



2

God Warns Israel



Key Passages

- Amos 3:1–2, 3:10–11

Lesson Focus

- God is just. He must punish sin.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the God Wants Us To Worship Him Coloring Sheet as a review of last week's lesson and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear how God used a simple man named Amos to warn the Israelites of the judgment to come.

Song—Students will have fun learning two new songs to help them remember that God is just and must punish sin. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: God's Mercy

Students will play a game similar to London Bridge as they sing the song about God's justice and His mercy.



Activity 2: Amos Puppet

Students will color and assemble a fold-over puppet of Amos.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they pass a ball or toy around the circle, while saying one word of the verse or singing the Memory Verse Song.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Print one God Wants Us To Worship Him Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- God Wants Us To Worship Him Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough and cookie cutter if appropriate



CIRCLE TIME

- Print one Map of Israel and Judah from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during class.
- Print, cut out, color, and assemble one Amos Fold-Over Puppet from the Resource DVD-ROM your use during the lesson.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Map of Israel and Judah
- Completed Amos Fold-Over Puppet



GOD'S MERCY

- Practice the "God's Mercy" song on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- "God's Mercy" song (on Song Sheet)



AMOS PUPPET

- Print and trim one Amos Fold-Over Puppet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Amos Fold-Over Puppet for each student
- Completed Amos Fold-Over Puppet
- Crayons
- Tape



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Bring in an item to use to pass around the circle as children recite the Memory Verse.

- Sponge ball, stuffed animal, or other item to be used to pass around the circle as children recite the Memory Verse
- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

In the opening verse of the book that bears his name, Amos is identified as a shepherd from Tekoa, a small town about nine miles south of Jerusalem. Amos was a simple man, caring for sheep and growing sycamore figs (Amos 7:14), and God used this humble man to communicate a message of pending judgment to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Amos was one of many prophets sent by God who were rejected by the people of Israel.

As a prophet, Amos delivered his message as straight from God. Throughout the book, Amos recorded exactly as God directed. The phrase “says the Lord” appears in this small book over 40 times! There is no doubt here that God was the source of the message—as He was the source, through the Holy Spirit, of the writing of all Scripture.

Amos was faithful to deliver the message from God, which not only warned of coming judgment because of Israel’s sin and disobedience (Amos 2:13–16), but also offered forgiveness and grace to the people if they would repent (Amos 5:4, 5:6, 5:14–15). God would finally punish their sinfulness, but He gave Israel decades to repent—revealing His patience.

Ultimately, Amos’s message was rejected—even by Amaziah, the priest who accused Amos of conspiring against the king. The priest reported Amos to the king and told the prophet to flee to the land of Judah and never again prophesy in Israel (Amos 7:10–13). God warned that an army would come against Israel. An adversary would be all around the land, sap their strength, and plunder the palaces (Amos 3:11). Israel did not listen, and this judgment came upon them when the Assyrians captured and deported the people of Israel in 721 BC (2 Kings 17:5–6).

The Old Testament prophets are divided into two groups—major prophets and minor prophets. Amos is considered one of the minor prophets, but that certainly doesn’t mean that he was less important or that his message was less significant than any of the other prophets. The classification of “minor” primarily refers to the length of the book in our Bibles.

The books of the minor prophets do NOT appear in chronological order in the Bible. For example, Amos was prophesying long before Ezra and Nehemiah, whose lives are recorded in the Bible before the book of Amos. Likewise, Isaiah prophesied after Amos, yet

his writings appear in the canon before the book of Amos. This is something to be aware of as you pursue Bible study. The books of the Bible are not arranged chronologically, but are arranged by sections. Knowing this will help you to discern, through careful observation of all of Scripture, what the historical context is—not only of the major and minor prophets but of all biblical history as well.

