



Amos and the Plumb Line

Lesson Aim: To know the Bible is the standard
God gives us for living upright lives.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: Amos 4:12b-13; 5:11-14; 7:7-8

What He has done: God sent Amos with a message of justice and righteous living to the Israelites.

Key Verse: Amos 5:14

THE WAY

Christ Connection: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Prepare to meet your God, O Israel. He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is His name." "Seek good, not evil, that you may live.

Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say He is." Amos 4:12b-13; 5:14

Unit 7: The Prophets and God's Power			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
32	Elijah on Mount Carmel, 1 Kings 18:21, 24-32, 36-39	God sent fire to prove He is the one true God.	To acknowledge God as the one true God.
33	Elijah and Elisha, 2 Kings 2:1, 7-15	God chose Elisha to be Elijah's successor when He brought Elijah up to heaven.	To know God gives us spiritual gifts and mentors to help us accomplish the work He has for us.
34	Elisha and the Chariots of Fire, 2 Kings 6:15-20	God sent invisible horses and chariots of fire to protect His people.	To know we are surrounded by God's protection.
35	The Prophet Joel, Joel 2:1, 13, 25, 28, 32	God sent a message to His people through the prophet Joel.	To know God judges our hearts and wants our hearts to turn to Him.
36	Jonah and the Ninevites, Jonah 1:4-5, 7, 11-12, 17; 3:4, 8-9; 4:1-2, 6-11	God gave Jonah and the Ninevites each a second chance.	To know God gives second chances because He cares about everyone.
37	Amos and the Plumb Line, Amos 4:12b-13; 5:11-14; 7:7-8	God sent Amos with a message of justice and righteous living to the Israelites.	To know the Bible is the standard God gives us for living upright lives.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 119:41-48. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the way You show Your power in our lives. Place the desire to trust and obey You in the heart of each child, so they are prepared to meet You when You return. Amen."

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Amos' Jobs	Paper, cotton balls, scissors, ribbon, marker, fig snack cookies in resealable plastic bags
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Prepare to Meet Your God" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Everyone Who Calls" "I Lift Up My Eyes" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Neither Death nor Life" "Search Me, O God" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God" "How Great Thou Art" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Amos 4:13	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 37 The Love Sub script or storybook
		Read the Word: Amos 4:12b-13; 5:11-14; 7:7-8	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters, Bible Memory Verse poster, poster board or dry erase board, marker, plumb line or long string tied to a small weight (keychain or pen)
		Christ Connection: 2 Timothy 3:16-17	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—Bible Memory Verse Plumb Line Bookmark, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "Prepare to Meet Your God," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Amos' Figs	Figs or fig snack cookies
	Up to 10	Game: God's Plumb Line	Plumb line or thin cord and small weight, toy blocks or boxes
	Up to 15	Craft: Amos' Placemat	Large sheets of sturdy paper, colored paper, assorted craft supplies (ribbon, fabric, etc.), scissors, glue, crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Picture God's Power	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase board and marker or chalkboard and chalk, timer
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Unscramble the Verse	Paper, marker, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player, timer
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: Where do you go to spend time with God?

GAME: AMOS' JOBS

Purpose: Children will find items that relate to Amos' jobs and discover God sent Amos to take an important message to Israel.

Supplies: Paper, cotton balls, scissors, ribbon, marker, several small plastic bags of fig snack cookies

Prepare: Print each of the following on a separate sheet of paper: "Warning—Amos 4:12b-13," "Choice—Amos 5:14a," "Promise—Amos 5:14b." Roll each sheet of paper as a scroll and tie it with a ribbon. Hide the scrolls, several cotton balls, and the bags of fig snacks around the play area.

Figs are a small, round fruit that grow on fig trees. Amos was a fig farmer and a shepherd. God gave him a message to deliver to Israel. Before we discover the message God gave Amos, let's play a game. Hidden in this room are several items which have to do with Amos' three jobs. Because he was a shepherd, I have hidden some cotton balls to represent his sheep. Because he was a fig farmer, I have hidden several bags of fig snacks. Because he was a prophet, I have hidden three scrolls which each contain a Bible verse which will help us discover Amos' message from God.

Directions:

1. Form teams of four or five children.
2. On your signal, teammates work together to find and collect the hidden items.
3. When all the items are found, total the points earned by each team using the following point system:
 - One cotton ball sheep—20 points
 - Bag of fig snack cookies—50 points
 - Scroll—100 points.
4. The team with the most points wins.



The God of Power

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



We worship the God of Power. Listen to the way Amos describes God's power. Read Amos 4:13. To "tread the high places of the earth" is to walk along the mountaintops.

Let's begin our worship time by remembering all the powerful things God has done and is doing. We can each take a turn reminding each other of the ways God shows us how powerful He is. Have individual children complete the sentence, "Lord, we know You are powerful because You _____."



In today's story, we will hear from the prophet Amos. He reminded everyone that God is powerful. When we sing our Bible Memory Verse Song, we are singing the words of Amos. Sing the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Prepare to Meet Your God."

