

## Lesson 96

# God Warns Israel

God called Amos to warn Israel of the coming judgment.

# Studying God's Word

## Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

## Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry for our sins.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

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

## Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Is there more than one true God? No. There is only one true God.  
Who deserves our praise and worship? Only God.  
What word means God cannot sin and hates all sin? Holy.  
God must punish sin because he is what? Just.

## Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say, "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and 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 today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next.

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **K-1st Lesson**

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **Review**

Refer to Lesson 95 Flip Chart. We talked about how God's prophet Elisha showed God's power and mercy to the people of Syria, who were enemies of Israel.

Naaman was a captain of the Syrian army who had leprosy. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do to be healed? Wash in the Jordan River seven times.

Naaman almost went away angry, but when he chose to obey, God showed his power and mercy and healed him.

God showed mercy to the whole Syrian army, too. They came to get Elisha, but Elisha captured them when God struck them all blind. Elisha told the king to feed them and send them home instead of killing them as enemies. The whole army saw God's power that day and didn't attack Israel again for a long time.

Today we'll start our lesson with a question. What does it mean when someone gives you a warning? Allow discussion.

A warning is something we should pay attention to, isn't it? A warning could be something your parents or teachers tell you to do or not do, like, "Don't throw your pencil, because it might hurt somebody" or "Pick up

your toys so they won't get stepped on and broken." Warnings can help us do the right thing and keep us safe.

Have the printed Warning Signs, #1–4, ready to show. We see and hear warnings wherever we go. I have four warning signs that you all have probably seen before. Let's see if you know what they mean. Show only the first four modern signs. Have the students guess what the warning is for and discuss what a person should do if they see that sign.

Warnings are important, but if we don't pay attention to them, something bad could happen. That's what took place in the northern kingdom of Israel .

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Remember that Israel was divided into the northern and southern kingdoms, Israel and Judah.

Refer to the Lesson 91 Flip Chart. The nation of Israel did not have any kings who obeyed God; they were all evil. But God was very patient. For 250 years, God sent warnings to the people to turn away from their sins and turn back to him. Today we are going to talk about some of those warning signs God sent to the people of Israel and what his prophet told them.

## God Calls Amos

There was a man named Amos who lived in the kingdom of Judah. But God called him to go to Israel and give the people there a message.

Amos 7:14–15

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out a little about Amos. We'll read from the book of Amos, chapter 7. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read verses 14–15.

What jobs did Amos do before he became a prophet? A herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What does that mean that Amos was a herdsman? What kind of animal do you see on the Flip Chart? Sheep. Right. He took care of the herd, or flock, of sheep. What do you call someone that cares for sheep? A shepherd.

Right again! Amos was a shepherd and a farmer who grew fig trees. Figs were an important fruit in Israel.

Have any of you ever eaten a fig? It's like a chewy fruit, almost like a raisin, but bigger. Allow answers.

Have fig pictures or snack ready to show/share. Figs are usually sweet and sticky inside with tiny crunchy seeds. Show pictures of figs or fig trees or pass out samples of dried figs or another fig snack for students to taste.

Amos was a shepherd and a farmer, but he was also a prophet of God who brought a message to the people in the kingdom of Israel. The Bible says they had become greedy and mean. They were cruel to the poor and disobeyed God's instructions for worshipping only him.

Now, God was sending Amos to tell them to repent, to turn away from their sins. Amos had to warn them that a terrible disaster would come if they ignored God. A disaster is a very bad thing that can happen. That's why Amos was warning the people. But guess what—the people didn't listen, they ignored the warning.

Do you think that's a good idea or a bad idea to ignore a warning, especially one from God? Bad idea!

Amos said God would bring judgment to punish the people of Israel because of all the sinful things they were doing.

Hmm. Let's think about this. How can God punish people if he's a God of love? Allow discussion.

This is an important question. It's true that God is loving! But he wants what is best for his children. And he didn't want his people to do sinful things that would hurt them. He showed his love to Israel by waiting patiently—for 250 years—and warning them to turn back to him!

## God Warns Israel

Have the printed Warning Signs, #5–8, ready to show. One warning God sent was a famine to get the people's attention. What's a famine? Allow guesses. Not enough food.

Show warning sign #5. God allowed the people to get really hungry without enough food, but they did not turn back to God. So God kept it from raining.

