October 6, 1996 **Amos Chapters 7-9**
4's, 5's & K **3AMO05PK**
God Is Righteous and Always Right!

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - ***Amos***
The Principle - ***God is righteous and cares for people in need.***
The People - ***Israelites living around Samaria***
God's Attribute - ***God is righteous.***

Aim Questions:

1. **What was the job of a prophet? (Take God's Word to a certain group of people)**
2. **Who can remember our prophets and what they said about God? (See Review below)**
3. **Where did Amos go to prophesy and what did he say? (Samaria; the Israelites were wrong to worship the calf idol and cheat people out of money)**
4. **In Amos' vision, what did God use as a picture to show the Israelites how crooked they were? (Plumb line, ruler)**
5. **What does righteousness mean? (Right, holy, good)**
6. **Name one way we can live on the straight path God wants us to follow. (Love God in our hearts, obey Him and help people who need it)**

Hook:

- **Building Center:** Using blocks, build structures of various kinds. Ask the children to build one that is leaning. Talk about how strong a building is that has straight sides and what happens if the walls are not straight. Amos told the **Israelites living around Samaria** that their lives were crooked, not lined up with God's Word, because they were worshiping idols and cheating people out of their money.

- Bring in all kinds of straight edges for the kids to trace against and create straight lines. With a ruler or straight edge, draw a Bible. This is the ruler by which we measure our lives. The lives of the Israelites didn't measure up. They needed to turn to God for help.

- **Drawing Center: (Use last week's 3AMO04PKGF1)** Hang up a plumb line and let the children take turns drawing a straight line beside it on a piece of paper on the wall. Move the line for each child. A plumb line helps a builder make the wall straight so that the building is strong. We want to keep on God's straight path, following Him and His Word. Put a picture of Amos at the top of the paper.

- **Get the Wiggles Out and Transition Time:** Ask children by name to go to their chair in the circle. Ask one to walk leaning to the right, one straight, one leaning to the left, one straight, etc., until all have found their chairs.

Book:

Presentation Ideas -

- ❑ Wear farmer's gear while presenting pictures. Show pictures of buildings and one of the Eiffel Tower that is leaning. Talk about the straight lines of most buildings. "What will happen to a building that is not built according to plumb?" Draw a plumb line on a piece of paper on the wall by actually using a plumb line. After the story, add a picture of a Bible and perhaps a picture of Jesus to show what we use as a plumb line in our lives.

- ❑ **(3AMO05PKGF2)** Use two puppets, Prophet Amos and Phony Priest Amaziah, to tell this Bible Adventure.

- ❑ **(3AMO05ECGF3)** Show King Jeroboam proudly standing in front of his beautiful palace in Samaria. He has a look on his face that says, "Mine! All mine!"

- ❑ **Review:** "What do we know about God so far from the prophets? Who is this? Obadiah. What did he tell the people for God? He told the Israelite children of Esau that God is **loyal** to the children of Jacob. Who remembers who this is? What did Jonah tell the people of Nineveh? Yes, that God is **merciful** if they would stop hurting people. Nahum told the people of Nineveh that God would punish them for doing what? Yes, worshiping idols and hurting people. Was God quick to punish them? No, He waited a long time. God was **slow to anger** but He did punish people when they quit listening to Him and continued in their sin. Amos was a farmer. What were the Israelites around Samaria doing that Amos had to warn them was wrong? Amos was helping them be right so they would please a righteous God."

Bible Adventure -

When we left Amos last week, he had just talked to the Israelites living in Samaria. He had said that God was watching everything they were doing. He warned the people to quit building altars, temples and idols to worship. He wanted them to quit thinking of themselves and cheating needy people out of their money so that they could build fancy houses and have lots of nice things. Amos said, "God will let the Assyrian soldiers knock down those phony, pretend altars and take you captive as prisoners to Nineveh." Amos was bringing the Israelites God's words to help them be righteous and live right like God. How were the people going to react to what Amos said?

