

# STEP 2

## Bible Learning

(15–20 minutes)

### Bible Basis:

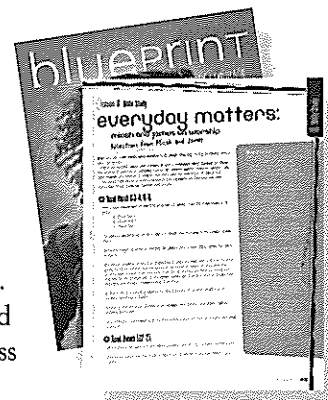
Pure religion is expressed in right deeds (Mic. 6:3-4, 6-8; Jas. 1:22-27).

**OBJECTIVE:** That your students compare spiritual hypocrisy, as described by Micah and James, with genuine worship.

#### Materials:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Copies of *Blueprint*
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Pencils or pens
- ☐ Whiteboard or poster board and markers

Work through today's Bible study feature on page 45 of *Blueprint*, "Everyday Matters: Micah and James on Worship," as a class. Everyone will be working through each section at the same time and, when applicable, sharing immediately with the class what each has done. When Scriptures are mentioned, choose a student to read them aloud. Begin by reading the introduction to the class as students follow along in *Blueprint*.



#### ■ FROM *Blueprint*—Everyday Matters: Micah and James on Worship

When you ask some people what religion and worship are all about, they say, "Oh, it's going to church once a year—on Easter."

Micah the prophet would have cringed at such a statement. Why? Because for Micah the worship of God was an everyday matter. He rebelled against "religious people" who went through the motions of religion and then went out and forgot all about God.

The verses from Micah in today's Scripture text represent the dialogue that took place when Micah spoke out against such people.

Draw a box around each of the following sets of verses. Label the three boxes A, B, and C.

- A. Micah 6:3-4
- B. Micah 6:6-7
- C. Micah 6:8

The person speaking the words in Box C is Micah. Put his name in the margin beside Box C.

Using the margin to write in, identify the person who is most likely saying the words in Box A.

The person speaking in Box B is responding to what has been said in Box A. He feels guilty about his idolatry and his hypocrisy. He wants to repent of these sins and worship God. In verse 7 he even asks if he should sacrifice his baby if that will help pay for his wrongdoing. In the margin beside Box B write a word or phrase that describes this person's understanding of worship.

Choose three different readers to read the three boxes of verses from Today's Scripture aloud as a dialogue. The answers are provided below.

In Box C, Micah is reacting against the Box B version of worship. What is good worship according to Micah? Answer by defining each of these three phrases:

**ACT JUSTLY** (Each of these terms involves true worship—things that people do because their inner spiritual condition pleases God. To do justly we do what is right and treat all people fairly. To do justly is to not stand for oppression of any kind. But when we do justly, the reason for our action is to please God. A non-Christian

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Micah 6:3-4, 6-8

<sup>3</sup>My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. <sup>4</sup>I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam."

<sup>6</sup>With what shall I come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? <sup>8</sup>He has showed you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

James 1:22-27

<sup>22</sup>Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. <sup>23</sup>Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup>and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup>But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

<sup>26</sup>Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

might do exactly the same action that a Christian does, and both actions would be the right thing to do. But the Christian's motivation is different. He is acting justly because this pleases God and is a reflection of his worship of God.)

LOVE MERCY (Micah's congregation had God's example of mercy. He forgave them time and time again until it became obvious that only punishment would change their ways. Today we have Jesus' example of mercy. He died for our sins so we wouldn't have to. We should follow His example and never be vindictive.)

WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD (We should never be proud that we belong to God or think that we know God because we did something to prove that we were better than someone else. God did the work to build a relationship with each of us. We had nothing to do with the price He paid for each of us to be saved. We are to continue in relationship with Him through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with others who love Him because we love Him; not out of a sense of pride or obligation.)

- ➊ How is Micah's understanding of worship different from the kind of worship described in Box B? (Worship, according to Micah, is a matter of sincerity and obedience. In other words, he urged people to "walk their talk." You don't solve social oppression with spiritual actions alone.)
- ➋ Read James 1:22-27. Which version of worship in the Micah passage—Box B or C—is James insisting on? Answer by underlining the words in Box B or C of the Micah passage. Explain your choice.

Using mathematical symbols and the words "genuine worship," "hearing," and "doing," write a formula that summarizes Micah and James's understanding of what it means to worship God.

(Hearing + doing = genuine worship.)

