

Micah 6:8

Church Audit

A tool to support you and your church to grow in justice, compassion and community.



Introduction

Introduction film

Show this film to people in your church to encourage them to come along and fill out the audit with you.

trussell.org.uk/audit-intro



Micah 6:8 Vision film

Watch this film in your audit session, before you start.

trussell.org.uk/audit-micah



Next step film

Watch this film at the end of your Audit session.

trussell.org.uk/audit-next



If you would like to think more about justice, compassion and community, then please see our study guides, also written by Jubilee+, at trussell.org.uk/churches/resources

“

**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 (NIV)

We are delighted that you are exploring our Micah 6:8 audit, written for us by Jubilee+. We seek to work with churches both to support food banks for as long as they are needed, and to end hunger together – by going upstream to challenge the injustices that drive people to the doors of food banks.

This audit is designed to help individual Christians and church communities consider how effectively they are embodying the call of Micah 6:8 – to bring justice, demonstrate compassion, and walk in humility with God as they build community with their neighbours.

But measuring how we are doing, or growing, in justice, compassion and community is not easy. Changes in relationship, intensity of prayer and small acts of kindness are not easy to measure, and every context is different – but we have seen that a commitment to loving God and loving our neighbour has practical, measurable outworkings.

This audit is a tool designed to help us examine our own personal growth in these areas, and where our churches are doing well and making a difference. This is not about comparing ourselves to other people or comparing our church to the one down the road. It is about tracking our own growth and discipleship compared to where we were a year ago, or five years ago, so we can see where God is shaping, leading and changing us, and where we still have room to grow.

This is a tool to use as an encouragement – hopefully it will show us where we have made progress and will help us to see the direction for the future. There is no need to feel any guilt or shame if we are not where we would like to be – we are all on a journey, and the point is to move forward one small step at a time.

Jessica Foster
Head of Church
Engagement





Instructions for use

You might want to do this audit exercise as an individual, or with:

- Your small group
- Your church leadership team
- Your whole church congregation

Doing the audit with others will help you to understand where some things are seen differently, so that you can talk about why that is,

and what you might be able to do to bring everyone onto the same page.

Throughout the process of using this Micah 6:8 Church Audit, remember to be compassionate to each other and to yourself. Remember to be fair and just, and to build community together, staying in good fellowship with each other, even if your responses differ.

On the following pages you will find a series of statements focused on the areas of compassion, justice and community. There is one set of statements for individuals and one for churches against each area.

To the right of each statement you will find two boxes, one inviting you to look back, and one for today.

After reading each statement, consider where you were five years ago against the scale below, and then where you are today.

Write your numbers in each box and use the questions provided to help you reflect on your journey.

The scales:

0

not on my/
our radar
at all

3

not started,
but keen
to begin

5

on the
journey, but
baby steps
so far

7

doing quite
well but
wanting
to grow

10

living and
breathing
this

Justice

You:

| | 5 years ago | Today |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • I am passionate about justice – issues of justice are on my mind a lot. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • My concern about justice has changed some of my personal habits. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I give some of my time to working towards and/or campaigning for justice. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I give money to organisations that are working to bring about justice. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I speak with people in my church about justice issues. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I try to influence my church leader when it comes to justice issues. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I raise issues of justice with decision-makers, such as my elected official. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Your church:

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Justice is often the focus of sermons/preaching at our main church meetings. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Our church prays about matters of justice. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • We have changed some of our church practices out of a concern for justice. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • We pick up on news about issues of injustice and poverty, and talk or pray openly about it in our gatherings. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Our small groups discuss justice issues when we meet. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Our newsletter, noticeboard or website expresses our commitment to justice. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Questions:

- 1** Where have you seen the most growth in your concern for justice over the last five years, in you personally or your church?
- 2** Where do you feel you need the most help?
- 3** Use the space below to outline three next steps in light of your responses above.

Compassion

You

| | 5 years ago | Today |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • I am compassionate – I am moved by the hardships people experience. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I regularly give some of my time to demonstrating compassion to others. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I give money to organisations that show compassion in practical ways. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I speak with people in my church about hardships people face. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I try to influence my church leader when it comes to being a compassionate church. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I encourage decision-makers to be people of compassion. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Your church:

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Compassion is woven into sermons and into the overall teaching pattern of our church. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Our church prays compassionately for people in our community who are facing hardship. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • We have a culture of compassion where we gently encourage each other to be soft-hearted and not hard-hearted in our attitudes towards people. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Whenever there is someone facing hardship in our church community, we actively look to help each other and share what we have. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Our church is known in the community as a place people can turn to for help in tough times. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Questions:

- 1 Where have you seen the most growth in your concern for compassion over the last five years - is it in you personally, or in your church?
- 2 Where do you feel you need the most help?
- 3 Use the space below to outline three next steps in light of your responses above.

Community

You:

| | 5 years ago | Today |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • I have a wide range of friends with different backgrounds, age, ethnicity, religion, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • When I notice I dislike certain people or groups, I pray for God to soften my heart. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I spend time with people who have different life experiences to me. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I share what I have with people I know who have less than me. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I speak with people in my church about unity in diversity. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I try to influence my church leader when it comes to being a church where all are welcome. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I actively play a part in improving my local community. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Your church:

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Community is woven into the overall preaching and teaching pattern of our church. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Our church feels like a family where all are welcome. We ensure people from all backgrounds and income levels feel like they belong. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • We invite feedback from people who are in a minority in our church – everyone has a voice. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Our church leadership team and those who have public roles within the church includes people from all classes and socio-economic backgrounds. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Questions:

1 Where have you seen the most growth in your concern for community over the last five years – is it in you personally, or in your church?

2 Where do you feel you need the most help?

3 Use the space below to outline three next steps in light of your responses above.

Next steps

The previous pages have guided you in finding nine steps you and your church could take – three towards justice, three to demonstrate compassion, and three to build community. You can now plan how you will take these next steps. Once you are ready, pop your next steps in the table on the right, and think about which you want to focus on first, and when you will start.

You could prioritise your next steps by numbering them according to ease, starting at '1' with the easiest to implement and '9' for the hardest.

Next, jot down when you think you will have completed each step. For example, if Step 1 under 'justice' is to stop buying from certain shops, you might write 'today'. However, if your step is to focus on justice issues in a Sunday gathering, your timeline might be six months from now.



| Theme | Priority | When |
|-------|----------|------|
|-------|----------|------|

Justice

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Step 1 | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Step 2 | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Step 3 | | |
| | | |

Compassion

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Step 1 | | |
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| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Step 2 | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Step 3 | | |
| | | |

Community

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Step 1 | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Step 2 | | |
| | | |

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| Step 3 | | |
| | | |

Example

Justice

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---|-------|
| Step 1 | Review which shops we're buying from | 2 | Today |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---|-------|

Notes

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



You now have an action plan and a timeline!

We are excited to hear from you as you take steps on this journey.

If you have any questions or stories to share on how your church grows using this audit, please get in touch at churches@trussell.org.uk

Together we can end the need for food banks.



trussell.org.uk/churches

     **TrussellUK**