As we give our offering today, let's ask our powerful God to use this money to help the whole world know who He is and what He has done. Sing: "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" while the offering is collected.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 7, Lesson 37.



You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's mighty power.



The plumb line vision

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned God gave Jonah and the Ninevites a second chance to obey Him. What was your favorite part of that story? (Children respond.) **Today, we will study the message Amos brought to the Israelites, "Prepare to meet your God." The people of Israel were enjoying good times. They were making money and were not at war with any enemies. However, they had become selfish and greedy. They only pretended to worship God. They treated others unfairly, especially the poor. They refused to return to God.**

Amos was a shepherd and a fig farmer. If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Amos (Circa 760 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Amos was from the town of Tekoa, Israel.** If a map is available, point to Tekoa or Thekoa, Israel—six miles from Bethlehem. **God gave Amos visions and messages telling the people to prepare to meet Him.**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Amos 4:12b-13; 5:11-14; 7:7-8. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Amos 5:14.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Let's hear the warning Amos brought the people of Israel. Read Amos 4:12b-13.

God saw the people were treating others unfairly. Through Amos, God told the people He saw all their wrongdoings. Then, God gave them a choice and a promise. Let's read about that now. Read Amos 5:11-14.

God gave Amos visions showing how He would destroy Israel completely and then rebuild and restore it to what it used to be. In one vision, God held a plumb line, which is a weight on a cord that measures if a wall or building is perfectly upright. In the vision, God set a plumb line among His people to show whether or not His people were living upright or crooked lives. Read Amos 7:7-8.



The Bible is our plumbline

THE WAY

Additional Supplies: Bible Memory Verse poster, poster board or dry erase board, marker, plumb line or long string tied to a small weight (keychain or pen)

Children may use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a guide. **What is Amos' warning from God?** (Prepare to meet your God.) **To prepare to meet God is to do what is right to be ready to meet Him face-to-face. Amos warns us that there will be sadness if we are not ready to meet God. God wants us to live joyfully forever with Him. How can you prepare to meet God?** (Children respond.) **God gave Amos a vision that provides the answer.**

Amos describes the God we are getting ready to meet. What five things did Amos say in describing the Lord God Almighty? (He forms the mountains, creates the wind, reveals His thoughts to man, turns down to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth.) **What are ways that God declares to us what He is thinking?** (The Bible and the Holy Spirit in our hearts.) **What do you picture when you imagine God treading the high places of the earth?** (Children respond.)

Through Amos, God tells us He sees those who treat others unfairly and oppress the poor. Those acts are called injustices. What injustices have you seen in your school, town, or nation? (Children respond.) **What is the choice Amos tells us to seek?** (Seek good, not evil.) **What are some ways we can seek good instead of evil?** (Children respond.) **What was God's promise for those who seek good, not evil?** (He will be with us.) **How is He with us today?** (Through His Holy Spirit.) **The Holy Spirit is with believers, always helping them choose to do good.**

THE PLUMB LINE: Choose three volunteers to each draw a vertical straight line on a poster or dry erase board. Then, choose a volunteer to lower the plumb line alongside the drawn lines. Have children compare the straightness of their drawn lines to the plumb line.

In Amos' vision, God compared using a plumb line to measure a wall's uprightness to measuring the uprightness of His people. To live an upright life is to make choices that are right in God's eyes and to always obey God's Word. Just as our hand drawn lines may have looked perfect, our lives may look perfectly upright to others. The plumb line showed our drawn lines were not perfectly straight. The Bible shows our lives are not perfectly upright, for we all have sinned. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, God sees His perfect Son in us and we are good in God's eyes. That means we line up with God's plumb line!



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 700 years after God gave Amos the vision of the plumb line, Timothy explained the Bible is still to be our plumb line for living a life that is pleasing to God.



FIND IT FIRST> Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

To say all Scripture is God-breathed means God inspired every word of the Bible. What is the most important thing the Bible has taught you about God or yourself? (Children respond.) **What does the Bible equip us (make us ready) to do?** (Every good work.) **Share one way you think the Bible has prepared you to do the good things God has for you.** (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a Bible Memory Verse Plumb Line Bookmark. Place it in your Bible in the book of Amos to remind you that God's Word is our plumb line. It shows us how God wants us to live with Him and with one another.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #37. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Amos' vision of the plumb line hanging down from heaven. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering to the teacher for display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Prepare to Meet Your God," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: AMOS' FIGS

Purpose: Children eat figs and discuss the message from Amos the fig farmer, shepherd, and prophet.

Snack Suggestion: Figs or fig snack cookies

What jobs did Amos do before God called him to be a prophet? (He was a shepherd and a fig farmer.) **To whom did Amos give God's message?** (The people in Israel.) **What was their choice?** (Do good and not evil.) **Doing right in God's eyes is always the right choice. Let's eat a fig snack and talk about a time when you had to choose between doing good or evil.**

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is the best choice you have ever made to do a good thing?"**

GAME: GOD'S PLUMB LINE

Purpose: For children to recognize the meaning and significance of Amos' vision of the plumb line.

Supplies: Plumb line or thin cord and small weight, toy blocks or boxes

Prepare: Tie the weight to the bottom of the cord.

