



Amos 5:4–15

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Amos 5:4

MEMORY VERSE

This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel:
“Seek me and live.” Amos 5:4

You don’t hear the word “backsliding” anymore. But, if you observe teenagers, you begin to notice that there is definitely an “ebb and flow” to their spiritual lives. One minute, they blow you away with the depth of their commitment to God. The next, you’re left wondering, “Is this the same person?”

Read Amos 5:4–15. Israel had broken its covenant with God. The Israelites still “worshiped” Him through religious ceremonies and rituals, but their hearts were far from God. Wealthy citizens in Israel increased their wealth by taking advantage of the poor. Judges took

bribes from the rich and ruled against the poor. God had seen enough. The time for judgment had come. God would send an invading army to overrun the nation, sending the Israelites into exile. Israel’s only hope for survival was to “seek God and live.”

In His sovereignty, God allows for us to fall, get up, dust ourselves off, and turn back to Him. You may notice your teenager occasionally repeating this cycle. This can be tough to watch, but unfortunately it is part of spiritual growth. As a parent, you can help show your teenagers love and guidance as they seek God and His ways.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, a family member reads: **On November 16, 1998, Justin Cabezas, while drag racing down a busy street, struck a van, causing it to strike another car and explode. Bruce Murakami watched as his wife and daughter were killed in the explosion, but Justin was virtually unharmed. Determined to see Justin pay for his crime, Bruce spent three years pursuing a conviction. Just before Justin’s sentence was pronounced, Bruce asked to meet privately with him. When he saw Justin’s true sorrow, Bruce offered forgiveness. Today, the two men share their heartbreaking experience across the country to promote safe driving. (Goffard, Christopher. “I Forgive Him.” *St. Petersburg Times*, July 25, 2002. http://www.touchedby.com/article_sptimes_072502.htm [accessed October 6, 2006].)**

Next, the family discusses the following: **How is Bruce’s forgiveness of Justin similar to God’s forgiveness of us? Were the consequences of Justin’s crime erased? How are Bruce and Justin facing them together?**

Explore . . .

First, a family member reads Amos 5:4–15. Next, the family discusses: **Did Israel have any hope of surviving the consequences of breaking the covenant with God?**

A family member reads: **Israel’s sins of empty worship, materialism, and oppressing the poor had earned God’s judgment. Yet God held out a ray of hope. Those who would seek Him would live. He would walk with them through the consequences of their sins.**

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **Does receiving God’s forgiveness mean there will be no consequences for sin?**

Pray together that your family would seek God daily and ask for God’s help to face any consequences for past sins.