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

If you have time, have your class do the following exercise. Divide students into groups and have each group select one of the passages below and prepare a simple updated version of the story. Groups should read the Scripture you assign, identify the hypocritical action and why each action is hypocritical. Then, using modern characters and modern situations, they should explain how this type of hypocrisy is still practiced today.

Encourage students to be creative and even humorous in their modern adaptations.

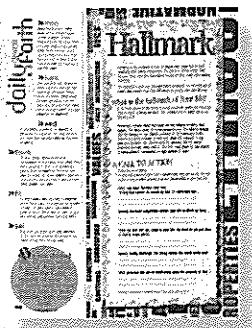
1. The Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:10-14)
2. The Parable of the Two Sons (Matt. 21:28-32)
3. The Synagogue Ruler (Luke 13:11-17)
4. The Scribes (Mark 12:38-40)
5. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)
6. Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10)
7. Simon Magus (Acts 8:18-24)
8. Peter at Antioch (Gal. 2:11-14)

- ➊ In what ways is the hypocrisy in this story similar to that mentioned in today's texts?
- ➋ What types of hypocrisy today are similar to the hypocrisy in this story?
- ➌ What type of behavior or attitude would have pleased God in your story?

# STEP 3

## Bible Application

(5–10 minutes)



**OBJECTIVE:** That your students will discuss an article about integrity toward God and humanity.

### Materials

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "The Hallmark" from *Blueprint*

Turn to page 46 of *Blueprint* and have students read "The Hallmark" together. The pertinent section of the article is reprinted below for your convenience.

### ■ FROM *Blueprint*—The Hallmark

Integrity is the hallmark or trait of people who follow God without wavering. Their words and actions, like Christ's, affirm rather than destroy. Their lifestyles are natural results of their close relationships with God.

The opposite is also true. Decayed moral standards are the hallmark of people who wander from God, who want to satisfy their own desires.

What is the hallmark of your life?

A. W. Tozer wrote of the decay of moral standards within the Christian church much as Micah did about the communities of Judah and Israel (Mic. 6:3-8):

"Perverted notions about God soon rot the religion in which they appear. The long career of Israel demonstrates this clearly enough, and the history of the Church confirms it. So necessary to the Church is a lofty concept of God that when the concept in any measure declines, the Church with her worship and her moral standards declines along with it. The first step down for any church is taken when it surrenders its high opinion of God."

A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (San Francisco: Harper & Row).

- ❶ **Why does our view of God have such an impact on our worship and our lives?** (*Our worship comes out of our view of God. If we see him as loving and desiring a relationship with us, and if we see Him as gracious and forgiving as well as all-powerful—then our worship will be a result of our admiration and love. We then are able to live our lives loving others. If we see him as a non-loving, all-powerful God who only demands that we follow the rules, our worship will be a result of fear. Then we will live a life guided by fear.*)
- ❷ **In what ways does spiritual hypocrisy hurt the Christian? How does a Christian's hypocrisy hurt those who come in contact with her or him?**

# STEP 4

Life Response  
(5–10 minutes)

## Bible Truth:

Genuine worship of God is expressed through right and honest dealings with all people.

**OBJECTIVE:** That your students pray about areas of hypocrisy in their own lives.

### Materials:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "The Hallmark" from *Blueprint*
- ☐ Pencils or pens

Students have already discussed today's memory verse in the Bible study. Have them read it aloud together.

**Micah 6:8**

*He has showed you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

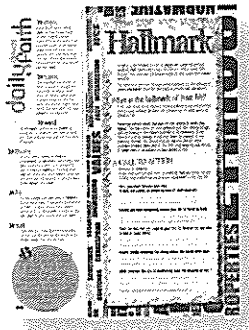
Ask students to spend the last few minutes of this period thinking about areas of hypocrisy in their own lives—areas where they are talking Christianity rather than living it.

Ask them to consider how they act at school—perhaps in locker-room conversation, for example, how they act on dates, how they act at home with their parents and brothers and sisters.

Simply allow time for students to silently identify hypocritical areas and, if they are willing, ask God's help in overcoming in that area.

Instruct students to finish the last section of the page "The Hallmark," (page 46) and fill in the blanks. It challenges students to examine their lives and list ways they can develop integrity toward God and humanity.

After a short time, close class with prayer asking God to give students special sensitivity in areas that may be ruining their honest worship and witness for Christ. You may want to read the memory verse again as part of your prayer.





