you find some pictures in advertisements or magazines or online that you can use to create a collage to show people who "love kindness" or "do justice."
- **Older children and youth activity:**
 - Use a selection of markers to create a graffiti style poster of what it means to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God. Illustrate one or all three.
 - Ask someone to drive you over to the church and park in the upper parking lot. Walk up to the labyrinth and walk it, following the directions available in the upper narthex or on the church website or Facebook page. In particular, as you walk the labyrinth, remember a time in your life when you had to put someone else first – doing something that person wanted to do instead of what you wanted to do. Walk the labyrinth several times doing this, pausing between each walk and sitting on the bench, or walking around the rest of the gardens. As you head home, see if you can answer the question of how it felt to "walk humbly with God" as you remembered "doing justice" and/or "loving kindness" which is what you did when you set aside your own feelings in favor of another's.

Going Deeper:

- Check out this page of videos on YouTube.com that feature songs based on this verse from Micah. <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/205124958003349656/>
 - Pick one and watch/listen to it. Did you like it? Why or why not?
 - Check out our hymnal at church. Can you find any songs in it, or in the Renew! songbook that have the same thought as Micah 6:8, if not the identical words. Is it one we sing regularly? Let Rev. Ruth know your thoughts so we can all sing it one Sunday!

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Give her a call or send her an email or text. Nothing makes her smile more than questions from students of the bible!

Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth, Cell: 401-663-7934 <> email: revruth1121@aol.com