



Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

Learning the Old Testament books starting with Isaiah

The Prophet: Amos, a shepherd & a fig farmer

The People: The Northern Kingdom. Israelites who lived in Samaria

The Prophecy: Seek The Lord And Live. 5:4,5,6,14; 8:12

The Principle: God hates Greed, Cruelty & Stealing

Aim Questions:

1. Did Amos prophecy primarily to the Northern kingdom of Israel (Samaria) or the Southern Kingdom of Judah.?
2. The Israelites were God's chosen people. Why would He want to punish them?
3. Who did God call cows, and what were they doing wrong?
4. What does God think about how we treat poor people?
5. How can you seek the Lord and live?



Hook:



PROSPERITY PURSUIT. You will need fake money and a list of things for your Bible students to do for our artificial dollars. How to play: Look through the list of tasks. You will have 5 minutes to complete as many as you can, as many times as you want. After you finish one task you must run to the "Pay Master" (*One of the teachers*) and get paid. As soon as you have received your wages do another task on the list and so on. You have five minutes. At the end of the allotted time total up the Bible students earnings. The Bible student with the most Bible dollars wins! [*The winner could receive a dollar coupon from McDonalds for an "Earthshake" which will be part of God's judgment on Israel.*] **Debrief: Israelites Problems Progress with Prosperity Pursuit!!!. 3AMO04JR.GF1 Funny Money. 3AMO04JR.GF2**

IMAGINATION STATION. Teachers take the Bible students slowly through Amos 5:18-20. Make the passage read like a short story. [In the time of Amos people were longing for the Lords return but Amos said "Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord!" It will be dark so we'll turn off the lights. Imagine you are running through a jungle being chased by a lion. He almost grabs you by the back of your neck but suddenly ahead of you there is a rope ladder hanging from a helicopter. You grab it and are swung away just in time. You can smell the lion on your clothes he was so close. The helicopter takes you to a clearing where there are two cute bear cubs playing. You watch them and begin to go play with them when suddenly Momma bear roars her anger at you for getting near her babes. With one swipe of her claw, you are toast. You drop to the ground and pretend you are dead. She senses no more danger to her cubs and she gathers them up and ambles off. You drag yourself to the underbrush and try to find help. You spot a house. You make your way towards it. You knock. No one answers but the door is slightly ajar. You enter. You rest your hand against the wall and hear a hissing. A snake bites your hand.] God's judgment on His people will be severe. Will the Israelites heed the Lord's warnings? Let's listen to today's Adventure and find out.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



SKIT. You will need a garden glove puppet and a teacher to perform this short skit.

Teacher: Oh, it's a good morning today! My friend, _____, wanted to do a good work today so he/she volunteered to help get ready for the Adventure.

Puppet: Hey, Bible students!!! Today's very special book of the Bible is Amos. Let me read you one of the scriptures. [Amos 5:24--But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!] Cool passage, A?

Teacher: It is a great passage. Can you tell the Bible students why you like it?

Puppet: Well, I'm ready for God to come to the earth and get us! Then the bad sinners will get what they deserve!

Teacher: That sounds harsh.

Puppet: Sure does. But, I'm ready!

Teacher: I'm glad you are, now it's time...

Puppet: Excuse me! Don't you all want to know why I know I'm ready?!?

Teacher: I think we know, okay as I...

Puppet: No, you don't get it! Now, I will tell you how I know that I'm ready for God to come back. You see, I've worked very hard, very, very hard at doing good things. I pick up my room, dust the front room, mow the lawn, feed the dog...

Teacher: Excuse me a minute. Do you get paid an allowance for doing those jobs?

Puppet: Sure, but what's the deal?

Teacher: Would you do those jobs even if you didn't get paid?

Puppet: You know I need the dough, a guy needs some money. I guess I could get a job somewhere. Wait a sec, I didn't finish telling you, I come to church every Sunday. I also attend Bible School and Kings Kids. And the really biggy is that I'm helping you right now.

Teacher: Yes, and I thank you for helping me. But, I don't think you are going to like what I have to say to you.

