

WEEK 7: HOSEA, JOEL, AMOS AND OBADIAH
DAY 1: HOSEA STILL LOVED HIS UNFAITHFUL WIFE

1. We have now finished studying the Big Prophets. They begin with Isaiah and end with Daniel. Daniel told us much about the things still to come.

Who will bring the "times of the Gentiles" to an end? _____

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image, how was Christ shown? _____

2. It is Christ who will bring the "times of the Gentiles" to an end. In Nebuchadnezzar's dream Christ was shown as a stone. The books from Isaiah to Daniel are called the Big Prophets. They are called Big Prophets because their books are long. But from Hosea to Malachi, the books are shorter. They are called the Little Prophets. Today we begin to study the Little Prophets.

Open your Bible now to the pages before Genesis. Find the page which gives the names of all the books of the Bible. Count the books from Hosea to Malachi. How many of these Little Prophets are there?

3. There are 12 Little Prophets. We will learn the names of the Little Prophets. This will help us to find them in the Bible. Today we will also study the prophet, Hosea. This is what we will learn about him.

- (1) Through the life of Hosea and his wife, God wanted to show Israel that he still loved her.
- (2) This shows us church leaders that we should still love those church members who are unfaithful.

Take time now to begin memorizing the names of the Little Prophets. They are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

4. Hosea was a prophet sent to the northern tribes of Israel. He had a very hard life in his home. But this helped him to understand God's love for Israel. Hosea had trouble because his wife was not faithful. Her name was Gomer. Gomer left her husband to live in sin with other men. She was living in adultery.

Was Gomer a good wife or a bad wife? _____

Whom did God want to teach through the life of Hosea? _____

5. God wanted to teach Israel through the home life of Hosea. His wife was a very bad wife. She was not faithful. It is very hard when a woman is not faithful to her husband. One time the wife of one of our Bible School students ran away. She refused to return to her husband. She became a harlot. There are many wives and husbands who are not faithful. You can probably think of some yourself. Israel also was unfaithful to God.

In her unfaithfulness, who was Israel like? _____

6. Israel was like an unfaithful wife. She was like Hosea's wife, Gomer. If you wrote one of these answers, you did well. Hosea's wife was unfaithful because she went after other men. She lived with other men as their wife. She ran away from home and left her husband with three children.

This is just what Israel did with God. Israel was unfaithful because she went after other gods. She belonged to the true God. But she worshipped idols. Still God loved her.

How did God want to use the life of Hosea and his wife? _____

7. God wanted to use Hosea and his wife to teach Israel. Gomer not only left her husband, but she became very sinful. Finally she became so sinful that a man sold her as a slave. Israel became so sinful that God sent her to be bound in Babylon. God told Hosea that he should preach to Israel about this.

Even though God sent Israel to Babylon, how did he still feel toward her?

8. God still loved Israel. And Hosea still loved Gomer. What Gomer did was adultery in the body. What Israel did was adultery in the spirit. It is hard for us to believe that God still loved Israel, but he did. This is what God wanted to teach Israel through Hosea and his wife.

Worshipping idols is not the only thing that is adultery in the spirit. Any believer commits spiritual adultery when he turns from God and goes after something else.

Write some things which believers can begin to love instead of God.

(1) _____ (2) _____

9. We can love money or possessions. We can love learning or worldly pleasure. We can love ourselves. If we love any of these instead of God, we are committing adultery in the spirit.

Israel loved idols. She was God's chosen people, but she wanted to be like people around her. She worshipped idols instead of God. She was unfaithful to God, yet God still loved her.

Whose lives taught Israel that God still loved her? _____

10. The lives of Hosea and Gomer taught this. Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea. But Hosea was faithful to her. He still loved her. He did not look for another wife. God told Hosea to go and buy back his wife from slavery. In this way Hosea saw what God wanted to do for Israel. He saw how God still felt about Israel.

What did the life of Hosea and Gomer teach the people of Israel? _____

11. It taught them that God still loved them. He still loved them even though they were committing adultery in the spirit. After Hosea's wife left him, God told him what to do.

Hosea 3:1-2:

And the Lord said to me, "Go again, love a woman (Gomer) who is . . . an adulteress; even as the Lord loves the people of Israel though they turn to other gods. . . ." So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver.

