



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

## God of justice and mercy



### Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study helps us explore how God longs for us to act with justice, mercy and humility as we respond to, and prepare for, disasters.



### What does the Lord require of you?

**Read Micah 6:1-8.** The writer speculates on how God is to be pleased and considers the value of burnt offerings and sacrifices. The reply is simple and clear – that God’s basic requirement is none of these things. Instead of sacrifice, God requires his people to act with justice, mercy and humility.

*Verse 8 says: He has shown all you people 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.*

This verse motivates us to show compassion after a disaster has happened and to make efforts to stop disasters happening by pursuing justice.

Disasters are often made worse by greed, inequality and exploitation. Christians can start advocacy projects which challenge these unjust relationships and make people less vulnerable to hazards.



### Key points

God is a God of justice. He is also a God of mercy and humility. We are also called live with humility, to have mercy on others and to stand up against injustice.



### Questions for discussion

- What issues of injustice contribute to people’s sufferings in times of disaster in your area?
- What advocacy initiatives could be developed to help bring greater justice?

God calls us to show compassion for those who are suffering. We should be merciful towards people regardless of their ethnicity, religion, sex, age or ability, remembering that all people are equally valuable to God.

|                             |
|-----------------------------|
| Awareness-raising           |
| Children & youth            |
| Climate & environment       |
| Conflict & peace-building   |
| Corruption & governance     |
| Disaster risk management    |
| Discrimination & inclusion  |
| Food & livelihoods          |
| Gender & sexual violence    |
| Health & HIV                |
| Influencing decision-makers |
| Migration & trafficking     |
| Water, sanitation & hygiene |



## Reflection

Christian work to help the poor is sometimes described as 'mercy mission'. How might our mission change if it was 'Justice, mercy and humility mission'?



## Notes

This Bible study was first published in Tearfund (2011) ROOTS 9: *Reducing risk of disaster in our communities*

[http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/reducing\\_risk\\_of\\_disaster\\_in\\_our\\_communities/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/reducing_risk_of_disaster_in_our_communities/)

### Related tools

- A1 – Revealing fatalistic beliefs about disasters: information for facilitators [A1: *Disaster risk management-1*]
- A2 – The need to prepare - reducing the effect of disasters [A2: *Disaster risk management-1*]
- A2 – Disasters ball game - understanding shocks and stresses [A2: *Disaster risk management-2*]
- B – Fatalism - can we avoid disasters? (Bible study) [B: *Disaster risk management-1*]
- B – Noah - lessons in preparedness (Bible study) [B: *Disaster risk management-2*]
- B – Preparing for disaster (Bible study) [B: *Disaster risk management-3*]
- B – God's provision for the future (Bible study) [B: *Disaster risk management-5*]

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