

OUR LIVING HOPE

I have good news. In the midst of a wicked, crooked world the message of the Gospel is our hope. In the book of Isaiah, Micah and Matthew, God speaks out against the hypocrisy, brokenness and corruption of God's people. Leaders manipulated and took advantage of others. People cheated and rebelled against God's law. It was completely backward from what God desired. People wrongly assumed that as long as they offered sacrifices that God would overlook their darkened hearts. There was no one righteous. Micah reminded the people that God desired justice, kindness, and humility. Everyone fell short and it seemed hopeless. Yet in the midst of discouragement and judgment, Micah pointed to the great one who would come from Bethlehem and be their peace. There was still hope!

2 Kings 15-16; Matthew 21

Isaiah 1-3; Psalm 9; Matthew 22

Isaiah 4-6; Matthew 23

Micah 1-4; Psalm 10; Matthew 24

Micah 5-7; Matthew 25

Every week, you'll see the same five content questions. Use them as a guide as you read the scriptures. Pray for consistency in your Bible reading.

1. Who are the main characters in this text and is there anyone you can relate to?
2. Is there anything from this text that we are to do (obey, believe, heed or follow)?
3. What do you learn about God in these chapters and how has that changed what you believe about Him?
4. What do these passages reveal about human nature, sin and our need for God?
5. What's the Good News found in this text?

Every week, you'll see five unique application questions. Use them to help live out what you're learning in scripture. Pray for life transformation.

1. Is there a disconnect between what you say you believe and how you live your life? What would the people closest to you say?
2. How does the word of God help you combat living a hypocritical life? (Believing one thing and living another way)
3. What effect does God's holiness have on you? What has it revealed and produced in you?
4. How do you clean the inside of your cup? (See Matt 23:25-26)
5. What are you building your life upon? Is it temporal or eternal?

Jesus' righteousness is our only hope. His love is steadfast and his compassion is great. He is trustworthy to the end and his words will not pass away. That is good news!