How did Hosea get his wife back from slavery? _____

12. He bought her back. And God said he should not only buy her, but he should love her. This was the way God felt towards Israel. Israel was unfaithful to him. She was worshipping idols. But God wanted Israel to know how he still felt about her.

What did the life of Hosea and his wife teach the people of Israel? _____

13. It showed Israel that God still loved her. God wanted Hosea to show this kind of love to his unfaithful wife. Gomer was very sinful. She needed a loving and forgiving husband. Israel was very sinful. She needed a loving and forgiving God. God asked Hosea to love his wife as God loved Israel. Hosea bought back his wife and loved her even though she was sinful. God loves not only the people of Israel in this way. He loves all sinners.

Romans 5:8:

But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.

Think about this question, then answer it. Who should show unfaithful people today that God loves them?

14. We Christians should show them. Preachers should show them. All church workers should show them. All of these answers are right. So the book of Hosea and the life of Hosea and Gomer teach us something about our work in the church.

What do you think it is? _____

15. You answered well if you said something like this: they teach us to love unfaithful people. If you had some other answer, it may be good too. We will talk about it in class.

Hosea teaches us that part of our work in the church is to love unfaithful people. Perhaps you have some believers in your church who have gone away from God. What do you think about them? Have you forgotten them? A believer who goes away from God is like an unfaithful wife. But we should still love that person. This does not mean we overlook his sin. Sometimes a church leader must speak strong words to a believer in sin. But he must still love him. He must pray for him. He must visit him.

What did the life of Hosea and his wife teach the people of Israel? _____

16. It taught them that God still loved them. He wanted them to come back to him. He wanted them to leave the wrong things they were doing.

What does this teach us about our work in the church? _____

17. It teaches us that we should still love unfaithful believers. Hosea's love for his wife can be a picture. It can be a picture of your love for church members in sin. God has much work for you to do with unfaithful members in your church.

Hosea loved his wife. He forgave her. Gomer's sin did not keep Hosea from loving her. He went to where she was, and he bought her. He forgave her and brought her home. God will do this for your unfaithful people as you love them.

Think now of some unfaithful people from your church. Pray for them and ask God to help you show love to them.

18. What did the life of Hosea and his wife teach the people of Israel?

What can this teach us about our work in the church? _____

WEEK 7: HOSEA, JOEL, AMOS, AND OBADIAH

DAY 2: HOSEA'S MESSAGE WAS THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RETURN TO GOD

1. Yesterday we saw that the life of Hosea and his wife taught Israel.

What did it teach the people of Israel? _____

What can it teach us about our work in the church? _____

2. The life of Hosea taught Israel that God still loved them. It teaches us that we should show love to unfaithful church members. God gave Hosea a special message for Israel. This is what we will learn today.

(1) God's message to Israel through Hosea was, "Return, I will forgive."

(2) We will also finish learning the names of the Little Prophets.

Here they are:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| (1) Hosea | (7) Nahum |
| (2) Joel | (8) Habakkuk |
| (3) Amos | (9) Zephaniah |
| (4) Obadiah | (10) Haggai |
| (5) Jonah | (11) Zechariah |
| (6) Micah | (12) Malachi |

Take time now to finish learning the names of these books. When you know them, cover them. Write them here:

3. Hosea is the first book of the Little Prophets. He taught the people by his life. He also taught them by messages from God. The messages are for people who have gone away from God. They are warnings for people who are trusting in idols or charms. These messages were for Israel. They are also for us.

Take your Bible now and read Hosea 14:1 to 4. Read verse one again. What does God want the people of Israel to do?

4. He wants them to return to him. Then he will forgive them. His message is: "Return, I will forgive." In the first part of Hosea we read about Israel's sin and punishment. The northern tribes of Israel had turned away from God. They were worshipping idols. Hosea was sent to preach to them.

The preaching of God's word was a looking glass for Israel. In the looking glass Israel could see herself. What is a looking glass for? It is not so much to see how good we look. It is to see what is wrong with us. Then we can correct it.

Hosea 14:1

Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity (or sin).

What did God want Israel to see and return from? _____

5. They should return to God from their sin. They were worshipping idols. They were also doing many other kinds of sin. Hosea wanted Israel to hear God's word. He wanted them to look in the looking glass. He wanted them to see that God was not pleased with them. God did not agree with what they were doing.