Instead of listening to Amos, the Israelites living around Samaria were listening to the phony (pretend) priest, Amaziah. First of all, when Amaziah heard what Amos had said about him and what God was going to do with them, he was very upset. Immediately, he wrote a message on paper, called in a servant and asked him to take the message to King Jeroboam...pronto! The king of the Israelites living in Samaria at the time was King Jeroboam. He was not a good king because he didn't listen to God. The servant arrived on horseback and handed the message to King Jeroboam's servant. The king in his big chair picked up the letter, looked at it with amazement and then began to read. "King Jeroboam, prophet Amos is saying your land will be taken from you by the Assyrian soldiers. He says we will be taken captive to Nineveh and our altars and temples will be knocked down. Please deal with this as you see fit. Signed, Amaziah, the priest." King Jeroboam thought about the words just a little while. He didn't want to hear that at all!

Amaziah, upset with Amos' message, went searching through the countryside for Amos. When he found Amos, he didn't spare any words. Amaziah said, "Go back home to Jerusalem where you belong! Stop saying the temple at Bethel will be destroyed. King Jeroboam and the armies are too strong for anyone to take them away to Assyria. That can never happen us. Leave, now!" Amaziah wasn't willing to listen to God.

Amos knew what God had told him to say and he wanted to be obedient. Amos said, "I can't stop prophesying because these are God's true words, not my words. I was happy taking care of the sheep on my farm down by Jerusalem. I didn't ask for this job of telling people God's true words, but because the

Lord God chose me to be His prophet, I must tell you what He says. God gave me a vision, a dream. In the vision, I saw the Lord standing by a straight wall with a plumb line in His hand."

A plumb line is like a perfectly straight ruler that tells you how straight the walls are. When you hold something up to the plumb line, you can tell if it is straight or not. If a line is crooked at all, the plumb line will show it. For example, when a carpenter builds a building, he puts up a plumb line to make sure the walls are straight. If they aren't, the building will be crooked and might fall down when it gets old. When I put up wallpaper, I hang a plumb line to make sure the paper goes on straight. God put up a plumb line for the Israelites to see if they were straight. He wanted them to be doing what was right all the time. He wanted them to live on the straight path. When God saw the Israelites worshiping idols, He knew they didn't love Him with their whole heart. When God saw them taking from needy people for themselves, He knew they were greedy and selfish. Were they living the right, godly way? No, they were living their own selfish way and it was not straight. If you were to put a plumb line up to them, they would have been leaning far away from God's straight, right way for them to live.

Amos, the prophet of God, continued talking to the angry Amaziah. Amos said, "God wants me to tell you that He is measuring you Israelites to see how straight and right you are. You are not straight; you are crooked! God will knock down your altars and temples because you are not worshiping God there; you are worshiping idols. You don't care about people who don't have as much as you have. You take from them so you can have more fancy and comfortable houses for yourselves. All you think about is money and getting more. You don't love God with your whole heart. You don't listen to God. You don't ask Him for help. You are living for yourselves on a crooked path."

All of this made Amos very sad. He was sad the Israelites were not following God's righteous and straight path. He was sad to see the Israelites thinking of themselves and not doing kind things for needy people. Have you ever treated kids who have a lot of "stuff" differently than you treat kids who have a little? Amos was sad the Israelites living near Samaria had quit listening to God's Word. Do you listen to God's Word and try to obey it? I try to study the Bible every day and then I ask God to help me do what it says. Do you know people who only listen to God's Word at church and are too busy making money the rest of the week? Do you know people who are too busy playing to stop and spend some time listening to the Bible and praying? Do you know people who pretend to love God and worship Him but really they love money and what it can buy? Ask your Dad or Mom to read the Bible to you each day. Ask them to pray with you to help you do what God wants you to do. Tell God you want to live on His straight, right path and not get lost on a crooked, wrong path.

