

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

BREAKING
NEWS

THE BIG IDEA

When things go wrong, I can choose what's right.

THE BIBLE

Micah: Micah 3:5-12;
(1 Thessalonians 2:9-13)

QUESTIONS

- What are prophets and what did they do?
- What are some of things that were wrong around Micah's time?
- How did Micah stand up for what was right?
- Let's look at 1 Thessalonians 2:10 again (ask a student to read it). Why is it important to remember that we have "eyewitnesses" in our lives?
- If it were your job to bring news to your friends from God like Micah did, how would you feel delivering it?
- As people who follow Jesus, why is it important to remember that people can notice how we live?
- How will you choose to do what's right this week?

ACTIVITY

STORY | Right and Wrong

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share a story (or have another leader share a story) about a time when you saw people around you doing what was wrong, and you didn't stand up for what was right. For example, you didn't stand up for someone who was getting picked on. Or a group of your friends made an unwise decision that you went along with. Keep the story age appropriate, and focus on how you wished you would have been brave enough to do what was right.
- Have you ever wished you would have said something about something going wrong around you?

- It isn't always easy to say something about the things you know are wrong. But whatever you do – or don't do – remember that you are making a choice.
- **When things go wrong, I can choose what's right.**

ACTIVITY | BREAKING NEWS!

- A prophet brings people the news, kind of like a person you might see on TV who shares what's happening in the world, or a person who writes for a newspaper or blog and shares all that's happening we may have missed.
- But a prophet doesn't bring just any news. A prophet brings news from God. Sometimes, that made them really unpopular, but they had to be truthful about what God had to say . . . which was like breaking news coming straight from Heaven!
- Sometimes, the breaking news was exciting! Other times, it was a bit intense. Before we get into today's story, let's write our own breaking news stories!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide the kids with pieces of white paper and something to write with – pencils for the older kids, crayons for the younger kids. Tell each kid to write or draw a news story about something silly or crazy happening! For example, "Breaking News: Children are Now In Charge of Grownups!" or "Breaking News: Salads Will Now Be Replaced with Ice Cream at All Restaurants!" **After they're done, take a picture of their papers (without them in it) and I will use them in the videos later this month.***

PRETEEN HACK: *Write out each of the following questions – "Who?" "What?" "When?" "Where?" "Why?" and have kids call out random responses. Write the responses down, then have a volunteer read what you've written in a newscaster's voice, as if it were a breaking news story. You could also do this activity in teams*

ACTIVITY | Eyewitness Account

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use a pretend microphone to interview the kids. When they volunteer to share an eyewitness account, ask questions to get more information.*
- We have to remember that no matter what, there will always be witnesses in our lives. Whether it's our classmates at school, a younger sibling, or our friends at church, there will always be someone watching our actions.
 - **Can any of you give an eyewitness account of a friend or family member choosing to do what is right?**
 - **Who did you witness choosing to do what is right?**
 - **What did you witness? What choices did they make?**
- Thank you all for your eyewitness accounts. Those people have certainly set an example of how we can follow God. They help us to remember **when things go wrong, I can choose what's right.**

MEMORY VERSE | Memory Mirrors

- Sometimes, news gets repeated often so you will be sure to remember it. Repeat the memory verse after me first, then let's try it with a partner.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pair the kids for this mirroring activity. They will first repeat the verse after you then face their partner and say the verse together. For added fun while reciting the verse, have the kids copy each other's movements like they're looking in a mirror!*
- **"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong." – 1 Corinthians 16:13**

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH: 1 Corinthians 16:13 NIV

Looking for sign language? Go to growcurriculum.org/1Corinthians16-13 and get memorizing!