# everyday matters:

micah and james on worship

Selections from Micah and James

When you ask some people what worship is all about, they say, "Going to church once a year—on Easter."

Micah the prophet would have cringed at such a statement. Why? Because for Micah the worship of God was an everyday matter. He rebelled against "religious people" who went through the motions of religion and then went out and forgot all about God.

The verses from Micah in today's Scripture text represent the dialogue that took place when Micah spoke out against such people.

## ► Read Micah 6:3-4, 6-8.

Draw a box around each of the following sets of verses in the green box. Label the three boxes A, B, and C.

A. Micah 6:3-4    B. Micah 6:6-7    C. Micah 6:8

The person speaking the words in Box C is Micah. Put his name in the margin beside Box C.

Using the margin to write in, identify the person who is most likely saying the words in Box A.

The person speaking in Box B is responding to what has been said in Box A. He feels guilty about his idolatry and his hypocrisy. He wants to repent of these sins and worship God. In verse 7 he even asks if he should sacrifice his firstborn if that will help pay for his wrongdoing. In the margin beside Box B write a word or phrase that describes this person's understanding of worship.

- In Box C, Micah is reacting against the Box B version of worship. What is good worship according to Micah?

Answer by defining each of these three phrases:  
ACT JUSTLY    LOVE MERCY    WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD

- How is Micah's understanding of worship different from the kind of worship described in Box B?

## ► Read James 1:22-27.

- Which version of worship in the Micah passage—Box B or C—is James insisting on? Answer by underlining the words in Box B or C of the Micah passage. Explain your choice.

### Micah 6:3-4, 6-8

<sup>3</sup>My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me.

<sup>4</sup>I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.

<sup>6</sup>With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

<sup>8</sup>He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

### James 1:22-27

<sup>22</sup>Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

<sup>23</sup>Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup>and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

<sup>25</sup>But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

<sup>26</sup>Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.



»mon

Read Micah 6:6-7. Write down all the things these verses suggest people might offer to the Lord. Then consider what some people today think will earn them special favor with God. Pray that you will be able to give the Lord what He requires of you this week.

»tues

One way God has shown us what is good is through the teachings of Jesus. Read Mark 12:30-31. What does it mean to you to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? And your neighbor as yourself?

»wed

To act justly. Justice is the quality of being fair or impartial. Ask God to show you ways that you can promote this kind of justice.

»thurs

To love mercy. Mercy is showing compassion to someone, even when they don't deserve it. Who is it hardest for you to show compassion to? Pray that God will show you some specific ways to demonstrate compassion to this person/these people this week.

»fri

To walk humbly with your God. In Matthew 11:29 Jesus says, "I am gentle and humble in heart." In other words, Jesus wasn't pushy or proud. What does it mean for you this week to walk humbly with your God?

»sat

Now that you know what God requires of you, ask the Lord for the grace to do these things this coming week.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.  
—Micah 6:8

SCIENTIFIC  
HICE  
NON-COGNITIVISTS  
FACT INTERSECTION  
VALUES  
ENGINEERING  
ESSENTIALLY DISTINGUISH OTHERS  
CORRESPOND  
SOMETIMES  
CONTENDS  
ON

# THE Hallmark

Integrity is the hallmark or trait of people who follow God without wavering. Their words and actions, like Christ's, affirm rather than destroy. Their lifestyles are natural results of their close relationships with God.

The opposite is also true. Decayed moral standards are the hallmark of people who wander from God, who want to satisfy their own desires.

## What is the hallmark of Your life?

A. W. Tozer wrote of the decay of moral standards within the Christian church much as Micah did about the communities of Judah and Israel (Micah 6:3-8):

Perverted notions about God soon rot the religion in which they appear. The long career of Israel demonstrates this clearly enough, and the history of the Church confirms it. So necessary to the Church is a lofty concept of God that when the concept in any measure declines, the Church with her worship and her moral standard declines along with it. The first step down for any church is taken when it surrenders its high opinion of God.†

## A CALL TO ACTION

### Principles of Integrity

As you read each principle Tozer recommends that you live by, list one realistic way in which you can practice the principle in your own life.

First, you must forsake your sins.

"A holy God cannot be known by men of confirmed evil. . . ."

---

---

Second, you must completely commit your life to Christ by faith.

---

---

Third, let God, not sin, reign in your life. Be dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ.

---

---

Fourth, boldly challenge the cheap values the world holds dear.

---

---

Fifth, practice the art of meditating upon the majesty of God. †

---

---

†A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1961), pp. 192-193