Puppet: Woah, hang on pard. I'm here for you and see how you treat me! You are treating me like an old glove! I could have stayed with the garden club you know!

Teacher: Yes, you are here. If you think your deeds are so wonderful maybe you need to go do something else. You shared a favorite scripture with us but, have you read the rest of Amos?

Puppet: Well, I don't like all of it so I just leave those parts out.

Teacher: Amos tells of God's anger burning toward his people. They started out doing good things for the right reasons but soon fell into doing those things for their own selfish ambition. Perhaps they wanted to show God how good they were being--dazzle Him so much He'd rush down and snap them up to Heaven.

Puppet: Cool, that's me!

Teacher: Nope, sorry, uh-uh. Our good deeds aren't our ticket to Heaven. God wants our obedience, not our sacrifice. Jesus was perfect and He is the one who has dazzled God by taking the place of our imperfect selves. Jesus did everything right. He died to take away our sins and make us holy in God's sight. Jesus did His good work here on earth so now God accepts our good works.

Puppet: Woah, I missed the boat. I think we should pray.

Teacher: Okay. Would you like to?

Puppet: Well God, I do a lot of good things for me. Please forgive me and help me to do things in Your name. Help me obey and help the Bible students too. I want to do what you want me to for the right reasons. Amen.

Bible Adventure -

By now, after listening to the prophecies of Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum you have a pretty good idea of the kind of messages God gave to His prophets to deliver. Because of God's great love for His people, He sends a number of prophets to them with special messages. One of these prophets was Amos, a sheep herder and farmer from Judah. Amos was an ordinary man to whom God had given an extraordinary message.

In Amos' time, Israel was enjoying a time of wealth and prosperity. The two kings who reigned during Amos' lifetime had brought stability to both Israel and Judah. Both kingdoms were able to expand, giving them control over the trade routes and increasing their wealth even more. A class of rich people was created. These people built expensive homes and began living lifestyles that were selfish, self-serving

and wasteful. They continued going to the temples and offering sacrifices to God, saying their God was with them and that no harm could come to them. They thought their wealth was a blessing from God. Their worship became fake, and their god became their riches.

God sends Amos to His people with a message for them. Amos spoke against six different nations, and then he spoke against Judah the Southern Kingdom (Amos 2:4&5). The rest of His prophecies are aimed at the Northern Kingdom of Israel. At first the message seemed fine to them when God tells them He is going to judge Aram and Philistia, longtime enemies of Israel. But when God moves on to include Tyre, Edom, Ammon and Moab, they become a little uneasy. These nations were sometimes allies; some were even blood relatives. For each of these nations, God warns them of the coming judgment, tells them why they are being judged, and describes what the punishment is going to be. God lets these nations know that they were guilty of breaking an agreement with Him. The agreement was made back in Genesis when God promised never again to send a great flood to the earth and in exchange the people of the earth were never to shed the blood of another person. They had broken their agreement, and now God was warning them of coming judgment.

When Israel and Judah heard God's reasons for judgment upon the Gentile nations, they probably thought, "How awful they are! God is right is punish them. Go get them, God!" God's people have a shock in store for them. Guess what God tells Amos to say next? In chapter two, we find God's words, "For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath." And again, "For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath." There is no doubt God has their attention now! "God is going to judge us? Why would He do such a thing?" God never judges without first warning and giving His reasons for judgment, so He lays it out for them.

The charge against them is that they took advantage of the poor people in their midst. Honest people, who had to borrow money just to survive, were sold into slavery instead of being given a chance to pay back the money they owed. The court system had become very unfair, siding with the wealthy and denying justice to the poor. Riches had become so important to God's people that they broke God's laws in their efforts to obtain it. They were dishonest and got money any way they could, using cruelty, lies and even theft. Money had become Israel's god. Look at Amos chapter four and verse one. Amos spoke for God against the rich people's sin in serious way. He calls them cows. They oppress the poor and crush the needy, and without a second thought they ask for another drink. Amos was pointing to the fact that these rich people who were dishonest were not even concerned about the struggling people who may not have even had enough to eat. In chapter five verse 12 Amos accuses them of taking bribes, and still ignoring the poor. Today we have people who are poor by choice because they will not work, but there are many people who work very hard, and are unable to make ends meet. Sometimes a family might suffer a catastrophe like loosing their home or having their father die. If we ignore those people, and take no thought for helping them, we are just like the cows Amos talks about. There are also people who live in other countries who are very poor. Some of them do not even have houses to live in. If we say in our hearts, "Well that is their problem not mine.", we are just like the cows that Amos accuses.