Hosea 4:1:

Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel; for the Lord has a controversy (or court case) with the inhabitants (or people) of the land. There is no faithfulness or kindness, and no knowledge of God in the land.

Through whom did God give the message, "Return, I will forgive"?

6. God gave this message through Hosea. God could not agree to Israel's sin. He told Hosea to tell them what was wrong.

Hosea 4:2 and 18:

there is swearing, lying, killing, stealing, and committing adultery.
... A band of drunkards, they give themselves to harlotry.

The people of Israel were breaking all of God's commandments. But what about our people? Are we doing the same things? If we are, God has a case against us. We need to use the looking glass of God's word. We need to warn our people.

Were the sins of Israel different from the sins around us today? _____

7. We see the same sins around us today. Remember that if we or our people do these things, it is spiritual adultery. We are turning away from God. We are loving something else.

The things which Israel was doing were spiritual adultery. When she committed them, she was unfaithful to God. Unfaithfulness to God is sin. And God must punish sin. But he wants to forgive sin.

What did God say Israel must do in order for him to forgive? _____

8. They must return to him. God's message was, "Return, I will forgive." God used many names to say what Israel was like. He called them harlots, a band of drunkards, a stubborn cow, a city of evildoers, a band of robbers, adulterers.

Hosea 6:4-6:

Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. Therefore I have hewn (or cut) them by the prophets, I have slain (or killed) them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings.

If Israel returned and were forgiven, what would they give God instead of sacrifices?

9. They would give him love. They would be filled with knowledge of God. This is what God wanted them to say:

Hosea 6:1:

Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn, that he may heal us; he has stricken, and he will bind us up.

Hosea forgave his wife, Gomer. He took her back to be his wife.

If Israel returned to God, what would God do? _____

10. He would forgive them. Or he would heal them. He said, "Return, I will forgive." But Israel refused to return to God. Finally, God said these words about Israel through Hosea:

Hosea 8:7:

They sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.

A whirlwind is stronger and destroys more than a wind. Israel was sinning and causing others to sin. Her sin would return to trouble her like a whirlwind.

If Israel would not return to God, what would happen to her? _____

11. You can answer in different ways. You can say she would be punished. Or her sins would come back to her. Or she would reap what she had sown. This is true for us too. If we plant sin in our lives, we will reap the results of sin. Paul warned the Christians of Galatia not to continue doing what they knew was wrong.

Galatians 6:7:

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

What was God's message to Israel through Hosea? _____

12. God said, "Return, I will forgive." This was what Hosea said to his wife. And this is what God said to Israel through Hosea. We reap what we plant in our lives. Paul warned the Christians about this, but he also gave them hope. They could reap the good things of the Spirit. God also gave Israel hope. They could be forgiven.

Can God forgive us if we do not return to him? _____

Have we returned to God if we do things he forbids like lying, stealing, being drunkards, and committing adultery? _____

13. The answer is "No" to both questions. Yet, we cannot stop doing these things by ourselves. God will help us as we ask him. This is what we can say to a believer who has turned away from God.

What was God's message to Israel through Hosea? _____

14. The message through Hosea was, "Return, I will forgive." This is still God's message today. It is the message which you must give to your people. Remember, you should still love the believer who has not been faithful. You must still try to bring him back to God's way.

Perhaps you will have the chance to preach to your people this week. Perhaps you can preach a message from the book of Hosea. Prepare a message to preach from yesterday's or today's lessons. Write the things you will say on another paper. Bring the paper to class.

15. What was God's message to Israel through Hosea? _____

Write the names of the books of the Little Prophets.

WEEK 7: HOSEA, JOEL, AMOS AND OBADIAH

**DAY 3: JOEL PROPHESED THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD BE
POURED OUT**

1. Today we will study the second book of the prophets. It seems that Joel was one of the earliest of all the prophets. Joel started to prophesy a little while before Hosea. Joel preached to the southern tribes called Judah. Hosea preached to the northern tribes of Israel.

What was God's message to Israel through Hosea? _____

Say the names of all the Little Prophets to yourself.

2. This was God's message to Israel through Hosea: "Return, I will forgive." The Little Prophets are: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Joel preached to the people of the southern tribes. He told them that God would judge them for their sins. This is what we will learn about Joel:

- (1) Joel called the time of God's judgment "the day of the Lord."
- (2) The prophecy of Joel that the Holy Spirit would be poured out was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.