What would happen if there was no rain? Allow discussion. Without rain, lakes and rivers would dry up; fish, animals, and crops would die; people would have no food or water to drink.

But the people did not turn back to God even when there was no food or rain.

Show warning sign #6. God sent other warning punishments—icky things like blight and mildew. These things ruin plants and food crops and can cause mold and rotteness to set in.

But the people did not turn back to God when he sent blight and mildew.

Show warning sign #7. Then God sent locusts, big bugs, to eat the gardens, grape vineyards, fig trees, and olive trees—and these insects can eat A LOT!

This was really bad, but the people still did not pay attention to these warnings. And they did not turn back to God.

Show warning sign #8. God even allowed wars to happen, which killed many young men. But the people still wouldn't turn back to God. They kept on disobeying him.

God showed that he is loving and patient by waiting many years and warning Israel many times. But God is also just, and the time had come for God to punish the people in a way they couldn't ignore anymore.

Refer to the Flip Chart. That's what Amos' message was all about. He told the people of Israel that God would send an enemy who would come and attack their country. They would steal from the people, and Israel would not be strong enough to fight back. And even worse—the enemy would capture the people and take them away from their homes to another land!

Amos brought a very serious warning from the Lord. But God did not leave his people without hope. The end of the book of Amos tells of a time when Israel will have peace. We have this promise, too! There will be a time called the Consummation when Jesus will come back and make a new heaven and a new earth. And those who have turned from their sins and put their trust in Jesus will live forever in peace with him!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## **K-1st Lesson**

### **Review**

Refer to Lesson 95 Flip Chart. We talked about the prophets Elijah and Elisha, who delivered God's messages to the people of Israel and their kings. They performed miracles that showed God's power. Elisha also showed God's power and mercy to the people of Syria, who were enemies of Israel.

Naaman was a captain of the Syrian army who had leprosy. What did Elisha tell Naaman to do to be healed? Wash in the Jordan River seven times.

Naaman almost went away angry, but when he chose to obey, God showed his power and mercy and healed him.

God showed mercy to the whole Syrian army. They came to get Elisha, but Elisha captured them when God struck them all blind. Elisha told the king to feed them and send them home instead of killing them as enemies. The whole army saw God's power that day and didn't attack Israel again for a long time.

Today we'll start our lesson with a question. What does it mean when someone gives you a warning? Allow discussion.

A warning is something we should pay attention to, isn't it? A warning could be something your parents or teachers tell you to do or not do, like, "Don't throw your pencil, because it might hurt somebody" or "Pick up

your toys so they won't get stepped on and broken." Warnings can help us do the right thing and keep us safe.

Have the printed Warning Signs, #1–4, ready to show. We see and hear warnings wherever we go. I have four warning signs that you all have probably seen many times. Let's see if you know what they mean. Show only the first four modern signs. Have the students guess what the warning is for and discuss what a person should do if they see that sign.

Warnings are important, but if we don't pay attention to them, there could be horrible consequences. That's what happened in the northern kingdom of Israel.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We have learned that Israel was divided into the northern and southern kingdoms, Israel and Judah.

Refer to the Lesson 91 Flip Chart. The nation of Israel did not have any kings who obeyed God; they were all evil. But God was very patient. For 250 years, God sent warnings to the people to turn away from their sins and turn back to him. Today we are going to talk about some of those warning signs God sent to the people of Israel and what his prophet told them.

## God Calls Amos

There was a man named Amos who lived in the kingdom of Judah. But God called him to go to Israel and give the people there a message.

Amos 7:14–15

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out a little about Amos. We'll read from the book of Amos, chapter 7. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read verses 14–15.

What jobs did Amos do before he became a prophet? A herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What does that mean that Amos was a herdsman? What kind of animal do you see on the Flip Chart? Sheep.

Right. He took care of the herd, or flock, of sheep. What do you call someone that cares for sheep? A shepherd.

Right again! Amos was a shepherd and a farmer who grew fig trees. Figs were an important fruit in Israel.

Have any of you ever eaten a fig? It's a chewy fruit, almost like a raisin, but bigger. Allow answers.

Have fig pictures or snack ready to show/share. Figs are usually sweet and sticky inside with tiny crunchy seeds. Show pictures of figs or fig trees or pass out samples of dried figs or another fig snack for students to taste.

