



**Mustard Seed Lesson Summary for June 3, 2007**  
**Released on May 30, 2007**

**"Amos Spoke Against Evil"**

**GOLDEN TEXT:**

"Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream" (Amos 5:24)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:** Amos 5:10-15, 21-24

**10** They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.

**11** Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them.

**12** For I know your manifold transgressions and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right.

**13** Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.

**14** Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

**15** Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

**21** I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

**22** Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

**23** Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

**24** But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that the Lord's way, the way of kindness and righteousness, is always the right way for God's children to go in life.

## **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. The Lord wants His people to treat others properly.
2. By mistreating people, we not only harm others but also hurt ourselves.
3. God's way is always the best way.

## **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:**

Each child will need construction paper, a pencil, scissors, glue, and crayons for the "Helping to Remember" section. If desired, a map of Israel may also be helpful to show where Amos lived and where he traveled to.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND:**

As we begin a new quarter, we will turn our attention to some of the Old Testament prophets. A prophet is a messenger sent by God to tell the people how God wants them to live and what God wants them to do. We will learn about some of the messengers used by God and the messages that they gave to the people. We will learn some of the things God expects from His people and what happens when we obey or disobey God.

In this week's lesson, the messenger used by God is the prophet Amos. Amos tells the people of Israel to hate evil and to love the good. He reminds the people that God is good, and that God wants His children to be good and do what is right. God wants us to treat others properly and not to mistreat anyone.

## **TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**

### **1. What is a prophet? What do we know about the prophet Amos?**

A prophet is a messenger sent to bring God's word to the people. The prophet tells the people what God wants them to do and how He wants them to live. Prophets are usually associated with foretelling future events to call people to repentance and to warn of the wrath to come.

Amos was one of the prophets we read about in the Old Testament. We do not know much about Amos. We do not know how old he was or anything about his family. We do know that he never considered himself a prophet; he was a shepherd and a farmer who took care of sycamore fig trees (1:1; 7:14). We know that he lived about eleven miles south of Jerusalem in a town called Tekoa (1:1). The Lord took Amos away from his farm duties and sent him to carry a message to the northern part of the country to King Jeroboam.

### **2. What do we know about Israel during the time of Amos?**

At this time (about 700 or 800 years before Christ), the land that God had given His people was divided into two parts: the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah). Uzziah was king of Judah and Jeroboam was king of Israel (1:1). Amos lived in the southern kingdom. The nation was powerful and wealthy but had become corrupt by idolatrous worship. Idol worship and injustice prevailed. No effort was made to restrain evil and promote good.

### **3. Where did God send Amos? What was the message that God gave for the people?**

God sent Amos to the northern kingdom, near the city of Bethel, which was the center of Israel's idolatrous worship.

Amos' message from God declared what was wrong. A prosperous people with beautiful homes and thriving vineyards, Israel's upper classes, in particular, had become selfish, grasping, and willing to cheat the poor in order to get more. They were bribe takers, and they resented being told where they were wrong. Injustice and oppression of the poor was very common.

### **4. What did Amos beg the people to do?**

Amos pleaded for change and wanted the people to know that it was not too late for them to change. He urged the people to pursue the good and to hate the evil. Through Amos the Lord pleaded for the people to let righteousness and justice flow like the waters of a mighty river. God wanted justice and righteousness to flow throughout the land continually. He did not want it to be here and there, now and then, but God wanted the people to commit to live righteously at all times.

### **5. How did the people respond to Amos' message?**

The Lord's message was rejected. The king, his officials, and seemingly the whole population turned a deaf ear to Amos' pleas. In fact, the king's idolatrous priest told Amos to return home and do his preaching there (7:12-13).

Through Amos, God warned that there would be a certain outcome to all this. They would lose not only their magnificent homes and their abundant orchards but also the very land itself. And they themselves would be carried away into captivity.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

Amos told the people that God want their righteousness and kindness to flow as a big, mighty river. Does the Lord see that kind of river when He looks at you? Does He see you doing the right things? Does He hear you saying kind words to your father and mother, to your brothers and sisters, to your friends?

Jesus said that we should treat other people just the way we would like for them to treat us (see Luke 6:31). This has become known as the "Golden Rule," and it is still God's way. Do you like for your friends to talk to you in a kind way? Then, talk to them that way. Do you want others to be fair and not cheat? Then you must be fair and honest.

Treating others the way we like others to treat us is a good rule to remember, but it is a rule we cannot keep all by ourselves. Let us ask the Lord every day to make us strong to treat others like we want to be treated: rightly, fairly, and kindly, just as God wants. Let us ask Him to make those good things flow in us like a mighty river!