Take your Bible now and read Joel 1:1 to 6.

3. When Joel began to preach to Judah, a very bad thing had just happened. Locusts had come into the land. They had eaten the crops. Have you ever seen a field after locusts have eaten all the grain? It is a terrible thing. It means that there will be famine.

After the locusts came to Judah, there was a time of no rain. Any grain which was left by the locusts dried up. God told his prophet that this was a judgment of God. God was punishing his people. The prophet called the time of judgment "the day of the Lord."

Which prophet called the time of God's judgment "the day of the Lord"?

4. Joel did this. He asked the people to think of the reason for their suffering. They were living sinful lives. He told them to repent. He told them to fast and pray. He said they must cry with true repentance. Then they would be kept from more judgment by God. He called the time of God's judgment "the day of the Lord."

Think carefully about this question.

Did Joel comfort the people in their trouble? _____

5. He did not comfort them. Joel knew this was punishment from God. He told the people this trouble of locusts and no rain was God's judgment. He warned them of more judgment which was coming. Some of it would come soon. Some of it would come after many years if they did not repent.

Joel 1:15:

Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes. Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

What did Joel call the time of God's judgment? _____

6. He called it "the day of the Lord." These are very important words in the book of Joel. They are also important words in other parts of the Bible. Joel was the first prophet to use these words and write them down. He spoke of the locusts and famine as examples of "the day of the Lord."

What did Joel mean by these words, "the day of the Lord"? _____

7. He meant the time of God's judgment. God sent judgment on his people in the time of the prophets. He is sending judgment on us now. And he will send judgment when Christ sets up his kingdom on earth. In chapter 2, Joel called the people to get ready to fight. He said that the "day of the Lord" was very near. He meant that the army of Babylon was coming.

Joel 2:11-12:

For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it: "Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

When God warned his people of "the day of the Lord" what did he want them to do?

8. He wanted them to repent or return to him. He wanted them to fast and cry. If they would be sorry for their sins then God would bless them. In the second part of chapter 2, Joel gives another message for Judah. "The day of the Lord" is surely coming. But because the people will return to God, he will also pour out many blessings upon them. A land that has been eaten by locusts takes a long time to heal. People suffer before they have crops again. But God made this promise to Israel through Joel:

Joel 2:25:

I will restore to you the years which the swarming locust has eaten.

What did Joel call the time of God's judgment? _____

9. He called it "the day of the Lord." Joel told his people about the judgment of God. But he also told them God's promises of blessing. God said that he would send them blessing for the body or food to eat. He would also send them blessing for the spirit.

Take your Bible now and read Joel 2:28-29. What did God say he would do with his Spirit?

10. God promised through Joel that he would pour out his spirit. Many years later the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples. It was the Day of Pentecost. The disciples began to speak in many languages. Then Peter stood up to preach. Look at what he said.

Acts 2:16:

this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.'

On what day did Peter preach that the prophecy of Joel was fulfilled?

11. It was on the Day of Pentecost. The prophecy was fulfilled. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples. Peter told the people that this was the fulfilling of prophecy. But we remember that prophecies often have more than one fulfilling. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church. But he has not yet been poured out on the people of Israel. This is something which is still coming.

Whose prophecy was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost? _____

12. It was the prophecy of Joel. On the Day of Pentecost great power came upon the disciples. Three thousand people received Christ when the disciples preached. Why did their preaching bring so many people? It was because they were filled with the Spirit. Their words were spoken by his power.

Our preaching too should have power. It should bring people to receive Christ. If it does not, we should ask ourselves why it does not.

What prophecy of Joel was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost? _____

13. It was the prophecy that the Holy Spirit would be poured out. He was poured out upon the church. But he has not yet been poured out upon Israel. This is because they have not yet received Jesus Christ as their Saviour. There is still a time of judgment coming before Israel will return to God. After this judgment they will accept Christ, then God will pour out his Holy Spirit and bless them. Then Israel will become a great nation. She will be a light to all people.

What did Joel call the time of God's judgment? _____

14. He called it "the day of the Lord." This is the time of God's judgment. After the judgment there will be great blessing for the people of Israel. Her enemies will be defeated. Jerusalem will be free. The land will have new life and Christ will set up his kingdom on earth.