Amos was a shepherd and a farmer, but he was also a prophet of God who brought a message to the people in the kingdom of Israel. The Bible says they had become greedy and mean. They were cruel to the poor and disobeyed God's instructions for worshipping only him.

Now, God was sending Amos to tell them to repent, to turn away from their sins. Amos had to warn them that a terrible disaster would come if they continued to ignore God.

What's a disaster? Is that a good thing or a bad thing? Bad thing.

A disaster is a very bad thing that can happen and cause all kinds of trouble. That's why Amos was warning the people. But guess what—the people ignored the warning.

Do you think that's a good idea or a bad idea to ignore a warning, especially one from God? Bad idea!

### Amos 3:1–2

We know who Amos was and why God sent him to Israel. Now let's find out what he said to the people there in Amos chapter 3. Read verses 1–2.

Who did Amos say has spoken against the people of Israel? The Lord. Yes, this was a message of judgment against them. What did God say he was going to do to the people for their iniquities? Punish them.

Iniquities are sins and disobedience to God. God was telling them he would punish them for their sins.

Hmm. Let's think about this. How can God punish people if he's a God of love? Allow discussion.

This is an important question. It's true that God is loving! But he wants what is best for his children. And he didn't want his people to do sinful things that would hurt them. He showed his love to Israel by waiting patiently—for 250 years—and warning them to turn back to him!

### God Warns Israel

Have the printed Warning Signs, #5–8, ready to show. One warning God sent was a famine to get the people's attention. What's a famine? Allow guesses. Not enough food.

Show warning sign #5. God allowed the people to get really hungry without enough food, but they did not turn back to God. So God kept it from raining.

What would happen if there was no rain? Allow discussion. Without rain, lakes and rivers would dry up; fish, animals, and crops would die; people would have no food or water to drink.

But the people did not turn back to God even when there was no food or rain.



Show warning sign #6. God sent other warning punishments—icky things like blight and mildew. These things ruin plants and food crops and can cause mold and rotteness to set in.

But the people did not turn back to God when he sent blight and mildew.

Show warning sign #7. Then God sent locusts, big bugs, to eat the gardens, grape vineyards, fig trees, and olive trees—and these insects can eat A LOT!

As bad as this was, the people still did not pay attention to these warnings. And they did not turn back to God.

Show warning sign #8. God even allowed wars to happen, which killed many young men. But the people still wouldn't turn back to God. They kept on disobeying him.

God showed that he is loving and patient by waiting many years and warning Israel many times. But God is also just, and the time had come for God to punish the people in a way they couldn't ignore anymore.

Refer to the Flip Chart. That's what Amos' message was all about. He told the people of Israel that God would send an enemy who would come and attack their country. They would steal from the people, and Israel would not be strong enough to fight back. And even worse—the enemy would capture the people and take them away from their homes to another land!

Amos brought a very serious warning from the Lord. But God did not leave his people without hope. The end of the book of Amos tells of a time when Israel will have peace. We have this promise, too! The Consummation, the last C of the Seven C's of History, is a time when Jesus will come back and create a new heaven and a new earth. And those who have turned from their sins and put their trust in Jesus will live forever in peace with him!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

## Limited License to Reproduce

A limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, nonsublicensable license is hereby granted to a single local church or organization to print copies of the PDF materials in the Teacher Digital Resources if 1) you are the original purchaser; 2) you are using the copies for noncommercial purposes (such as for teaching in class) exclusively within your single local church or organization (multi-campus churches, and national/regional denominations are not covered under this license); and 3) you follow the instructions provided in the curriculum pertaining to the printable materials.

This license is for the specific purchaser of the product and does not include affiliated groups or organizations, or other churches or groups in the same denomination as the purchaser, not identified as the actual purchaser. There is no limit to the number of printed copies for use within the single local church or organization which is the actual purchaser. None of the material in this curriculum may be reproduced for any commercial promotion, advertising, or sale of a product or service, or to share with any other persons, churches, groups, or organizations.

The media (audio/video) portions are copyrighted and duplication is prohibited. This license is for materials in the Teacher Digital Resources only and does NOT include reproduction rights for pre-printed teacher books, student guides, student take home sheets, or posters, except on an emergency basis when purchased quantities are not sufficient for a given week.

## Bible Version

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.