In a vision of a plumb line, God showed Amos that He had a way to measure if the people of Israel were living upright lives pleasing to God. He compared it to a plumb line, which is used by a builder to see if his walls are upright and straight. Let's each take a turn experimenting with this plumb line.

Directions:

1. Take turns holding the cord and dangling the weight in front of nearby structures to see if they are as vertically straight as the cord. Good items to check: walls, chairs, chalkboards, tables, and doorposts. Do the vertical edges match the straightness of the cord?
2. Build a wall with the blocks. Use the plumb line to help make the wall straight.

Comparing the uprightness of a wall to a plumb line is like comparing the uprightness of our lives to the kind of life God tells us to live in the Bible. The Bible clearly shows us what is right in God's eyes. What are some of the things the Bible has shown you that are right in God's eyes? (Children respond.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: AMOS PLACEMAT

Purpose: Children will make a placemat to help them remember to choose to do right.

Supplies: Large sheets of sturdy paper, colored paper, assorted craft supplies (ribbon, fabric, etc.), scissors, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: Write **"Seek good, not evil." Amos 5:14a** where children can see and copy it.

Optional: Provide magazines for children to cut words and pictures from to add to their placemats. Laminate the placemats or cover with clear plastic after they are decorated.

God gave Amos a warning, a choice, and a promise for the people of Israel. What was the warning? (God was coming, so prepare to meet Him.) **What was the choice?** (Do good instead of evil.) **How were the people choosing to do evil?** (They were being greedy and not helping the poor.) **What did God promise if they chose to do what is good?** (He would be with them.) **Let's make "Amos Placemats" to remind us that we can choose to do what is right in God's eyes.**

Directions:

1. Copy **"Seek good, not evil." Amos 5:14a** onto the top of a sheet of sturdy paper.
2. Draw, color, and decorate your placemat with ways you can serve the poor.

Put your placemat near where you eat your meals. Instead of using it under your plate of food, collect food items (non-perishable) and put them on top of the placemat. When the placemat is full, donate the food so someone who is poor will have something to eat.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Prepare to meet your God, O Israel. He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns down to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the Lord God Almighty is His name." "Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you, just as you say He is." Amos 4:12b-13; 5:14

GAME: PICTURE GOD'S POWER

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase board and marker or chalkboard and chalk, timer

Our Bible Memory Verse describes God's power. What are some of the things these verses say that God does? (Makes the mountains and the wind, tells His thoughts to us, makes day and night happen, is everywhere on the earth.) **What does the verse say His name is?** (The Lord God Almighty.) **Let's think of more powerful acts of God.**

Directions:

1. Choose one child to draw. Child thinks of one way God is powerful. (He sent Jesus to die on the cross, created trees, created sheep, heals people, gives food, etc.) Younger children can focus on drawing one of God's creations.
2. Set the timer for 60 seconds. (Add more time, if needed.) On your signal, the child draws a simple picture (cross, tree, sheep, person dropping crutches, plate of food, etc.) without talking.
3. The other children try to guess what the picture represents.
 - If a child guesses correctly before the time is up, that child takes the next turn.
 - If no one guesses, the child who was drawing picks the next child to draw.

GAME: UNSCRAMBLE THE VERSE

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Paper, marker, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player, timer

Prepare: Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. Divide the Bible Memory Verse into five or six phrases. Write each phrase on a separate sheet of paper and fold the papers in half so the words are hidden. For non-readers, number the papers in order. For more of a challenge, increase the number of phrases.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Shuffle the folded papers. Give each paper to a different child.
3. Play and sing the Bible Memory Verse Song as children pass the folded papers around the circle.
4. After a short time, pause the music. When the song stops, the children holding the folded papers race to put them in order on the floor in the center of the circle. Time how long it takes. Children may look at the Bible Memory Verse poster for help. Non-readers may use the numbers to help them put the phrases in order.
5. Play again. Each time you play, challenge the children to beat their previous times. Eventually, remove the poster for an added challenge.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) Joel warned the people of Judah that the Day of the Lord was coming. He compared it to an invasion of locusts. He told them they had a choice to return to God by turning away from sin. He told them God's promises to restore what the locusts had taken, to pour out His Spirit on all people, to save anyone who called upon His name, and to judge the nations for their wrongdoing. Which promise from God means the most to you? (Children respond.)

Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) God sent Jonah to warn the Ninevites. Jonah disobeyed and sailed away to Tarshish. God sent a storm. When the sailors threw Jonah overboard, what did God send to rescue Jonah from the sea? (A big fish.) God gave Jonah a second chance to obey. Jonah obeyed and warned the Ninevites. They turned from evil, so God gave them a second chance, too. Jonah was angry that God took pity on the Ninevites. God used a vine to show Jonah he had no right to be angry with Him for giving the Ninevites a second chance.

Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) God sent Amos, a shepherd and fig farmer, to warn Israel and say, "Prepare to meet your God." God gave Amos visions and messages telling the people that God saw they would not return to Him. What did Amos' vision of God holding a plumb line show him? (God's Word is like a plumb line for our lives, showing us that we are not perfect and we need to return to God.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)