God had warned the Israelites in Samaria. They thought they would be safe with high walls around their cities and with strong soldiers guarding the walls. They were not safe because God would not let them keep living on a crooked path with disobedient hearts full of greed and selfishness.

I know someone who is on a wrong, crooked path. It is a selfish path. They know what God wants them to do but they are not obeying. They have chosen a crooked path that hurts them. It also hurts God to watch what this person is doing because it isn't right living. Someday this person will be sad they chose the crooked path instead of God's straight path. It sure makes me sad for them because I love them very much.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for this message You gave Amos for the Israelites in Samaria. It makes us think of ourselves. We want to follow Your straight path. We do love You, God, and we want to listen to Your Word and obey You. Help us want to listen to Your Word every day. Help us think of others before ourselves, especially people in need. Help our paths to be straight and right with You. Amen.

Look:

❑ **Plumb Line Path Center: (3AMO05PKGF1)** Let the children color the page and then tape a piece of string from the Bible to the person on the straight path. Talk about what the Ten Commandments say, particularly the ones that apply to this lesson, such as “no idols, don’t lie and don’t want something that belongs to someone else.” Place a Bible sticker on the page by the Ten Commandments to remind the children that the Bible is our plumb line to know what is right and wrong.

❑ **Picture Hunt:** Hide pictures of things children enjoy around the room, such as different toys or pictures of things children can enjoy doing with others. Ask a child to go find a picture. When he comes back to the circle, discuss if he took a crooked or straight path to the picture. Let all the children have a turn. These pictures could be glued to their coloring paper in the following activity. Talk about when we follow God's right way for us, it is straight and always the best way.

❑ **"Straight Path" Coloring Center:** (**3AMO05PKGF4)** On the left side of the page have a child and on the right side a picture of heaven, representing God. On the top and bottom of the page, have pictures of things that children might love more than they love God. These fun things might tempt us to forget God's Word, taking us onto a crooked path if we're not careful. God calls His right way a straight path. Have the children color the picture and make a thumbprint straight path to God. The path can be made by dabbing their thumbs on an ink pad.

❑ **Copy The Leader:** This game is similar to "Simon Says." Choose a child or a teacher to do an action and the others must follow. Actions might be rubbing their tummy, scratching a back, pretending to mix dough, pretending to be reading, hopping on one foot, walking up straight, walking leaning over, etc. To go on a straight path with God, we must do the right things He wants us to do. We copy God's instructions in the Bible.

❑ **Acting Center:** This game is a little like action charades. Divide the children into 4 groups. Each group must think of a way they can help a needy person. As they sing the following song, they act out what they want to do for someone and the others can guess what they are doing.

This is the way we scrub the floor, scrub the floor, scrub the floor.
This is the way we scrub the floor on any afternoon. (Or, "for our special friends")

This is the way we make the bed, make the bed, make the bed.
This is the way we make the bed at our grandma's house.

❑ Play Follow the Leader along a masking tape straight path. Sing "Follow Jesus" as you walk.

❑ Have nails nailed into blocks of wood in the shape of simple geometric designs, such as a square, a triangle or a cross. Let the children string straight lines. Talk about walking on the straight path. Request a sample from the Children's Department.

❑ Make a balance beam out of blocks or books. Give the children turns walking on the straight path. The children watching a child walk across can say, "Amos says God is righteous."

❑ **Snack Center:** Provide pretzel sticks, licorice, string cheese, or other foods that come in a stick form. Talk about straight lines and how God wants us to walk on His straight path.

❑ Provide march music and have the children pretend they are soldiers marching in very straight lines with straight backs, etc.

❑ **Map Drawing Center:** You have been told you can go over to your friend's house to play. Draw a straight path from your house to your friend's house. Draw things along the way that could distract you from following the straight path.