Joel 3:18:

And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the stream beds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord.

What prophecy of Joel was first fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost? _____

15. The prophecy was that the Holy Spirit would be poured out. The book of Joel can be very useful to your people. You can teach from it that the words of the prophets are fulfilled. You can teach that as God fulfilled one prophecy from Joel, he will surely fulfill other prophecies. You can teach that we need the fullness of the Spirit in Christian work. You can teach that we should live godly lives so we will not be ashamed when Christ returns.

Have you preached a message on the Holy Spirit to your people this year?

16. What did Joel call the time of God's judgment? _____

What prophecy of Joel was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost? _____

WEEK 7: HOSEA, JOEL, AMOS, AND OBADIAH
DAY 4: AMOS TOLD ISRAEL "PREPARE TO MEET YOUR GOD"

1. We are going quickly through the books of the Little Prophets. We have seen the life of Hosea. It showed Israel that God still loved them. We have seen the work of Joel. Today we will see the message of Amos to Israel. He said, "Prepare to meet your God."

What did Joel call the time of God's judgment? _____

What prophecy of Joel was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost? _____

2. Joel called the time of God's judgment "the day of the Lord." His prophecy that the Holy Spirit would be poured out was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. Now we go on to the prophet Amos. This is what we will learn about him.

- (1) Amos was a herdsman before God called him to be a prophet.
- (2) God's message through Amos was, "Prepare to meet your God."

Take your Bible now and read Amos 1:1 and 2. Was Amos working in the house of God when he began to see these prophecies? _____

3. Amos was not in the house of God. He was not a spiritual leader among his people at first. In West Africa we have the Fulani people. They are herdsman. They go wherever they can get food for their cattle. They spend most of their time outside. They are like David who stayed with his flocks. This is what Amos said about himself.

Amos 7:14:

I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

What was Amos' work before God called him to be a prophet? _____

4. Amos was a herdsman who lived near Bethlehem in Judah. God needed him for his work. Perhaps none of the priests would go. But Amos was ready to obey God. God told him to go to the northern tribes of Israel. When he arrived, he began to prophesy about the enemies of Israel. God wanted Israel to know that he had power over all the nations of the world.

What did God call Amos, the herdsman, to be? _____

5. God called him to be a prophet. He first prophesied about the enemies of Israel. He said that they would be judged and punished. Then he said that Judah and Israel had sinned too. They also would be judged. And their punishment would be harder than the punishment of the other nations. Judah and Israel thought they could sin because they were God's chosen people. But the prophet told them that this made their sin much worse. They knew God's laws. They knew what was right and wrong. The Gentile nations did not have God's laws to guide them.

What herdsman was called to be a prophet and warn Israel? _____

6. This was Amos. God told him to speak words against the people of Israel.

Amos 3:1-3:

Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up out of the land of Egypt; "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. Do two walk together, unless they have made an appointment (or unless they agree to walk together)?

God knew why the people were worshipping idols. He knew why they were not walking with him. It was because they wanted it this way. They had agreed to walk with idols. They did not agree to walk with God. God wanted them to know he understood their hearts.

What was Amos before he was called to tell the people this? _____

7. Amos was a herdsman at first. He was not a priest or prophet. But God needed him to preach to the people. God will use us too if we are willing.

God had already punished Israel. He had sent locusts and no rain. He had sent disease to their crops. He had sent war and sickness among the people. He had even sent an earthquake. But the people did not return to God. So God sent Amos to them. He gave him a message to give to the people.

Take your Bible now and read Amos 4:12. In your Bible, draw a line under the words, Prepare to meet your God.

8. God's message to the people was, "Prepare to meet your God." After this, God showed Amos the punishments which he could send to Israel. These are found in Amos chapters 7 to 9. These are the things which Amos saw in visions.

Locusts eating all the grass

A plumb-line (or measuring string to see if the wall is straight)

A basket of fruit

The Lord standing beside the altar

What was Amos before God called him to be a prophet? _____

9. Amos was a herdsman at first, and not a leader. But Amos loved his people. When he saw the vision of locusts eating all the grass, he began to pray. He asked God to forgive the people and not send this punishment. God heard his prayer and did not send the locusts again. Then Amos saw the vision of a great fire burning everything. Again he asked for mercy for Israel. God heard the prayers of this good man and did not send the fire. Amos warned the people about these things.