Amos then goes on to emphasize Israel's rebellion and unfaithfulness by reminding the people of God's loving care for them in the past, and of His warnings to them when they rebelled against Him. God calls to them through Amos, "Seek the Lord and live." But in spite of God's warnings and the love He showed them, Israel kept on adding to her sins. Because of this God said He would not turn back His wrath. He tells His people He is not fooled by their visits to the temple and their sacrifices to Him. In their hearts, they are far from Him. So God tells them that the Day of the Lord is coming. He tells them there will be no place to hide when His judgment falls. You see, it is a dangerous thing to play games with God. He knows our hearts better than we know them ourselves. God does not want a phony, outward show of religion. He wants all of us--heart, soul and mind. We have the testimony of Scripture to let us know that God honors and keeps those who seek Him in that way. Will you listen to the words of Amos, seek the Lord and live?



Look:



REPENTANCE. God wants Israel to have truly repentant hearts. The Israelites have hardened themselves. They thought their religion, their beliefs, and practices were fine, yet they were far from God. 5:20-27. Think about what true repentance is. How many words can you make out of “**REPENTANCE**”? **3AMO04JR.GF3**



HIGHLIGHTS. Use a highlighter and mark the positive character traits. These are the things God desires us to be. The words that are left are how the Israelites were behaving and God wanted them to seek Him. They chose not to. Choose ye this day, who are you serving: world, self, others or Christ? **3AMO04JR.GF3**



Took:



PROPHET PAGE. This is a half sheet of paper for the Bible students to fill out. This page will also help with memory work. If these pages are all saved the Bible students will have a booklet on the Old Testament prophets that they have put together themselves. [These pages will fit in a small binder. There are two prophet pages on each sheet.] **3AMO04JR.GF4**



SEARCH & RESCUE. Look through the first 6 Chapters of Amos. Find some specific scripture references that tell of Israel's' sin. [2:6, 2:7, 3:10, 4:1, 5:11, 5:12 *Give the Bible students an opportunity to find Israel's' sins before directing them.*] List your findings on the board. Do these things happen today? What can we do to steer clear of being trapped in some of these sins?



JUMP ROPE. Get a long jump rope and have the Bible students take turns trying to run in. When a Bible student jumps in, start saying the Amos 4 P's. (Hint on running in...listen to the rope hitting the ground. When you hear it hitting the ground, run in and jump!)

The Prophets name is Amos
 He's a shepherd and a fig farmer
 The People, ---Samaritan Israelites
 The Prophecy---earthquake & Assyria
 destruction---God's judgment.
 The Principle---God hates greed--
 cruelty and stealing.
 These are the 4 P's
 Got 'em from Amos
 Now it's time to jump out



[If your Bible students are unable to “jump in” start them by standing next to the rope.]

[Ideas*** song--To obey is better than sacrifice. Keith Green
 Make “EARTHSHAKES” at home. Give them a recipe. Perhaps include Oreos to get that earthy appearance. Use them to discuss God's judgment.][



PROSPERITY PURSUIT

SMILE AT YOUR TEACHER \$1
SPIN AROUND 3 TIMES \$1
WRITE JJ5SU S IS *THE REASON*
***FOR EVERY SEASON* \$5**
WHISTLE JESUS *LOVES ME* \$5
RECITE A BIBLE VERSE WITH
REFERENCE \$10
RECITE THE NAMES OF
EVERYBODY IN THE CLASS \$10

