

Amos 4:1-13

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Amos 4:13

MEMORY VERSE

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. **Amos 4:13**

If we take an honest look at America today, we will recognize great similarities between our nation and the nation of Israel during the days of Jeroboam II. Israel was characterized by materialism, immorality, and complacency. America seems to be following the same path. This dramatically impacts teenagers, maybe more so than any other group of people.

Read Amos 4:1–13. During the 40-year reign of King Jeroboam II, Israel experienced peace and prosperity. As a result, they became self-sufficient and soon forgot their continual need for God. In time, true worship gave way to religious rituals meant to impress people.

God therefore sent the prophet Amos to warn Israel that its sinful behavior would bring His judgment. To get Israel's attention, God used famine, drought, blight and mildew, locusts, plagues, the sword, and complete overthrow. Unfortunately, Israel failed to hear God's call and refused to return to Him. He had to judge Israel for its sins.

What can you do to help your child resist the temptations of a materialistic society? How can you point them toward God? You may be the person most able to accomplish this. Seek God's guidance in steering your child toward a relationship with Him.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, the family discusses the following questions: **Has materialism taken root in our household? Are we sacrificing a relationship with God to purchase more stuff? Do we share with others in need?** Engage in an open discussion regarding the way actions speak of inner devotion to God.

Explore . . .

First, a family member reads Amos 4:1–13. Next, the family discusses: **How did Israel break the covenant relationship with God? During times of prosperity, how did Israel respond to God?**

A family member reads the following: **Israel thoroughly enjoyed the years of peace and prosperity. The citizens nurtured a materialistic craving that caused the rich to cheat the poor to feed their appetite for luxuries. They failed to worship God as provider. Instead, they transformed worship into sinful religious ritual. The nation of Israel lost all regard for honoring the covenant commitments to God and focused on pleasing itself.**

Transform . . .

The family discusses and plans: **What steps do we need to take to ensure that God always remains the first priority?**

Pray together that God would be honored by the way your family handles blessings.