Whom did Amos say people should prepare to meet? _____

10. They should prepare to meet God. Then Amos saw God standing beside a wall. God had a plumb-line or string to see if the wall was straight. Sometimes we see houses with crooked walls. They have not been built well. God told Amos that the lives of the people were crooked. They would be measured by God's word. Then they would see how bad they were. Amos could see this. He did not pray that God would save Israel from punishment any more. He knew that God's judgment was right.

Who did Amos say should prepare to meet God? _____

11. The people of Israel must do this. And so must we. The time of judgment is coming. After the measuring line, Amos saw a basket of fruit. When do people bring in grain and fruit? Is it at the beginning of the rainy season? No, it is at the end of the rains. It is at the harvest time. The basket of fruit showed that the end was coming.

Amos 8:2-3:

Then the Lord said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass by them. The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day."

What did Amos tell the people to prepare for? _____

12. They should prepare to meet God. The end of the harvest time is usually a happy time. But this end time would not be happy. God did not want to punish his people. He wanted them to repent. He gave them time to repent. But they did not want to listen to God or his word.

Amos 8:11-12:

“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God, “when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.

From these verses, what kind of famine would God send? _____

How could Israel have prepared to meet God? _____

13. God was sending a famine of the word of God. It would be a terrible time. Israel could have prepared to meet God. They should have repented. Then they would have been ready. God was patient with Israel. He did not send the first two judgments which he had prepared.

Then he measured their lives by his word. He found they were living very crooked, sinful lives. So he was sending famine to them. They would not have the word of God. Some of the countries of northern Africa have had terrible famine. Many other countries have felt famine at different times. But the famine God was sending was worse than a famine of food. There would be no words from God for the people.

What did Amos tell the people to prepare for? _____

14. They must prepare to meet God. They must prepare to be judged by him. The last vision of Amos showed God standing beside the altar. In the vision, God gave the command to break the doorposts of the temple. Then the temple would fall on the people and kill them. We remember that this is how God once judged the Philistines. He judged them through Samson. Samson stood by the posts of the house where the people were. He broke the posts. The building fell and the people were killed. But now God said this must be done to the people of Israel.

What had the people of Israel failed to do? _____

15. They did not prepare to meet God. Or they did not listen to God. Or they did not repent and return to him. All of these answers are right. God will judge all people. He will judge Israel and Judah. He will judge all the other nations. He is God of the whole earth. No one can get away from him. No one can hide from him.

Amos 9:10:

All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, 'Evil shall not overtake or meet us.'

What did Amos tell the people of Israel to prepare for? _____

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16. He said, "Prepare to meet your God." Amos was not a leader among the people at first. But God called him to be a prophet. He knew God and he obeyed him. Perhaps you do not have much training, but God can still use you. It is good to get training. But you must also hear God's voice speaking through his word. Then you can go and tell others what God has said.

Do you hear God's voice speaking to you when you read his word? _____

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17. We will talk about this in class.

What was Amos before God called him to be a prophet? _____

What did Amos tell the people of Israel to prepare for? _____

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WEEK 7: HOSEA, JOEL, AMOS, AND OBADIAH
DAY 5: OBADIAH PROPHESED THE DESTRUCTION OF EDOM

1. What was Amos before God called him to be a prophet? _____

What did Amos tell the people of Israel to prepare for? _____

2. Amos was a herdsman. But then God called him to be a prophet. The message of Amos to the people of Israel was, "Prepare to meet your God."

Today we will study the book of Obadiah. It is the shortest book in the Old Testament. This is what we will learn about this book.

(1) Obadiah prophesied the destruction of Edom.

(2) From Obadiah you can show your people that what they do today will come back to punish them tomorrow.

Is the book of Obadiah one of the Little Prophets or one of the Big Prophets?

3. Obadiah is one of the Little Prophets. Hosea, Joel and Amos gave prophecies of judgment against Judah and Israel. There were always promises of God's love for those who repented. But this little book is different. It prophesied God's judgment which would soon come to the people of Edom. The people of Edom were the family of Esau. They would be completely destroyed.