The prophets of the Old Testament had many roles. Amos fulfilled two of those roles by delivering messages of judgment to God’s people and to foreign nations—both Israel and the Gentiles. Chapter 1 confirms this when we read that Amos delivered the message of God’s wrath against the Gentile nations of Syria, Philistia, Tyre, Edom, Ammon, and Moab. Then, using the same language, he focused on Judah and then at length on Israel. God spoke with the same certainty against the Gentile nations as He did against His own chosen people. The Bible tells us that “God is angry with the wicked every day” (Psalm 7:11). But though God’s justice knows no partiality, He had mercy on those who turned to Him in repentance and faith. And He is still willing to freely pardon all those who repent and place their trust in the Messiah—Jesus Christ (Acts 10:34–38).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The introduction to the book sets Amos during the reigns of Uzziah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam II in Israel. Interestingly, Amos mentioned that his message was delivered two years before the earthquake. Throughout Scripture we find that earthquakes often accompanied God’s judgment. So what earthquake was Amos referring to? Apparently, he assumed the readers would know which earthquake he was talking about. As we compare Scripture with Scripture, rightly dividing the Word of truth, we find a similar reference in Zechariah 14:5. And, though not specifically recorded in Scripture, the Jewish historian Josephus reported an earthquake accompanying God’s judgment on Uzziah when he offered incense to God in the Temple. We read in 2 Chronicles 26:16–22 how Uzziah had sinned against God by entering the Temple to perform a duty assigned to the priests.

As we read and study Scripture, we need to keep in mind that, although historical information is great confirmation of what the Scriptures tell us, the records of men like Josephus are not inspired by God. Josephus was a reputable historian, and it is a reasonable

possibility that the earthquake occurred when God struck Uzziah with leprosy and was the same earthquake mentioned by Amos.

As God surely promised in Amos 3:11, Israel did eventually fall to an adversary. That adversary was the nation of Assyria, who under the leadership of Shalmaneser V besieged Israel's capital city of Samaria (2 Kings 17:1–8). God's patience with the 10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom had ended, and His justice was enacted through the destruction of their capital and the deportation of the people. Ten tribes of the 12 were now scattered among the nations. Now only two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) remained to the south in the nation of Judah. But it would not be long until Jerusalem and Judah would suffer the same fate as the nation to her north.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, I'm so blessed to be your called, chosen, and adopted child. In this lesson, I was saddened to read about how your chosen people, Israel, hardened their hearts against you. They did not embrace truth when your prophet spoke your message plainly. Thank you that when you judged your people, you kept your promise by preserving a remnant, so that I could be redeemed. I know that it is only by your grace that my heart is sensitive to your Word. Please keep me close, so that every time your Word delivers a message of correction to me, I will listen and return to you in humility. Help me clearly present your plan of salvation to my students this week. Please use this lesson to draw them to you as they consider your justice and your love.

➤ As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the God Wants Us To Worship Him Coloring Sheet.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, Map of Israel and Judah, Amos puppet, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Adoration is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God how much we love Him.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are so great and the Creator of everything! I love and adore you for . . . (insert personal prayer).

- Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.
- Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of adoration.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Who made you? *God.*
- ? What else did God make? *All things.*
- ? Why did God make you and all things? *For His own glory.*
- ? Can you see God? *No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- ? Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Bible Pass Around

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number.* You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. **We'll start right here.** Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *When finished with Bible Pass Around, you may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it.*

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

Refer to Lesson 1 Flip Chart and/or the map. Before we get started, do you remember last week we said that Israel and Judah were divided? Both nations were ruled by kings. There were a few good kings but lots more bad kings. The bad kings did not worship God. But God wants us to worship Him alone!

Point to the Northern Kingdom of Israel on the Map of Israel and Judah. For 250 years the northern nation of Israel did not have a single king who obeyed God. Not one king was good! They were all bad! All of the kings did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Refer to the Lesson 2 Flip Chart. This is where God's prophet Amos comes in. Amos lived many, many years before Jesus was born. He was a simple man. He was a shepherd. And he was a prophet. God used prophets—men God chose—to speak for Him. God chose Amos to give the Israelites a sad message. Remember, the people would not turn away from their false gods. They did not worship God alone! They were disobedient to God! And God sent Amos to tell them that they had to be punished for their disobedience.

? **Why did God have to punish the people?** Refer to the Lesson 1 Flip Chart picture of the king worshipping an idol. They did not worship God alone.

That's right. The people did not worship God. So God sent Amos to speak for Him and give the people the bad news.

Hold up the Amos puppet. Amos was a shepherd.

? **Do you know what a shepherd does? Look at this picture of Amos and see if you can figure it out.** Allow discussion.

A shepherd takes care of sheep! Shepherds were not considered very important people. In fact, no one liked shepherds very much. People thought they were poor, dirty, and not very smart. Yet God chose Amos, the poor shepherd, to deliver this very important message. Amos would tell the people that God had to punish them because of their sin. When God punishes sin, He is being just.

? **Can you repeat that after me?** When God punishes sin, He is being just! Have children repeat the statement a couple of times.

? **So, what is the name of the prophet God used?** Hold up the Amos puppet. Amos.

