

Session 10

AMOS

The fun is over.

Supplies:

- ⊗ A small plastic sheep to add to the sensory bottle
- ⊗ Someone who can play the role of Amos, organised beforehand, who knows exactly what to do
- ⊗ 4 Banners: “Courtroom”, “House”, “Shop”, “A Festival”
- ⊗ Copies of the colouring-in picture
- ⊗ Copies of the poems with pictures to colour in
- ⊗ Copies of the proverb: “Wrong is wrong...”

WELCOME

“Many clever children come looking for work”: Divide the children into two groups. The groups stand on different sides of the room, hall or grass, behind lines you set up beforehand. The groups can then each decide what job or work they will be portraying as a group. The groups can use actions and sounds, but no words. Once they’re ready, get each group to stand behind their line. Let one group skip up to the other, while saying: “Many clever children come looking for work,” until they are standing in front of the other group. The other group then responds with “What work?” The first group then says: “Any work,” and the second group says, “OK, do it!” The first group then portrays the work until the second group can guess it correctly. Once the second group has guessed correctly, the first group tries to run back behind their line while the second group tries to catch them. Anyone who gets caught then goes over to the other group. The groups can then take turns to do this, and can carry on doing this until only one group remains, or until there is no time left, when the group with the most members wins.

Associations: Say a word, and then let the children react with any other words that go along with the word. E.g. “braai” and the children could react with “fire”, “meat”, “salad”, etc. Do the same with “farm”, “mall”, “party”, “church”, “Kix”, etc.

WORSHIP

Theme song: The children sit with eyes closed and sing “Trust in the Lord”. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPZJtZzQBB0>).

Settle down ritual: Pass the sensory bottle around while the children say Psalms 23:1-3: “The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake.”

WORD

Let the person playing Amos come in, introduce him to the children, and let him tell his story:

“Hello, everyone! I hear you are talking about Playful Prophets! Well, I wish my story was fun, like playing, but it isn’t. You see, I was a farmer, farming with sheep, goats and figs. It was a very nice and peaceful life. It wasn’t difficult to grow the figs, and it wasn’t even that difficult to work with sheep and goats, because they are not too big. I wanted to grow old there, where no-one bothered me, and I bothered no-one else.

“But then, the Lord God took me away from my nice life! I would like you to also see what the Lord showed me. First, He told me about how bad some people in other countries have become. That wasn’t new or strange to me, because I already knew that. But then, God told me to go to my own people, to my own city. I want to show that to all of you now.”

Amos can then take the children and lead them to the first banner placed in the hall or room. If there is too little space to walk round, then just show the banner.

First Scene: Banner: “Courtroom”

Let three children depict this as follows: a poor person, a seller of sandals, and a slave trader. The sandal seller should fight

with the poor person because the poor person has not yet finished paying off the sandals. The sandal seller grabs the poor person and sells him to the slave trader.

Amos 2:6b: "They sell honest people for money, and the needy are sold for the price of sandals."

Amos reacts: In this, I saw how poorly my people treat other people. Let us look further at another scene.

Second Scene: Banner: "Home"

Let four children act out a small family consisting of a mother, father, and two children who are fighting and shoving each other.

Amos 3:10: "The Lord has said that they don't even know how to do right. They have become rich from violence and robbery."

Amos reacts: I really thought my people were better than this, but look how bad things are in their homes!

Third Scene: Banner: "Shop"

Let two children depict this scene, where one wants to buy half of a loaf of bread for a fair amount, e.g. R5.50, but the shop-owner wants double, R11, and refuses to help the first child.

Amos 8:5: "You say to yourselves, "How much longer before the end of the New Moon Festival? When will the Sabbath be over? Our wheat is ready, and we want to sell it now. We can't wait to cheat and charge high prices for the grain we sell. We will use dishonest scales and mix dust in the grain."

Amos reacts: How can the shop owner do this? How should the children survive if he is so unfair and just wants to get rich?

Fourth scene: Banner: "A festival"

Let 5 children act as if they are drunk and are worshipping idols.

Amos 5:21 and 23: "I, the Lord, hate and despise your religious festivals and your times of worship. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps."

Amos reacts: I can understand how God does not like these festivals.

Amos then sits and tells the story further:

"I started to talk and tell these people that God wanted to punish them, but they told me to be quiet and said, 'You are not a prophet. We have our own prophets, and they are telling us that God will bless us. Be quiet.' But I replied, "I know that I am not a prophet - I am just a farmer. I know all about farm animals and figs, but God took me away from that and sent me to you to warn you: it cannot go on like this!"

"The Lord then explained to me and said: 'I am watching these people. I am going to remove them from the world.'

"I became very sad when I heard this, but I understood. We are all sinners, and God does not want things to go on like this.

Then God made me a promise.

"He said, 'I am going to restore you again. I will make this country new again. I will make sure there are enough people that remain, who will respect me and build up my land once again. There will be peace, enough to eat, beautiful gardens and new houses. Stay strong and brave.'"

The children now get a chance to think about the story:

1. I wonder what in the story you found to be nice.
2. I wonder what part of what you saw here today you would have left out if you were telling the story.
3. I wonder what things that Amos saw still happen today, here and now.
4. I wonder how God restores and fixes people's lives.

WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

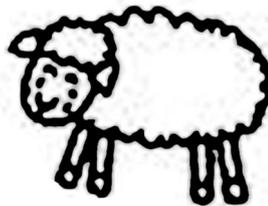
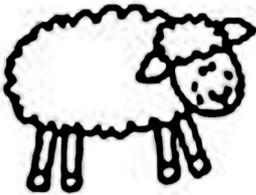
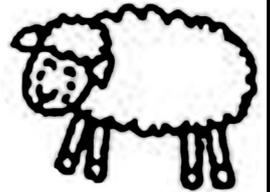
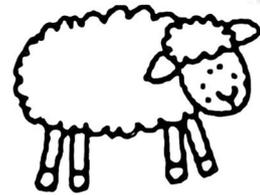
- ◆ Poem with picture to colour in. The children can learn the poem as well.
- ◆ Picture of Amos with his sheep to colour in.
- ◆ Decorate the quote: "Wrong is wrong..."

Close with the blessing.

AMOS

Amos wasn't famous.
He was just like me and you.
When God told him what to do,
he didn't say boo hoo.
He left his little sheep
and took a great big leap.
He went to prophesy
to all the girls and guys.
He obeyed the Lord above,
and shared Gods' words with love.
He told the people to obey
and turn from their sins today.
No, Amos wasn't famous.

- Carolyn Warvel



WRONG is

WRONG

even if

EVERYONE

is doing it.

RIGHT is RIGHT

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NO ONE

is doing it.

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COURTROOM

HOME

SHOP

A FESTIVAL