Songs:

❑ **If You're Happy God Is Righteous** (Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're happy God is righteous, clap your hands. (Clap, clap)
If you're happy God is righteous, clap your hands. (Clap, clap)
If you're happy God is righteous, then shout, "God is always right...yes!"
If you're happy God is righteous, clap your hands. (Clap, clap)

If you're sad when you don't share, make a face. (Make a frowning face)
If you're sad when you don't share, make a face. (Frown)

If you're sad when you don't share, you can learn to really care (Smile)
If you're sad when you don't share, make a face. (Frown)

The Bible tells us how to really care.
The Bible tells us how to really care.
Stay on God's right way, whether we're at work or play
The Bible shows us how to really share.

❑ **Follow Jesus**

❑ **I Have Decided To Follow Jesus**

❑ **Follow God's Path** (Tune: "Are You Sleeping?")
Follow God's path, follow God's path
It is straight; it is good.
His way is the right way; It's the Holy Highway
God is right(eous). God is good.

❑ **I'm In The Lord's Army** (Amos Style-See Took below)

Took:

❑ On a large piece of butcher paper, trace around or stamp in tempera paint every child's foot in a straight line. Write the words "WE WILL FOLLOW GOD'S STRAIGHT PATH." Review two or three of God's Commandments, such as not lying, coveting or loving anything more than God. Pray for each other to live God's way this week.

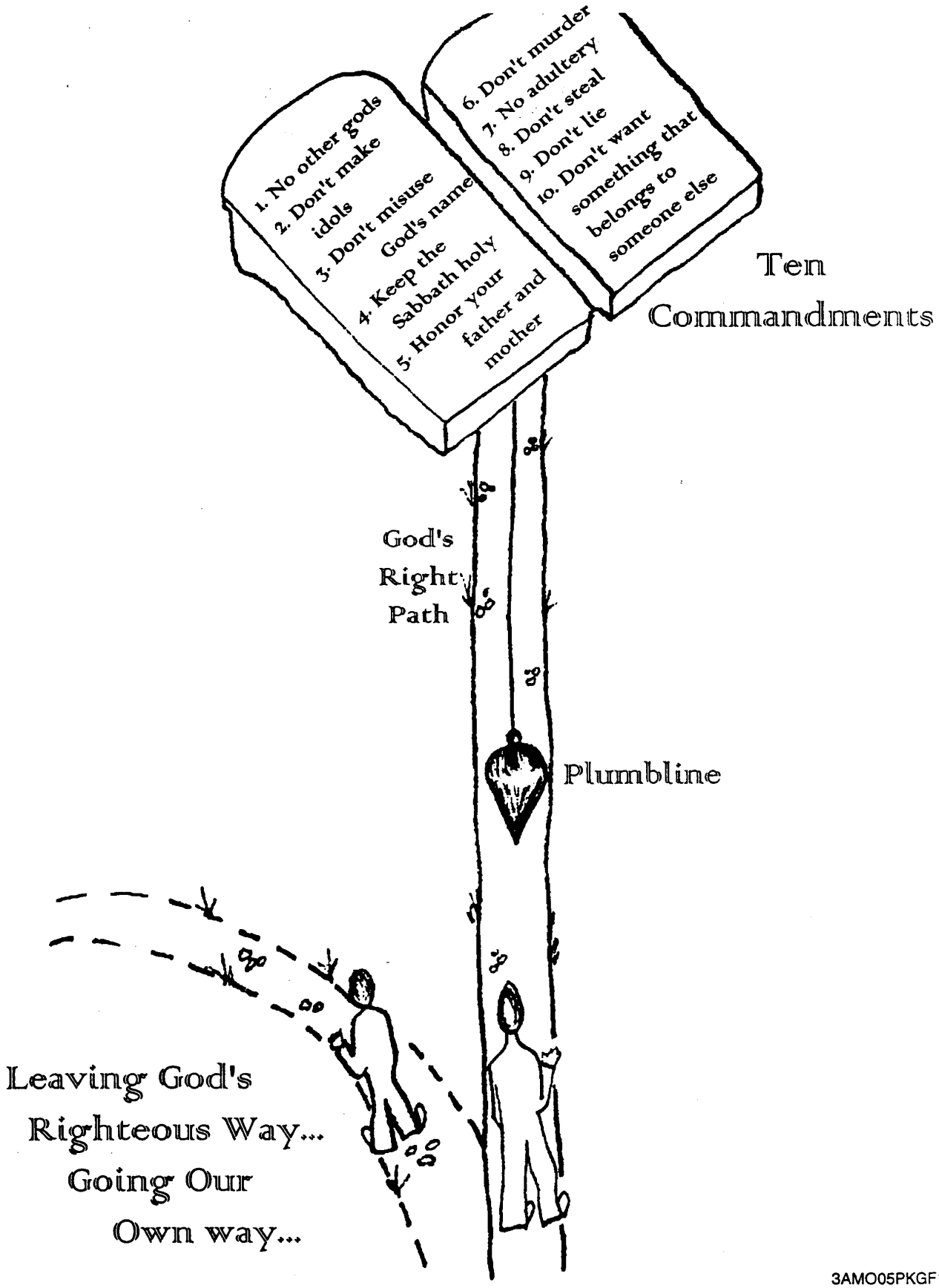
❑ **"Any Time of the Day" Art Page:** Divide a paper into 4 sections. Ask the children to color a sun coming up in the morning, a sun up in the center representing noon, a sun going down in the afternoon and the moon for night when the sun is down. In each section, they can draw a picture of something they might be doing if they were on God's straight, right path. You might talk about things you can do for a needy person, like sharing toys, clothing, food or inviting someone for dinner. Sing "Whisper a Prayer in the Morning."

