



MINOR PROPHETS

AMOS (775 BC)

Scripture: Amos 2:6-7, 7:1-9

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Plumb line (or string with a weight on it), wooden blocks, string

Ask:

What Minor Prophet did we learn about last week? (Jonah)

What do you remember about his story?

Today, we're going to learn about Amos. Amos was a shepherd during the time of the divided Kingdom of Israel. He prophesied during the time of King Jeroboam II in Israel.

During this time, the wealthy people of Israel were growing wealthier and wealthier. Amos 5 talks about how they were building stone mansions and planting lush vineyards. But even though they did this, God warned them they wouldn't live in these beautiful places they had set up for themselves, because his judgment would come. His judgment would come because, as they built their big mansions and beautiful vineyards, they began to forget the poor. Throughout the Old Testament, we see that God loves and is deeply concerned for the plight of the poor and weak. By Amos, God is calling his people to repent, to return to his laws that offer compassion and justice to the poor. Amos, a poor shepherd, was used by God in the courts of the wealthy King Jeroboam II to showcase the vast difference.

Read: Amos 2:6-7 (stop before the end of vs 7 about father and son using the same girl)

Explain:

God cares for the poor, the hurting, and the lost. To be like him, we are also called to show compassion to the same.

Ask:

Since we are still called to care for the lost, broken, and hurting, what can we do as kids in this church to help those in our community? (I want actual practical answers here. I plan to create some service projects for the kids to participate in to give them an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus.) Some examples would be to raise money for FROM, to serve food in some way, to help with shoveling or yard work, to volunteer in some way, to meet with people in a nursing home, etc. But I want their ideas. Please list them so I can see which are possible.

Do an Activity:

Later on in Amos, God shows him a plumb line. Does anyone know what a plumb line is and what it is used for? (It was an old tool that we still use today to help ensure that buildings are straight.)

Show the kids the plumb line while explaining.

Have the kids build a tower to the tallest they can get it, without it falling. Then, hold the plumb line up to it and see how straight it is. Continue to add the blocks until it falls.

Explain:

When God showed Amos the plumb line, he wanted Amos and the people of Israel to know that their buildings were crooked. Not the nice, fancy houses they had built, but their spiritual lives were crooked according to God's Word.

Because they had forgotten the poor and weak, they were building their walls crooked- they weren't in line with God's Word.

Read: Amos 7:1-9

Explain:

God's word is true to plumb, it is straight, it is true. When we don't follow God's Word in caring for the poor or in other ways, our foundation becomes crooked and can't stand, just like our buildings.

Activity:

Have the kids go to the middle of the room. On a wall, place a target. Have them line up straight across from the target. While closing their eyes, have them try to place a sticky note on that target.

Explain:

If we turn even just a little way off, it's so easy to miss our target. (You can also show this by using two strings. Tie one all the way across the room. Then, use another string with just a small deviation from the first. It may not look big at first, but if that string continues, it will be very far away by the other side of the room).

When we turn from God's word, it sets us on a crooked path. Thankfully, we can always return to the right path. In order to stay on that true and good path, we can stay in God's Word. His word is our plumb line. It lines us up with how he longs for us to live and helps us to build straight. Jesus said that he was the cornerstone. A cornerstone was also used in building to make sure that the first stone laid was straight and perfect, so all the other stones laid on top would be true to plumb. When we look to Jesus and his Word, by the power of his Spirit, we can build lives that are true to plumb. Of course we'll make mistakes, but when we do, we have a loving Father who calls us to repent and return to the plumb line, forgiving us and helping us.

Minor Prophet Timeline:

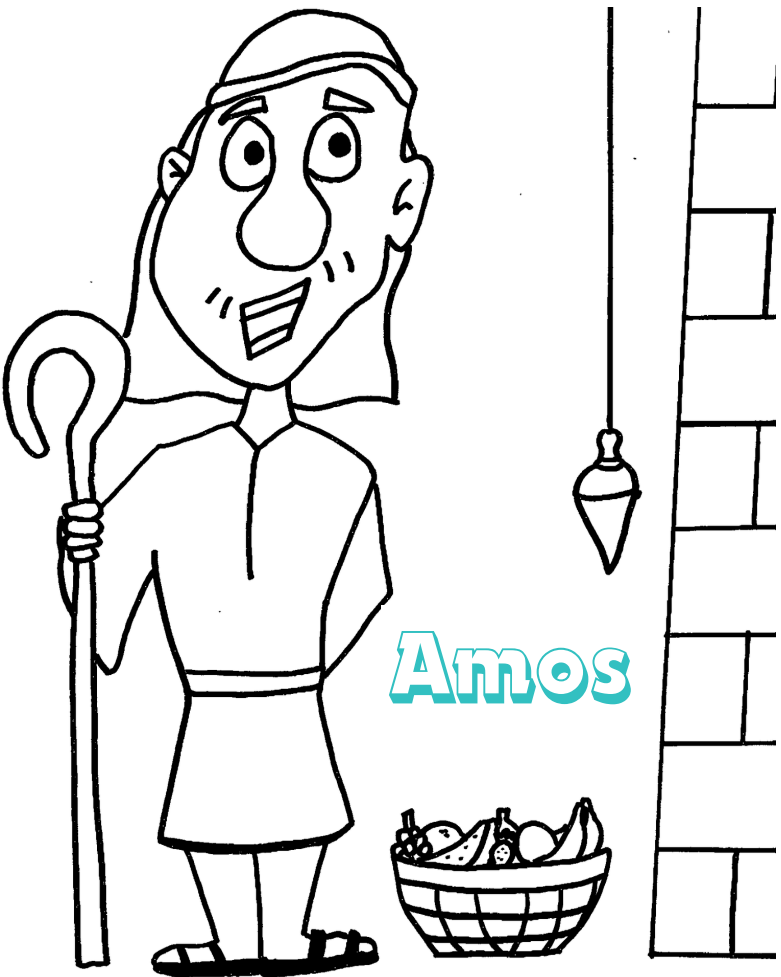
Have the kids color the picture of Amos to add to their time line in the back. If they wonder about the basket of ripe fruit, in another vision, God showed Amos that the time was ripe for judgement on the people. Amos prophesied around 775 BC.

Memorize: Amos 5:24

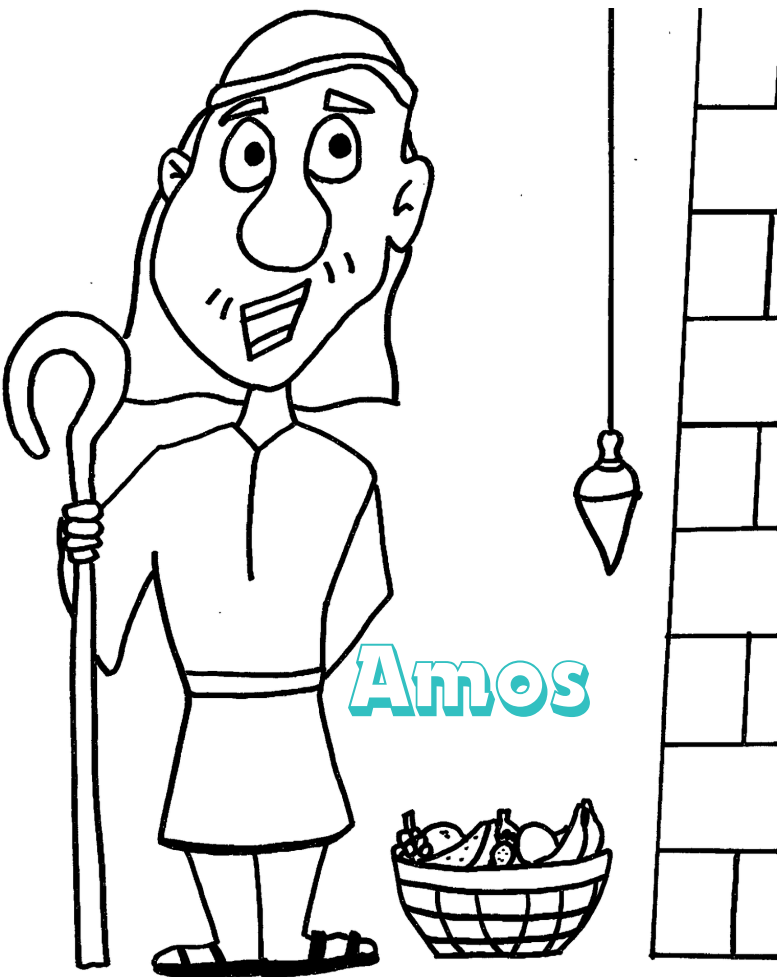
Close in Prayer



Amos



Amos



Amos



Amos