PROSPERITY PURSUIT

SMILE AT YOUR TEACHER \$1
SPIN AROUND 3 TIMES \$1
WRITE *JESUS IS THE REASON*
***FOR EVERY SEASON* \$5**
WHISTLE JESUS *LOVES ME* \$5
RECITE A BIBLE VERSE WITH
REFERENCE \$10
RECITE THE NAMES OF
EVERYBODY IN THE CLASS \$10

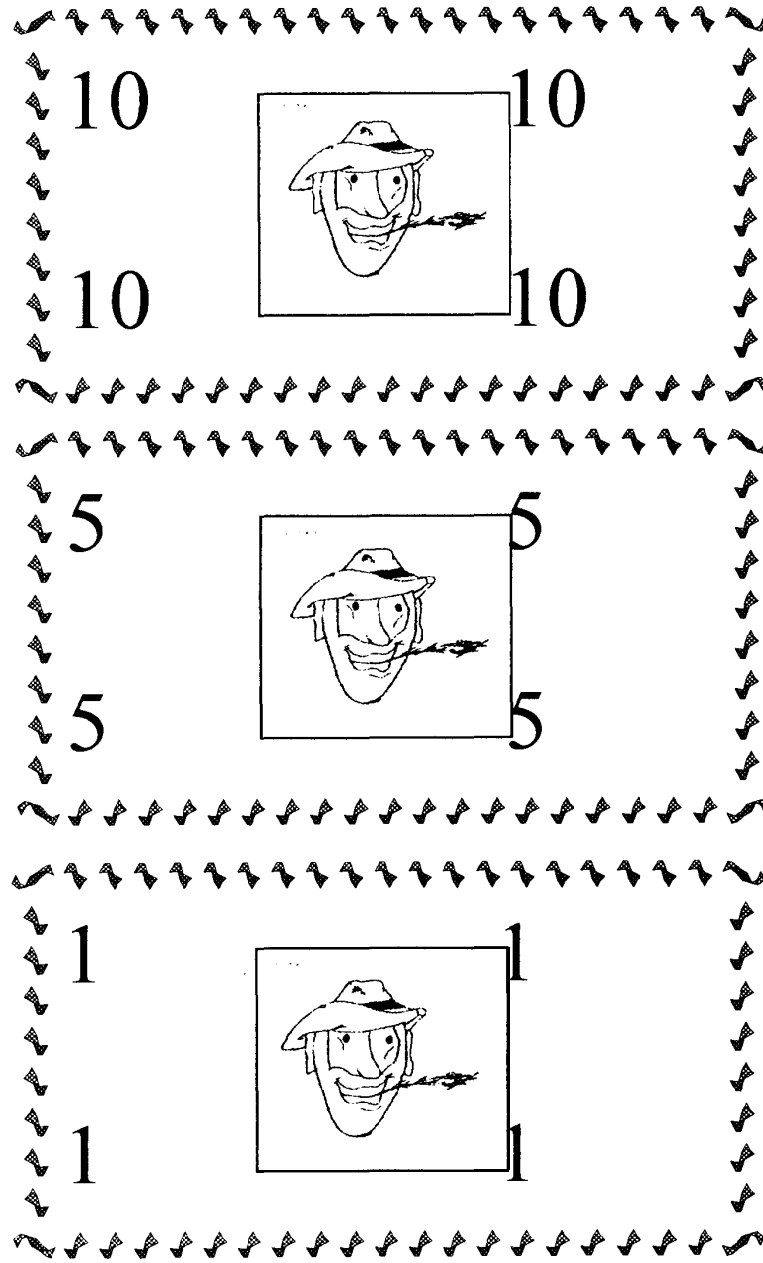
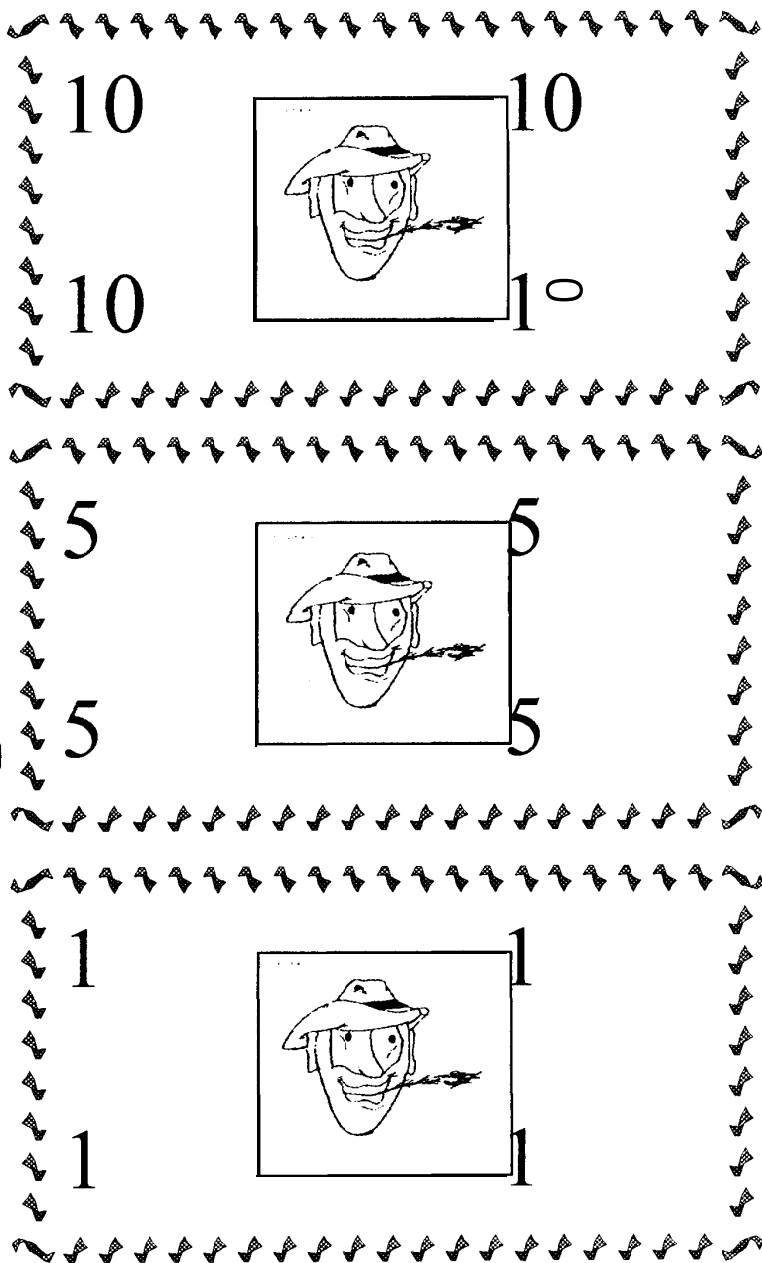
PROSPERITY PURSUIT