❑ **Memory Work Review:** Use the large map to review the name of each prophet, what each prophet said about God, and the name of the people to which each was sent. Show the symbol with the picture of the prophet. Ask if anyone remembers the name of the prophet. "What did each prophet say about God?" Ask a volunteer to point to the place on the map where the prophet went. "What is the name of the people who lived there?"

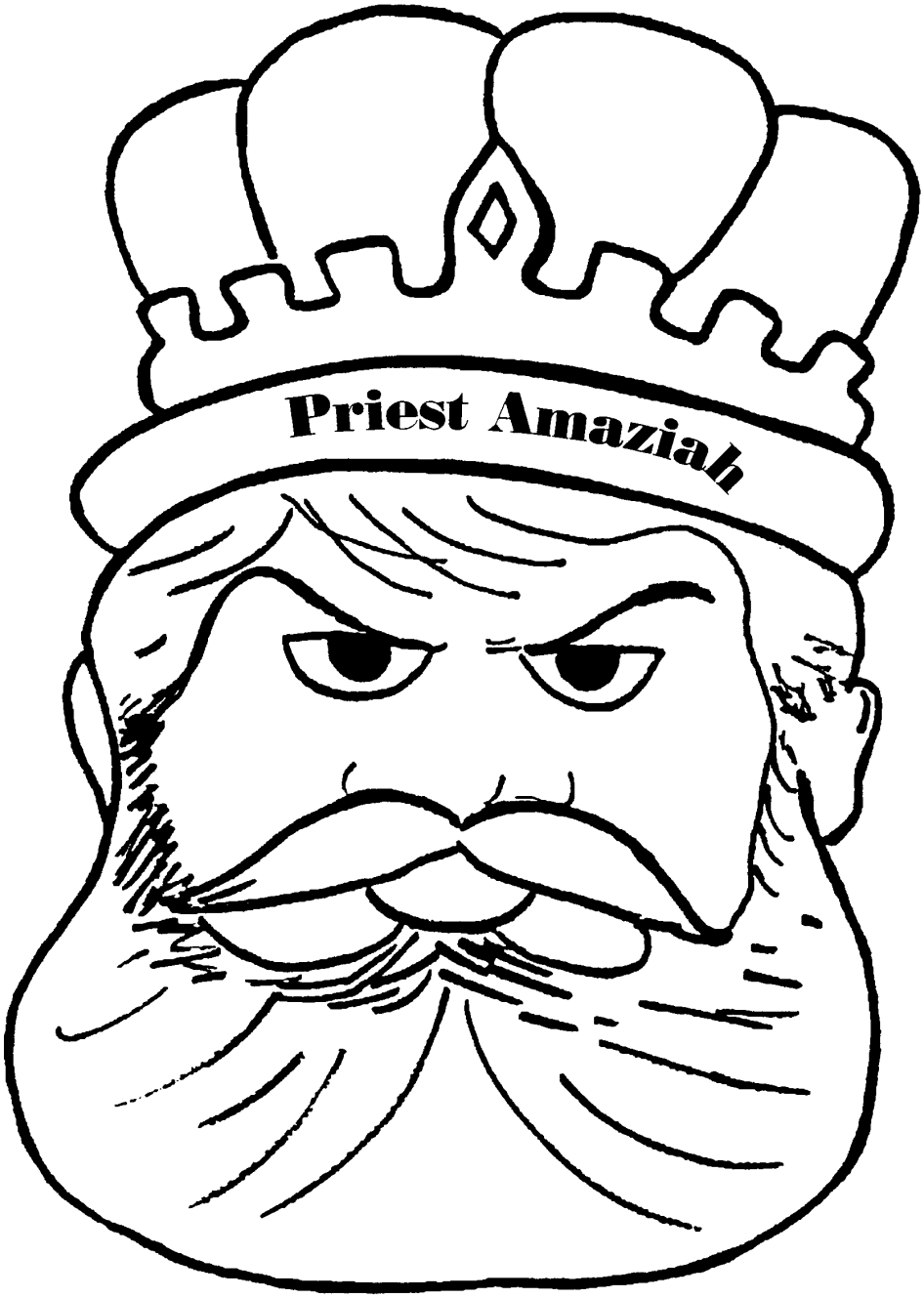
❑ **(3AMO05PKGF3)** Show a colored picture of King Jeroboam saying, "Mine! All mine!" Talk about the luxuries the people around Samaria enjoyed. Talk about things that we enjoy and think are ours, that we don't want to share. What does God say about sharing with those in need? Pray and offer God our whole heart, not keeping any part for ourselves. Sing "Follow Jesus."

❑ Let the children trace around their shoes on construction or butcher paper and cut out their shoes. Write on one or both of the shoes, "I want to walk on God's straight path." Let the children tape the shoes to their hands and "walk" on all fours as they sing the following variation of the "I'm in the Lord's Army" song. After singing the song, the children can draw a Bible on their "shoes" or place a Bible sticker to remember how we stay on God's straight, right path.

I don't want to walk on the crooked path, walk on the crooked path, walk on the crooked path.
I don't want to walk on the crooked path 'cuz I'm on the Lord's right path.
I'm on the Lord's right path. Yes, Sir! I'm on the Lord's right path. Yes, Sir!
I don't want to walk on the crooked path 'cuz I'm on the Lord's right path.