Who prophesied that Edom would be destroyed? _____

4. Obadiah prophesied this. His book is a warning to all who think they can sin and not be punished. The people of Edom did not follow God. They also hated the people of Israel. They helped any army which came to fight with Israel. They laughed when God's people were defeated.

What did Obadiah say would happen to the people of Edom? _____

5. He said they would be destroyed. They would be completely finished. These people were from the tribe of Esau. Esau was Jacob's brother. Esau married wives from among the people of Canaan. When he left home, he went to the mountains south of the Dead Sea. He lived in these mountains with his family. They grew to be a large tribe.

Genesis 36:1 and 8:

These are the descendants of Esau (that is, Edom). Esau took wives from the Canaanites. . . . So Esau dwelt in the hill country of Seir; Esau is Edom.

What people did Obadiah say would be completely destroyed? _____

6. They were the people of Edom. They were the tribe of Esau, Jacob's brother. When Jacob came back to the land of Canaan, Esau moved away. He and his family went to the south. They lived in houses which they dug in the sides of the mountains. They went out to rob and kill people. They then went back to their mountain homes to laugh about what they had done.

Obadiah 3:

The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock whose dwelling is high, who say in your heart, "Who will bring me down to the ground?"

What did Obadiah say would happen to the people of Edom? _____

7. Obadiah said they would be completely destroyed. These people were proud of their sin. They said no one could take them down from their mountain. They said no one could defeat them. They also hated the people of Israel. They tried to destroy them. When the armies of Babylon came against Jerusalem, these people helped them. They stole from the people of Judah. They killed those who were trying to run away from Jerusalem. When Babylon destroyed Jerusalem, these people rejoiced. They were happy that the people of Judah were carried away.

Who did Obadiah say would be destroyed? _____

8. Obadiah gave this prophecy about Edom. The people of Edom were proud of their sin. They were happy when Jerusalem was destroyed. God knew they would not repent. They must be punished. So the people of Edom were taken from their mountains by Babylon. This happened about five years after Jerusalem was taken. The people of Babylon returned. They took the people of Edom just as they had taken the people of Judah. They destroyed some and carried some away. Today no people of Edom can be found.

Was the word of God through Obadiah fulfilled? _____

9. The word of God was fulfilled. The people were destroyed. They were punished for their sin. They did not follow God. And they fought against the people of God. God had said he would punish this. He has not forgotten his people. Even today he punishes those who punish Israel. This is what God told Abraham.

Genesis 12:3:

I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you, I will curse.

Who did Obadiah say would be destroyed? _____

10. He prophesied that the people of Edom would be destroyed. He said that what they did to others would come back to them. This is still true today. We must teach this to our people. We must tell them that what we do today will come back to us. We do not know when God will judge sin. But we do know that he will judge it some day. Some day we will stand before God. If we have not repented of our sin, the things we have done will come back to punish us.

Do you think that God ever forgets about sin that is not confessed? _____

11. Some people think he forgets about it. The Bible says he does not forget. We remember what Hosea said. He said that people sow to the wind and reap a whirlwind. Amos said all sinners would die who say that no bad thing could happen to them. Obadiah says the same thing, and adds to it.

Obadiah 15:

As you have done, it shall be done to you, your deeds shall return on your own head.

From this verse, what should we teach our people about the sins which they do today?

12. We should teach them that our sins will come back to punish us. What we have done will be done to us. We will reap what we sow. Let us see again what Paul said about this.

Galatians 6:7:

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Who did Obadiah say would be destroyed? _____

13. Obadiah said that the people of Edom would be destroyed. They reaped what they had sown. Their acts returned upon their own heads. They tried very hard to destroy Israel. They were glad when they thought she was destroyed. They did not listen to God. What they did was done to them. Today there are no people of Edom left.

From the book of Obadiah, what should we teach our people about the sins which they do today?

14. We should teach them that the sins they do today will return to punish them. I hope you will take time to teach your people from the book of Obadiah. We need to know that God will punish sin. This will help us not to do it. We cannot escape punishment unless we are right with God. When we are right with God we will not want to sin.

Do some of your people seem to think they can sin and God forgets about it?

15. We will talk about this in class.

Who did Obadiah say would be destroyed? _____

From the book of Obadiah, what should we teach our people about the sins which they do today?