The verses we're going to read today are found in the book of Amos! The book is named after the prophet we are going to talk about today. This is part of the Old Testament. The Old Testament is in the front of the Bible. Everything that happened in the Old Testament took place before Jesus was born. How can we know it is true? Because it's in God's Word!

OK. Let's open the Bible now! Let's see where the book of Amos is. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Here it is in my Bible. Show the students the book of Amos in your Bible. Have the student sit back down.

Now listen carefully as I read from this part of the Bible called the book of Amos. I'm going to ask you some questions about it. Read Amos 3:1–2.

? **Who was speaking?** Amos 3:1. Hold up Amos puppet. Amos.

? **Who was Amos speaking for?** Amos 3:1. God.

? **Who was Amos speaking to?** Amos 3:1. The people of Israel.

? **What did Amos say God would do to the Israelites?** Amos 3:2. He would punish them.

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

Amos 3:1–2

Amos 3:10–11

- ? Yes, God was going to punish the people. Were most of the kings of Israel good kings or bad kings? *Bad kings!*
- ? That's right! Why were they bad? What were they doing? *Refer to the Lesson 1 Flip Chart of kings worshipping idols. They did not worship God.*

Not worshipping God is sin. God hates sin, and He must punish sin. Remember what we said before? When God punishes sin, He is being just. Because God is just, He must punish sin! I wonder how God will punish the people. God's Word will tell us how! Listen as I read more from the book of Amos. *Read Amos 3:10–11 enthusiastically.*

There are a lot of big words here. I'll explain. God was not happy! He knew the people did not know HOW to do right! They just kept disobeying God! God does not like sin. He hates sin. He must punish sin because He is just! And Amos told the people that God would send an enemy to the people. Enemies are not friends. They are not nice. They wanted to hurt the people of Israel. The enemy would fight with Israel and take over everything!

God's Word says the adversary, or enemy, would sap their strength! That means the enemy would overpower them. Are you strong? Show me your muscles! OK, I want three of you with big muscles to come stand in the middle of the circle. You pretend to be God's people—the Israelites. But you have sinned against God! *Choose three students who have "big" muscles.*

Now I want some of you to be the adversaries.

- ? What is an adversary? Do you remember? *An enemy. Someone who is not your friend.*
- You adversaries come in and circle around the Israelites. *Select a few students to stand in a circle around them.* The Bible says the adversaries were all around them. The adversaries took the Israelites away. I want you adversaries to take the Israelites away! Take them out of the circle! *Have the adversaries take the other students out of the circle.* That's what happened in the Bible. The enemy was stronger than the Israelites! They took the people out of the land of Israel, just as God had said! *If time allows repeat this exercise including more children.*

God is just and must punish sin. He hates ALL sin! And the Bible says that we are ALL sinners! God punished the Israelites because they sinned against Him. God sent enemies to come and overpower them and take them away.

- ? The Bible tells us that we are ALL sinners. Are you a sinner? *Yes. We are all sinners.*
- Did you know that our sin separates us from God? God cannot be around any sin. And God must punish all sin because He is just. We all have sin in us. That means we are separated from God, and we deserve His punishment.

But guess what! God is also kind and full of mercy! Mercy is another word for love. God loved the world so much that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the Cross for sinners, like you and me. Jesus took the punishment for all sinners who would ever believe and trust in Him. Because of what Jesus did on the Cross, whoever believes in Him will be forgiven of all their sins. Wow! Jesus died so that we would not have to! If we believe in Jesus, trust Him, and turn away from our sins, we don't have to be separated from God anymore!

SONG

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. God hates all sin. It does not matter if the sins are big or little. There is a song I want all of us to learn so we can remember that our sin is not good. It doesn't matter what the sin is! God must punish it. Sing "God Must Punish Our Sin" while using hand motions.

Wonderful singing! You know, God hates sin. He must punish sin because He is just. But God showed that He is merciful to sinners, too. Remember, God sent Jesus to take the punishment of all the people who would love Him, believe in Him, and make Him the Lord of their life! I want you to learn another song and then we're going to play a game singing it. It's called "God's Mercy." Sing the song a couple of times with the children. Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page during this part of the lesson.



God's Mercy

MATERIALS

- "God's Mercy" song (on Song Sheet)

INSTRUCTIONS

Sing this song while playing London Bridge. Choose two children to be the bridge. The other children will form a line to go under the bridge while singing the song "God's Mercy." When the last phrases of each verse—"Because He is just" and "For all who trust Him"—are sung, the bridge falls down and hugs the child in the middle. Then that child gets to be part of the bridge. You may want to include the Memory Verse Song as well.