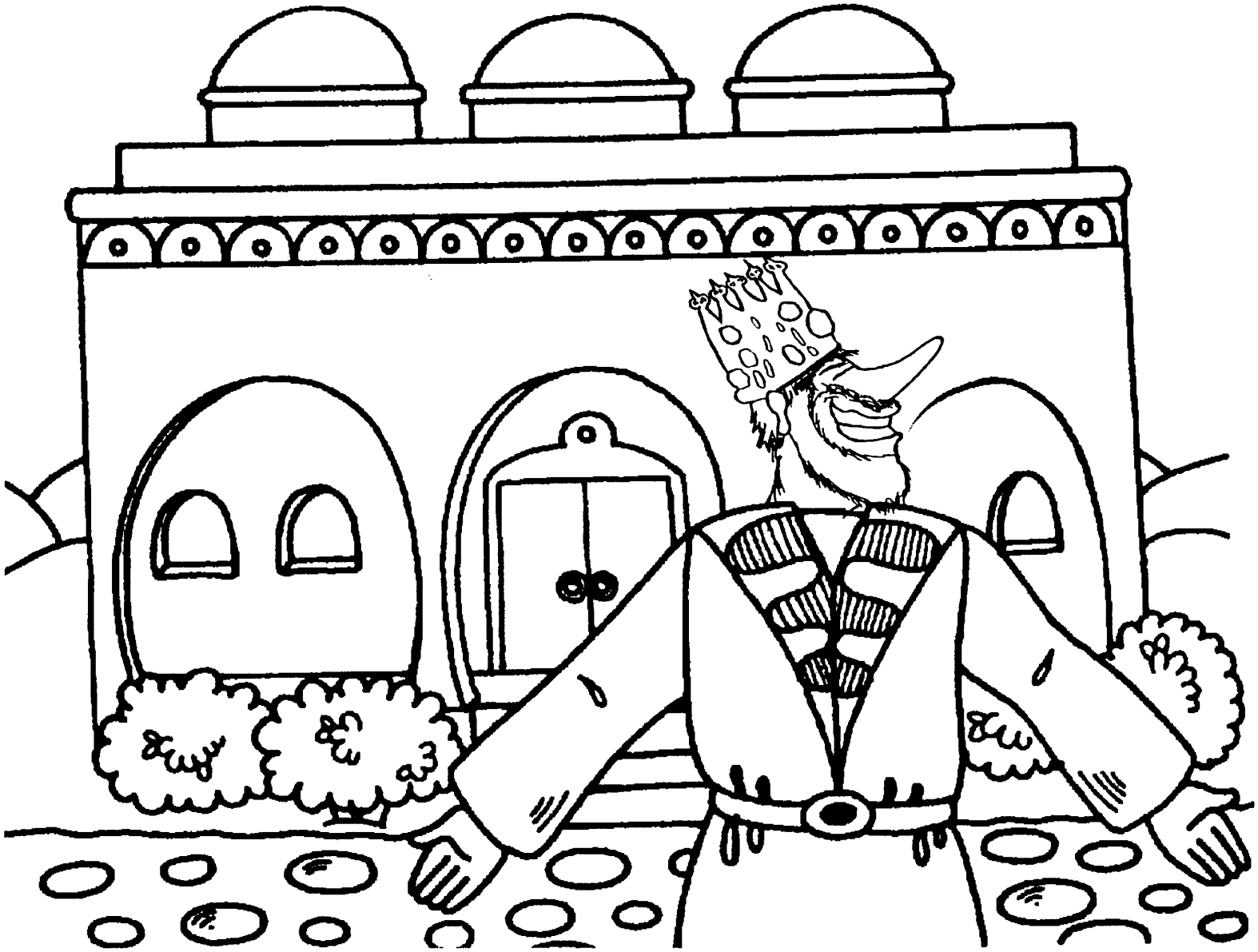


3AMO05PKGF1



Phony priest Amaziah didn't love God or listen to Him. He told Amos to stop saying that God would burn down the altars and chariots in Samaria.

