Kingdom Divided

“Amos Part 2 – The Message”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The Kingdom of Israel divided after Solomon’s death
* The story of Abijah
* The story of the Prophet Amos

Series Theme Verse: “Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!” – Amos 5:23-24

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God used Prophets like Amos to bring the two kingdoms back to worship of God and sometimes the message was not encouraging.

Lesson Passage: Amos 7:12-15

Materials Needed: Bibles, white paper, black light, Series Theme Verse on poster

Lesson Plan: “God’s Five Accusations Against Israel”

\*God’s message through Amos is one of the most convicting messages for the Church in America today. We live in a society and culture that has great wealth compared to the rest of the world. According to globalissues.org, “Almost half the world — over three billion people — live on less than **$2.50** a day. At least 80% of humanity lives on less than **$10 a day**.” This is a similar world into which Amos began to preach. The rich were rich and the poor were extremely poor. God had five main problems with Israel and he condemned Israel through Amos’ message. Have students break up the passages below as groups and determine what each accusation is that God holds against Israel, the correct answer is in parenthesis after each passage:

1. Amos 2:10 and 3:2 – (Despite God’s blessing them above all nations, they forgot Him)
2. Amos 2:6, 4:1, 5:11, 6:4-6, 8:4 – (The greedy rich oppressed the poor)
3. Amos 5:10 and 12-15 – (Their justice is corrupt and depraved)
4. Amos 8:5-6 – (They practiced dishonest business dealings)
5. Amos 4:4-5, 5:21-27 – (Their religious worship and practices were superficial, empty ritual)

The Story Retold:

* Having figured each accusation out, spend some time discussing each accusation and how they might relate to the situation of the Church in America today. Some might not be as obvious, but numbers 1 and 5 can be pretty obvious. At the same time, when we ignore other’s poverty and struggles around the world, we are probably participating in numbers 2-4, even if we do not intend to.
* How we spend our money can help others out of poverty and to have a better life. Toms Shoes is a great example of how our “wealth” can help others in poverty.
* Have students talk with you as a group about how they should spend their money to make sure they are living just lives that show their concern for others.
* If we ignore the message of Amos, we become like the Kingdom of Israel and we run the risk of God saying, “I hate your worship because it is nothing but empty words without action.”

The Story and Me:

* Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
* Have each student write the Series Theme Verse on white cardstock using yellow highlighter.
* Use the black light to illuminate the verses on cardstock and remind students that how we live our lives and spend our money should be a light for others in their worlds.
* Say the verse together.