

ADVENT #1 - HOPE FROM THE PROPHETS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MICAH 5:1-5

- 1 **The prophets Isaiah and Micah were contemporaries.** Both of them made prophesies about the birth of Jesus Christ, 700 years before He was born.

 Read Micah 5:2 and see Matthew 2:5-6; Luke 2:4-7; John 7:42. Micah predicted what specific thing about Christ? (Interesting comparison: let's say 400 years before Columbus came to America in 1492, a person predicted the exact birthplace of Abraham Lincoln who was born in 1809). Who else had already been born there? (see Luke 2:4)

♥ What does specifically fulfilled prophecy do for your faith? Have you ever used fulfilled prophecy to help someone believe the Bible?

- 2 **The context of this passage is this: Israel under King Hezekiah was in big trouble because the enemy (Sennacherib leading the Assyrian army) had come and laid siege against them (blockading them into the city until they would have to surrender).** Assyria had already taken away the northern kingdom of Israel. Assyria had conquered cities in Israel and was about to take the capitol city.

 Read Sennacherib's mockery of Israel's God and Hezekiah's prayer in Isaiah 37:9-20. Sennacherib predicted what would happen based on past victories? What did Hezekiah do in response? How did God answer? (Read Isaiah 37:33-38).

- 3 Micah 5:1-6 gives us help with living in the uncertain and sometimes terrifying, present. What truths did God speak to the people that helped them in their fear?

 How can you apply these same truths to whatever you are facing today?

- 4 **Imagine Micah 5 as a battle song.** You are a child in Jerusalem. You chant these words as you hear the laughter of the Assyrian army outside the walls. You chant these words from the prophet Micah as you wait for the army to begin to destroy your city, as he has done to the entire northern kingdom of your country. Meanwhile the army just seems to stay at arms length day after day...and then the great and mighty conquering army is gone. You are safe. What do you do spiritually in response? What do you tell your family about this event? What story was passed down generation to generation? What would Israel have been looking for in the future?

