

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, February 1, 2026 (Epiphany 4)

Micah 6:1-8

Discussion Starters

To best understand this text, picture a courtroom scene. In verses 1-5 God is speaking. He is the prosecuting attorney, bringing charges against the nation of Israel. In verses 6-8, Micah responds on behalf of Israel (the defendants).

1. What are the charges that God is bringing against the people of Israel? What are examples of their guilt in these matters?
2. Moses, Aaron and Miriam (the brother and sister of Moses) are called upon as witnesses for the prosecution. How could they testify to the guilt of the people?
3. Who are Balak and Balaam? How do they support the case of the prosecution?
4. How do the defendants respond to these charges? Are they guilty as charged?
5. What recompense can they offer?
6. What does the Lord want instead?
7. What does it mean to act justly? To love mercy? To walk humbly with God?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Discussion Starters

1. What are the Jews seeking? What do the Greeks want? How does "Christ crucified" fulfill what both groups seek?
2. What is the wisdom and power of God, and how does that contrast to the wisdom and power of the world?
3. Is Paul rejecting education in this passage?
4. In what way is preaching "foolishness?"

Matthew 5:1-12

Discussion Starters

1. How would you describe the qualities Jesus outlines here? What would be the opposite of each quality?
2. Do these statements describe what followers of Jesus are or what they should become?
3. How do these characteristics compare with the values of our world?
4. Of these characteristics, which is the most difficult for you? Which is the most frightening? Which is the most encouraging?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?