

A Study of Micah 6

What is R.E.A.P.?

R.E.A.P. is a method of studying the Bible together to prepare for a group discussion. We highly encourage everyone to keep an ongoing journal and bring it to Monday nights, Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and any Bible study to engage well in our discussions together.

R.E.A.P.

1. Through **Reading**, people can circle and journal what they found noteworthy in each day's reading.
2. Through **Examining**, people can answer three major questions to prepare for discussion (What does this text teach us about God? What does this text teach us about humanity? What does this text teach us about Jesus?).
3. Through **Asking**, people can journal one or more significant questions they have about the text (Questions about events, people, places, situations, etc.) The goal is not to find answers to these questions themselves. Rather, the goal of asking significant questions is to think critically about the text and to bring thoughtful questions to pastors and teachers.
4. Through **Prayer**, people can take a moment to pray to God concerning things they read, examined, and asked.

Why do we REAP?

We believe that this method is helpful in reading God's Word at every level. From beginners to advanced readers, we know that the Bible is infallible (error-free) and God's revelation of Himself. We REAP to learn more about God, who He is and what He's done; and to know Him personally as Savior.

How do I use REAP?

1. Goal: Our purpose is not to collect information, trivia, or self-help tips, but to know and love God.
2. REAP the passage before Sunday's worship service, before the Wednesday night Bible Study, or before your Sunday School class. Don't allow the sermon or the Bible study to be the first time you face the text. Marinate in the text before we gather.
3. What do I do with my questions in the Ask section?
 - a. The big/main questions of interpretation should be answered by the sermon and preceding Bible study. If there are significant questions about how to understand the text after the sermon, we would encourage you to email me or Pastor Matt.
 - b. Join a growth group so that you can discuss the questions and how we should live out the applications of the text.

Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³ “O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O man, 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?

⁹ The voice of the LORD cries to the city— and it is sound wisdom to fear your name: “Hear of the rod and of him who appointed it! ¹⁰ Can I forget any longer the treasures^[a] of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is accursed? ¹¹ Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful weights? ¹² Your^[a] rich men are full of violence; your inhabitants speak lies, and their tongue is deceitful in their mouth. ¹³ Therefore I strike you with a grievous blow, making you desolate because of your sins. ¹⁴ You shall eat, but not be satisfied, and there shall be hunger within you; you shall put away, but not preserve, and what you preserve I will give to the sword. ¹⁵ You shall sow, but not reap; you shall tread olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; you shall tread grapes, but not drink wine. ¹⁶ For you have kept the statutes of Omri, and all the works of the house of Ahab; and you have walked in their counsels, that I may make you a desolation, and your^[a] inhabitants a hissing; so you shall bear the scorn of my people.”¹

¹ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Micah 6. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

REAP the text:

1. Read aloud together
2. Explain by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about _____?

- a. **God:**

- b. **Man:**

- c. **Christ:**

3. Ask- What question/s would help you understand the text more fully?

4. Pray- Using some of your observations and questions, write out a prayer to God.

Background of the text:

1. The unit in verses 1-8, is one of the most well-known sections in Micah.

- a. Verses 1-8

פתח (<i>petach</i>) Prosaic Introduction	צלע (<i>rib</i>) (“case” or “the lawsuit speech”)
1a	1b-8

- b. The structure of the *rib*²

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Prosaic Introduction - II. The Speech Delivered by the Plaintiff <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The call and appointment of judges- B. The summons - C. The address- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accusation- 2. Refutation- Indictment- |
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- c. The setting of the *rib* - most scholars conclude that this *rib* takes place in the temple.

- d. The divide between 6:1-5 and 6:6-8. - Refutation understood as an “entrance liturgy”.³

- e. Based on the work of these scholars, this is the structure then provided:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> III. Prosaic Introduction - 6:1a IV. The Speech Delivered by the Plaintiff- 6:1b-8 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. The call and appointment of judges- 6:1b B. The summons - 6:2 C. The address- 6:3-8 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accusation- 6:3-5 2. Refutation- An “entrance liturgy” 6:6-7 3. Indictment- 6:8 |
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² Westermann, Isaiah 40-66, pp. 17-19.

³ McComiskey, Thomas Edward, The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expository Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 1998), 726. Originally cited in Begrich, “Die priesterliche Tora”, pp 79-80.