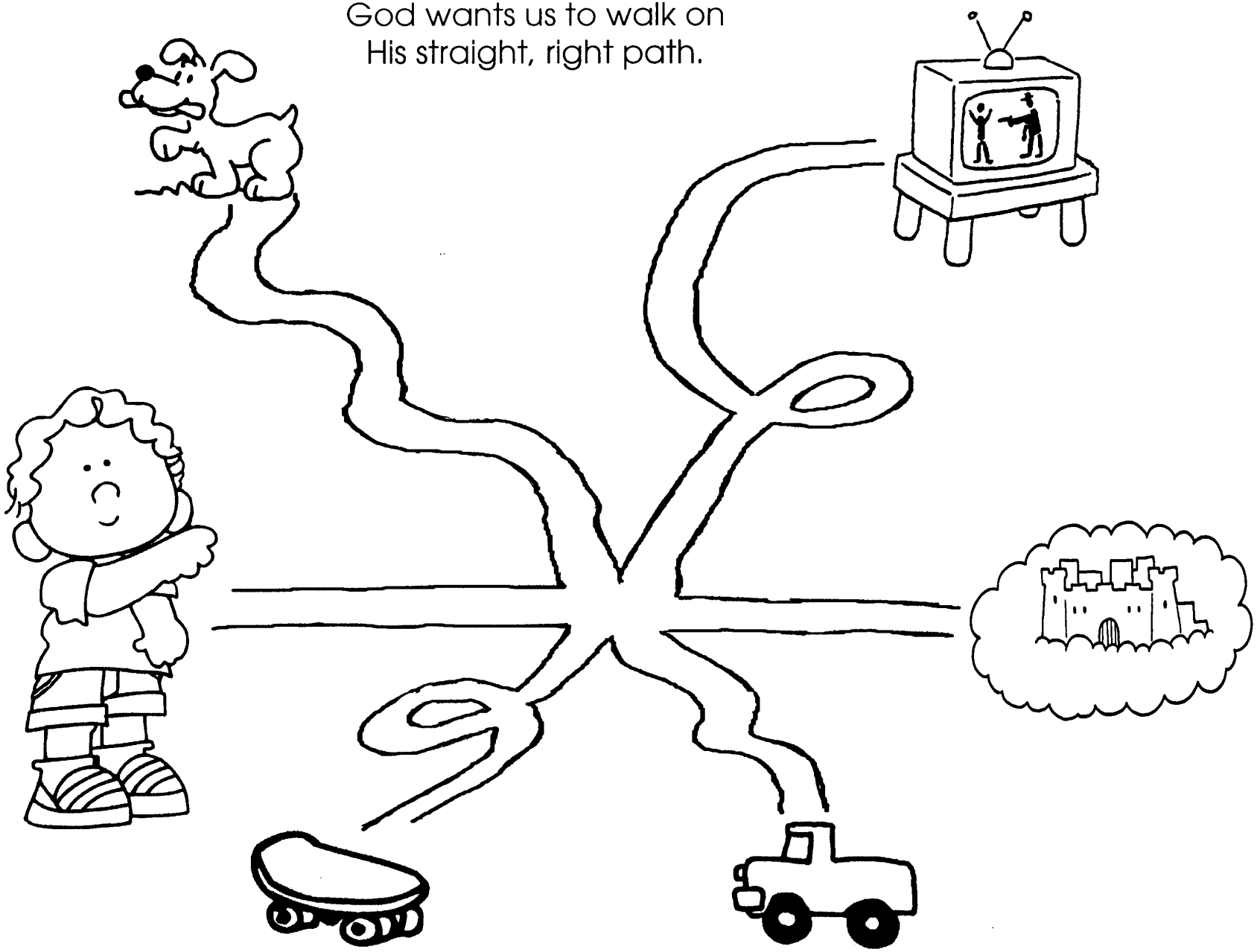
3AMO05PKGF2



King Jeroboam didn't want to hear Amos' words from God. He thought no one was strong enough to tear down the walls around Samaria and burn the altars where people worshiped idols.

3AMO05PKGF3

God wants us to walk on
His straight, right path.



3AMO05PKGF4

AMOS - A fig farmer and a shepherd
People - Israel the Northern Kingdom
Prophecy - Seek the Lord and live.
Principle - God hates greed, cruelty & stealing.

3AMO05ELGF5