

Old Testament

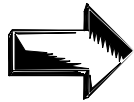
Amos: God forgives Amos 9:11-15

Younger Verse

Love the Lord your God with all your heart. Matthew 22:37

Older Verse

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Matthew 22:37



Teachers: This unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever had someone who was your friend, then they weren't, then you were friends again? It sure feels good to have that friendship back doesn't it?! Today's lesson is about forgiveness and friendship.

Bible Story

Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.

God's people were called the Israelites. He loved them very much. Unfortunately, they kept doing wrong. They would not obey God or do what He said. They did what they wanted.

During the time of Amos, people had lots of things. They had a good time and enjoyed getting things for themselves. They never thought of others. They were very greedy and cared more for themselves than others.

Amos was a shepherd. He took care of sheep. God told him to go and tell the people something important. God told Amos to go and tell the people that He was very upset. Amos told the people that they would have to pay the consequences for the wrong they had done.

The people didn't really change their ways. They kept doing wrong and loving themselves more than others, or even God!

Finally in the 9th chapter of Amos, the people realized that God was really serious. They knew that He meant business. They saw that God is going to punish them for the wrong that they had done.

Lesson Goals

**God loves us and wants the best for us
We should follow and obey God, not what we want**

The best part is that in verses 11-15 God tells the people that He will restore them and forgive them.

God still loved His people—He always had. He just didn't like the things that they were doing. It separated them from Him. It was like a friendship that was broken.

After the people were punished, God restored them. It was like they were close friends again. They weren't separated anymore—they were together and forgiven.

God helped us be "together" with him too. He knew that we would do wrong things just like these people. So, He made a plan. He sent Jesus to take our punishment for us! Can you believe that someone would do that? He died for all our bad things. Jesus made a way for us to be together with God—like a bridge that joins two sides together. Jesus was the cross that bridged the gap.

How can we get onto God's side of the bridge? We must trust Jesus with our lives. We must ask Him to forgive us of all our bad things and ask Him to come into our lives. Jesus comes into our hearts forever—He will never leave. He helps us get to God.

Learning Activities

Look at the Hands-on learning ideas to help the kids learn the lesson. Please be sure to always end the lesson by sharing how they can trust Christ.

Memory Verse Activities

Make a "Verse Book." Write the sections of the verse on each page to help them memorize it.

Prayer Time

Fold a piece of construction paper into a little booklet (fold in half, then in half again). Let the kids list names of people they can pray for. On the front of the booklet write "My Prayer Book." Be sure they take it home with them!

Snack Time/CleanUp

Let everyone serve his friend today. When a person gets snacks, he must give it to someone else and not eat it himself. Reassure each person that they will each get snacks (make sure everyone gets some).

Planning for Lesson 96
Obadiah: Pride causes problems
Obadiah 1:1-9

Preschool Lesson
For
Amos

God had a messenger whose name was Amos. He was a shepherd. That means that he took care of sheep.

One day while he was taking care of sheep, God told him to give a message to the people. He told Amos that he had a very important message to tell them.

The people had stopped listening to God. They had lots of things and would not share with others. They cared only for themselves. This made God very sad.

He told the people that they would have to pay for the wrongs that they had done. They would have a punishment for not obeying God.

The people listened to Amos but they did not change!! They kept on doing wrong.

God was so sad to see how the people didn't care or listen.

Finally, after Amos kept talking to the people, they saw how their mistakes hurt God. They were sad at how they displeased God.

Amos told the people that God still loved them and He always had. Amos explained that God had always loved them but did not like their behavior. What they had done had separated their friendship.

After the people were punished, God helped them. The people were close friends with God again and listened to Him.

We must listen and follow God too. He loves us and wants us to obey Him.

Sing, "God is so good."

Hands-On Activities For Amos

Forgiveness is a hard word to apply to our lives. Most people know what it means, but they are unwilling to do it. The greatest example of forgiveness that we have is God's forgiveness of us. Share how God forgives and forgets all our wrongs when we come to Him and admit our wrongs and truly want to do right. Encourage them to do the same to others as God does for us.

Make a forgiveness stamp. Cut a potato in half and let the kids make a design in it (use blunt knives or plastic ones). Carefully dip the stamp in ink and stamp onto manila paper.

Make friendship bracelets using yard or thread. Give them to friends—and also people whom you need to forgive (or who you need to ask forgiveness from).

Make sheep patterns on paper and glue cotton balls on it to resemble sheep.