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

The way of kindness and righteousness is always the right way. It is God's way that we always treat others in the right way and that we not mistreat anyone. Conclude the lesson with any other information that you see as essential to help your age group remember the object and the truths to stress. Have each child draw a picture about treating someone in a way that is fair and right. Distribute copies of the activities at the end of the lesson to further enhance learning.

**EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:**

“Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream” (Amos 5:24)

When you think of a river, you think of lots of water flowing day after day after day. There is no end to it. The Lord wanted His people’s goodness to others to be like that – like a mighty river. He wanted to see them doing what was kind and right, day after day after day.

**PRAYER**

Dear God, thank You for Your word and the messengers that You send to us. Help us to be examples of Your goodness and to do the right things. Thank You for helping us to treat others like we want to be treated, to be fair and kind and helpful. In the name of Jesus, amen.

**ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK’S LESSON:**

Next week’s lesson is “Hosea Preached God’s Message” (Hosea 4:1-4; 7:1-2; 12:8-9)

**Lesson Summarized By:**

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### WORD SEARCH (Amos 5:10-15, 21-24)

Read Amos 5:10-15, 21-24. Find the following words in the puzzle.

WATERS  
PROPHET  
HOUSES  
AMOS

OFFERINGS  
GOOD  
VINEYARDS  
UPRIGHTLY

EVIL  
RIGHTEOUSNESS  
BRIBES  
SINS

JUST  
POOR  
JUDGMENT

E P P E I S I V I N E Y A R D S H J I M U E U  
D V N T S G E P N I D P O P S Y D R P S H I R  
I S I D O R E S E T O N R U T N R Y S N T J S  
D W G L N N E W B S O P O W U O I R S N T H G  
G I S T U B U Y S R G R E O O E N S E G S P N  
I S E R I P J U S S R O U P R E F E N T M U D  
N U B R S P R E E O A P G O S O M A S F E R N  
W I B H I E T I E S N H I L U E E R U R A E I  
S H S T A U F P G E S E I G O E P M O G I R O  
I U S Y O D I D A H O T T A S U I E E G I E E  
I I D S E S U O H H T T S U J P S G T S O I R  
O F F E R I N G S R O L T R R R I J H U U W R  
S P D R E P E O E J G E Y S T E N U G I E D R  
I H R O T P J R I A D W A T E R S H I E E E R  
O N S E F U R G H J U D G M E N T S R O O H N  
H L G E S E S O Y G I S A O S I G E G D F D I

**WORD SCRAMBLE (Amos 5:10-15, 21-24)**

What does Amos urge the people to establish? Read Amos 5:10-15, 21-24. Unscramble each word on the left and write in the spaces to the right. Each line, including the circle counts as one space. After unscrambling all the words, copy the circled letters below to find out what should be established in the gate.

ESNPALAT (v. 11)           **(1)**    \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ Q

DYVNAISER (v. 11)       **(2)**    \_ \_ Q \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

GHIYMT (v. 12)           **(3)**    \_ \_ Q \_ \_ \_

EDRUNPT (v. 13)       **(4)**    \_ \_ Q \_ \_ \_ \_

LCISENE (v. 13)       **(5)**    \_ \_ \_ Q \_ \_ \_

TARMNEN (v. 15)       **(6)**    \_ \_ Q \_ \_ \_ \_

OEHS PJ (v. 15)       **(7)**    Q \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

ISPESDE (v. 21)       **(8)**    Q \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

What does Amos urge the people to establish in the gate (5:15)?

\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_  
 7          4          8          3          6          5          2          1

**ANSWER KEYS:** Amos Spoke Against Evil (Amos 5:10-15, 21-24)

**WORD SEARCH:**

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      E                V I N E Y A R D S
      V                D          S
      I                S    O          N R  S
      L    E          O P          O I  S
      U B          G R    O          S E
      I P          O P          N
      R    R          P    S O M A S
      B          I    H          U
          G    E          O
          H    T          E
      S E S U O H    T T S U J          T
O F F E R I N G S    L          H
          Y          G
          W A T E R S    I
          J U D G M E N T    R

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**WORD SCRAMBLE:**

- 1 – Pleasant
- 2 – Vineyards
- 3 – Mighty
- 4 – Prudent
- 5 – Silence
- 6 – Remnant
- 7 – Joseph
- 8 – Despise

What does Amos urge the people to establish in the gate? JUDGMENT (Amos 5:15)