

# Bringing justice



**Bible verses:**  
Amos 5:24



**Aim:**  
To recognise God's desire for justice and fairness in how we treat others, and to consider how we can bring justice and goodness to our communities



**Today's fruit:**  
Goodness



Today we begin our four-week series discovering more about what it means to see God's justice in the world.

We start with the prophet Amos, who had a message from God for the people of Israel. God was angry with the way they were treating the poor and those who could not stand up for themselves. We'll discover the vision God shared of a world full of goodness and justice.

God wants us to live in a world full of goodness and justice and wants our help in creating it.

## Each child will need:

- Memory verse wristband
- *Amos 5:24* handout – three designs
- A strip of blue paper and pens/pencils
- *Explore It ideas* handout

## You will need:

- A bag of sweets – please be aware of allergies
- Memory verse poster
- Fruit of the Spirit poster: *Goodness* – download from **Salvationist**



## Start it

Start with an activity to help the children to think about what we mean by the terms 'justice' and 'injustice'.

Ask the children to sit in a circle. You will need a bag of sweets, but make sure there are not enough of them for everyone in the group. Ask the children to take a sweet and pass the bag on to the next person – but they are to wait until everyone has a sweet before they can eat it. When the sweets run out, discuss with the children whether it is fair that some children have nothing and what they could do to solve the situation.

There are ways to develop this activity and discuss the outcomes with the children. You could randomly remove a sweet from a couple of children and keep them for yourself. You could produce another bag of sweets and hand it to one of the other group leaders.

The aim is to encourage discussions about:

- Justice – the quality of being fair and just.
- Injustice – the violation of the rights of another.

You may wish to conclude the activity with everyone receiving a sweet – and eating it.

## Sing it

### Say:

Throughout this month we will be thinking about God's desire to bring justice to the world. We see so many things in our world that are unfair. People use their power to hurt others and treat them in a way that does not reflect God's love. Our memory verse reminds us of what God expects us to do as his followers.

Display the memory verse and give each child a memory verse wristband. Read through the verse together and explain to the children that we will be learning more about the prophet Micah in next week's session.

### Memory verse

**'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.**

**And what does the Lord require of you?**

**To act justly and to love mercy**

**and to walk humbly with your God.'**

(Micah 6:8 NIV)

### Say:

Our song for this week will help you to remember our memory verse.

### Song

**'Micah 6:8' (Sing the Bible vol 4)** by Slugs and Bugs (3:39)



## Share it

### Say:

In the Bible, prophets had an important job. They listened to God and shared his messages with people. In the Old Testament, before God's Holy Spirit was given to all believers, there were only a small number of people who could understand what God was saying.

### Ask:

Think back to some of the stories we discovered in last month's Explore It. Which Bible character did we meet, who could hear the voice of God?

### Say:

Today we're going to hear about another prophet who could hear God's voice. Amos said a lot of things to the Israelites about how they were living. They were focusing on rules and punishment rather than loving God and each other. Their idea of justice was punishing someone who did something against their rules, but God needed them to know that they weren't perfect either. They didn't understand that when they treated others unfairly, they were not pleasing God. Let's watch the clip to find out more about the story of Amos.

## Video

***Let Justice Roll Down (The story of Amos's message part 1 Amos 5)*** by The Biggest Story (3:49)

### Discuss:

- What does justice mean?
- Why does God want us to act with justice? How does this link to our memory verse this month?
- What were the people doing to upset God?
- What were the rich people doing to the poor people?
- What did Amos tell the people?
- What picture did God give to his people?

### Read:

**'But let justice flow like a river.**

**Let goodness flow like a stream that never stops.'**

(Amos 5:24 ICB)

### Ask:

What would it be like to live in a world where justice and goodness flowed like a river that never stops flowing?



Display the *Goodness* sign.

**Ask:**

- How can we make our part of the world flow with goodness?
- How can we ask the Holy Spirit to help us?

**Say:**

Unfortunately, the people did not listen to Amos. They thought they knew better than God and continued to do things their own way. Let's find out what happened.

**Video**

***Famine and Feast*** (The story of Amos's message part 2 Amos 8-9) by The Biggest Story (4:20)

**Discuss:**

- How did God try to wake up the Israelites from their pattern of poor behaviour?
- The clip says that the people had grown full of themselves and 'empty of God'. What do you think that means?
- What is a hypocrite? What kinds of things were the Israelites doing that made them hypocrites?
- What kind of famine did God say he would send upon the land?
- What did God promise his people?

**Say:**

God promised that he would rebuild the ruins of Israel and mend the broken places. Until that time came, God called the Israelites to seek justice and live lives full of goodness. He calls us to do the same.

**Action it**

Ask the children to think of all the different ways The Salvation Army tries to tackle injustice in the world. You may find the following clip useful, or you could discuss activities that run at your church.

**Video**

***Year in Review*** by The Salvation Army UK & Ireland Territory (3:26)

After you have gathered ideas together, the children can choose to turn one of them into a picture, using the Amos 5:24 handout. Share your pictures together and read Amos 5:24 to bring the Action It section to a close.



## Pray it

Ask the children to think about all the injustices they have learned about in today's session. They may think back to the way the Israelites treated the poor and needy. Alternatively, they could think about the different people we saw in clip about The Salvation Army. Either way, the aim is for them to write a short prayer for those facing injustice, and to ask God for help to be part of the solution themselves rather than part of the problem. Ask the children to write their prayer on a strip of blue paper, representing the flowing river of God's justice and goodness.

Give the children time to write their prayers and share them together. They can take their flowing water prayer home to pray each day.



## Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



## Bringing justice

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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### Create

In Amos 5:24, God gives the people a picture of what a world filled with justice and goodness looks like. Create your own picture of a flowing river and write in the water all the ways that you can show justice and goodness to others.



### Share

The story of Amos is not as well known as some other stories in the Bible. Take time to share with the people at home the message of Amos. You could watch the clips from this week's session together.

***Let Justice Roll Down*** (The story of Amos's message part 1 Amos 5) by The Biggest Story

***Famine and Feast*** (The story of Amos's message part 2 Amos 8-9) by The Biggest Story



### Song for the week

**'Micah 6:8'** (Sing the Bible vol 4) by Slugs and Bugs



### Memory verse

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*Kids Alive!* Online – [salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive)

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Children  
& Youth