SMILE AT YOUR TEACHER \$1
SPIN AROUND 3 TIMES \$1
WRITE "JESUS IS *THE REASON*
***FOR EVERY SEASON* \$5**
WHISTLE JESUS *LOVES ME* \$5
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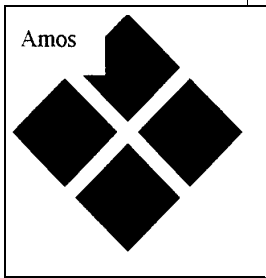
FAKE MONEY



*AMOS HIGHLIGHTS REPENTANCES+

REPENTANCE

RENT



AMOS
shepherd
fig farmer
Prophet from God

God wants Israel to have truly repentant hearts. The Israelites have hardened themselves. They thought their religion, their beliefs, and practices were fine, yet they were far from God. Think about what true repentance is. How many words can you make from “REPENTANCE”?

Highlights

Use a highlighter and mark the positive character traits. These are the things God desires us to be. The words that are left are how the Israelites were behaving and God wanted them to seek Him. They chose not to. Choose ye this day, who are you serving: world, self, others or Christ?

selfish-nice-fair-wasteful-
selfserving-kind-loving-
greedy-just-cruel-patient-
robbers-joyful-humble-
unlawful-good-prideful-
merciful-disobedient-
giving-oppressors-
faithful-caring-idol
worshippers-tender-self
controlled-thankful-

Aim Questions:

1. In Amos who is on trial? What are the charges? What will the sentence be?
2. What are some things that happened to the Israelites that might cause them to want to come back? Would any of these things have made you stop and say, “Hmmm maybe someone is trying to tell me something!”
3. Why do you suppose it was so hard for the Israelites to just “Seek the Lord and Live”? How about in your own life?

BOOK: _____

PROPHET: _____

PROPHECY: _____

PRINCIPLE: _____

PEOPLE: _____

Notes.

BOOK: _____

PROPHET: _____

PROPHECY: _____

PRINCIPLE: _____

PEOPLE: _____

Notes.

Preview

File Name: AMOEL/JR.PRV

Amos Chapters 1-6

Memory Work.

Leaming the Old Testament books starting with Isaiah

The Prophet - Amos, a shepherd and a fig farmer

The People - The Northern Kingdom. Israelites who lived in Samaria.

The Prophecy - Seek the Lord and live. 5:4,5,6,8,14; 8:12

The Principle - God hates Greed, Cruelty and Stealing 3:10

Amos 3:1 0

lo "They do not know how to do right," declares the LORD,
of who **hoard plunder** and **loot** in their fortresses." (NIV)

Amos 2:6

“This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back *my wrath*. They sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals. (NIV)

Amos 2:7 7 They trample on the heads of the poor as upon the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name. (NIV)

Amos 4:1

1 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, "Bring us some drinks!" (NIV)

Amos 5:11 11 You trample on the poor and force him to give you grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. (NIV)

Amos 5:12 12For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts. (NIV)

Content/Fact Outline:

1. Amos's Commission. 1:1 &2

11. Eight Prophecies Of Judgment. Amos 1:-2:16

Damascus 1:3-5; Gaza 1:6-8; Tyre 1:9-10; Edom 1:11-12; Ammon 1:13-15; Moab2:1-3; Judah 2:4-5; Israel 2:6-16

111. Three Sermons for Israel. Amos 3:1-6:14

A. Present condition of Israel. Amos 3:1-15

B. Past warnings of God to Israel. Amos 4:1-13

C. Future destruction as God's judgment. Amos 5:1-6:14

Concepts:

•Israel and Judah were experiencing prosperity and peace. Uzziah was king of Israel and Jeroboam II was nearing the end of his reign over Israel. 2Kings 14:23-29 Jeroboam had experienced prosperity simply because God had no one else to use, but He was as evil as his name sake who had been responsible for the kingdom split as well as establishment of high places in Israel. IKings 12:25ff. God called a farmer/herdsman from south of Jerusalem to go speak against the indulgence Israel.

- The book of Amos begins with eight prophecies that are leveled at several different nations including Judah 2:4&5 and ending with Israel 2:6-16. Next we have record of three sermons or discourses that Amos delivered to the Northern people. The first exposes them for who they are. the second reminds them of God's past work and warnings. The final discourse pictures the Day Of The Lord. God's judgment near and far.
- Two themes seem to surface throughout the prophecies and the sermons. 1) Injustice was common. The poor were oppressed, the courts were not fair, and hoarding of wealth by any means was common. 2) Seek the Lord and live. These people had hardened themselves. They thought that their religion, their beliefs and practices were fine, yet they were far from God. 5:20-27. It is the familiar theme of obedience and mercy vs. sacrifice and ritual.

Application Points:

All of the prophets address repentance in some way. In these first six chapters Amos highlights injustice especially as it relates on the humanity side of oppressing the poor, and on the personal side of indulgence and greed. God's message was designed to tell Israel, you are not fooling me. Next week, we will hammer home the bigger picture of Amos' application - "Do You Measure Up". This week, it is probably most important for students to know Amos and understand his message.