We are going to play a game. Let me explain what we are going to do. This game is just like London Bridge. Everyone will line up, and I will choose two people to be the bridge. Then everyone will walk under the

bridge as we sing the song. At the end of each verse, the bridge will fall on the person in the middle. And the person caught will then get to be part of the bridge. Ready? Play the game.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God is just and must punish sin. He hates sin. His Word, the Bible, tells us that we are all sinners. Our sin separates us from God. But God made a way for us to be forgiven and not be punished! God sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for sinners. Those who believe in Jesus will not be punished. God showed His great love and mercy in Jesus Christ!



Amos Puppet

MATERIALS

- Amos Fold-Over Puppets
- Tape
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Have the children color the Amos Fold-Over Puppets. When they are finished coloring, help them fold and tape the puppet together. Leave the bottom open as a pocket for their hand.

- ? **Who remembers the name of God's prophet we talked about today?** *Hold up Amos puppet. Amos.*

- ? **What did Amos do for a job?** *He was a shepherd.*

I want you to make your own Amos puppet. You can take it home and tell your family about Amos, the prophet of God who warned the people that God would punish them for their sin because He is just!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God sent Amos, a simple shepherd, to warn the Israelites that He was about to punish them for their sins. God hates sin and must punish all sin because He is a just and holy God.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Isaiah 42:8 I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times.

MATERIALS

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Ball or other small toy

INSTRUCTIONS

Now it's time to really work hard on learning our memory verse. So everyone come over here and get ready to memorize **part of God's Word!** *Have students sit in the Circle Time area. After reviewing the verse from the Flip Chart*

Memory Verse Page, pass a ball or other small toy around. As each student receives the object, he or she will say the next word of the verse until the verse is complete. You can also sing the Memory Verse Song during this activity. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God's Word is very important. It tells us true things about what God has done since He created the world! But it also tells us about Him. We can get to know God and what He's really like when we read and listen to His Word, the Bible. Then when we memorize the words, they will be hidden in our hearts so that we might not sin against God. Will you work hard to memorize this verse? That would honor God and His Word.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart and any other props you've used today.

God chose Amos, a simple shepherd, to speak God's message to the Israelites. Amos told the people that God was about to punish them for their sins. God sent an enemy to fight the Israelites and take over everything. You see, God is holy and hates sin. And God is just and must punish sin. He wants us to turn from sin and trust in His Son Jesus who died to take the punishment of everyone who would trust and believe in Him.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

For 250 years, the Israelites disobeyed God by worshipping idols. God was very patient with His people and showed great mercy by not punishing them right away. He gave them a long time to repent. God is very patient. But did you know that God is also just? Since God is just, He must punish sin. God punished His people for their disobedience by sending an army to fight the Israelites and take them away to another country far from home. God is perfectly fair in judging sin. He must judge sin. He is holy and hates sin. God wants us to believe in His Son Jesus who died for sinners like you and me.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word and the truth.
- Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for sins.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to obey Him.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

GOD MUST PUNISH OUR SIN

(To the tune of "Ten Little Indians")

Hold up your fingers to count the sins.

One little, two little, three little sins,
four little, five little, six little sins,
Seven little, eight little, nine little sins,
God must punish them all.

God sent, God sent, Jesus to ear-earth.
Jesus, Jesus, died on the Cro-oss,
All who believe will not be punished,
Holy God is merciful.

ISAIAH 42:8

(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Have the children march around the room.

I am the Lord, that is My name;
(The farmer in the dell, the farmer in the dell.)

And My glory I will no-ot give to another.
(Hi-ho the dairy-o, the farmer in the dell.)

Nor My praise to car-arved images.
(The farmer in the dell, the farmer in the dell.)

Isaiah forty-two-oo-oo, ver-erse eight.
(Hi-ho the dairy-o, the farmer in the dell.)

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.

GOD'S MERCY

(To the tune of "London Bridge")

Clap, stomp, whisper, and yell when singing "all our sins" and "punishment."

God must punish all our sins,
(London Bridge is falling down,)

All our sins, all our sins.
(Falling down, falling down.)

God must punish all our sins,
(London Bridge is falling down,)

Because He is ju-ust!
(My fair lady.)

Jesus took the punishment,
Punishment, punishment.
Jesus took the punishment,
For all who trust in Him!