



## Pray Together

**Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

## Read Together

A prophet is one who speaks on behalf of another. Most often in Scripture a prophet is presented as a spokesperson or mouthpiece for God.

In American politics the concept of a spokesperson is seen in the President's Press Secretary. The Press Secretary conveys the President's opinions, reactions, intentions, and, when needed, the President's very words. When the Press Secretary holds a news conference, it's never because he is speaking for himself. He is always expressing the words that the President desires to be spoken.

More than just spokesmen, the Biblical prophets were mouthpieces for God. "Thus saith the Lord" is the familiar refrain that rightfully accompanies their words. The prophet's calling was to proclaim the message God had given him. Many of the prophets were called to proclaim unpopular messages of judgment, exile, and destruction—serious messages for serious times.

What is often lost in seemingly one-sided messages of doom are vibrant messages of hope and ultimate restoration for those who return to God. Hope in who God is. Restoration in what God has and what God will do.

The Minor Prophets provide a robust view of the character of God for modern-day Christians. And as we "Go There" in an increasingly more complex world, we need to hear and respond to their powerful message today.

## Discuss Together

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.**

- It is no secret, the Minor Prophets aren't the most well-traveled area of the Bible for devotional study. Chances are this may be one of the first times you've studied these Scriptures.

As you enter into a study of the Minor Prophets, what do you already know about their message? In what ways is their message relevant today? What do you hope to learn during this study?



- Share a specific passage from the Minor Prophets that has impacted your life. Or share a specific passage from the Minor Prophets that demonstrates the Gospel.
- The Minor Prophets deal with the difficult questions of life: Is God the only god? Do human beings have worth and dignity? How should we have respect for human life? For the image of God? For parents? For marriage? For property? For truth?

What are some of the difficult questions of life that you are wrestling with? How could the words of Scripture and the hope of the Gospel address some of your questions?

- List some of the spiritual and physical needs of people in your everyday life. How should a faithful disciple of Christ respond to these needs? How is God calling you to respond?
- The Minor Prophets were men who lived “for such a time as this.” Some were priests within the temple community, but most were faithful men whom God used.

In 2016, we’ve talked much about “going there” and living out God’s missional purpose for your life everyday. Share some of the ways God has providentially used you to “go there” with the message of Gospel.

- Explain how sin has corrupted the good things of God. Give specific examples. How does Jesus redeem these examples?

## Do Life Together

**These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!**

- How is God calling you to exchange doom for everlasting hope?
- How has Jesus already provided hope in this area?
- Who do you need to share this hope with this week?

