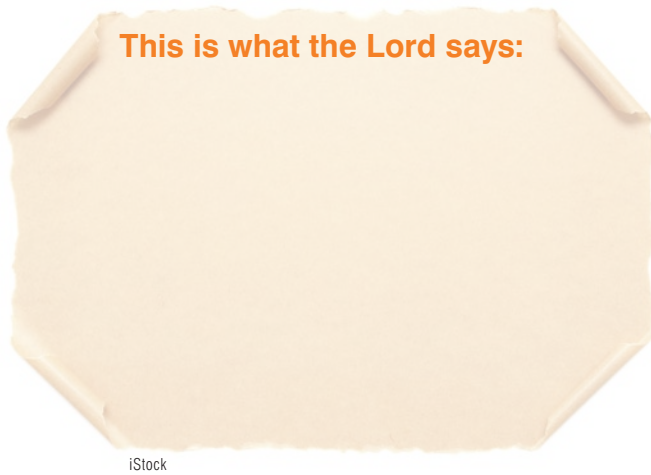
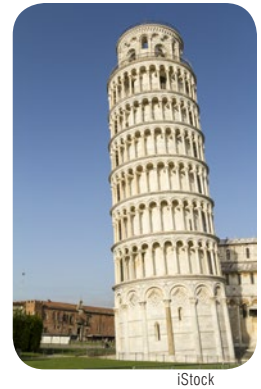


# A FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH

Proverbs 14:34 states a foundational truth about sin. Find that verse and write it in the parchment.



Then use this picture →  
to suggest what will happen  
if this foundation is not main-  
tained; jot ideas below ↓



---

---

---

# SINS: THEN AND NOW

God used the prophet Amos to condemn the sins of Israel and Judah. From today's text, list five sins Amos identified as being of special concern in his day. Then identify similar sins in our own culture.

## Sins in the Culture of Amos

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Sins in My Culture

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

What does the similarity of the two lists imply to you? Check off any of the following generalizations with which you would agree.

- Sin is sin at any time, in any place.
- The temptations that arise remain consistent.
- God hates sin and will punish the unrepentant.
- A responsibility for God's servant in any age is to confront sin.
- All have sinned and come short of God's glory.
- The words of Amos condemn also my own sin.

\* Are any boxes left unchecked? If so, why?



# WHY, GOD?

Amos 5:27 is a statement of coming doom, and 2 Kings 17 tells us why. Look at that text, especially verses 7-17, and list some reasons below. (You may not need all the lines, or you may need to add more.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_



Now condense those reasons down to a single three-letter word: \_\_\_\_\_

# A WORSHIP PRINCIPLE

1. Summarize the worship principle found in 1 Samuel 15:22, considering its larger context of verses 1-23.



iStock

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How is that same principle reflected in today's lesson text?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

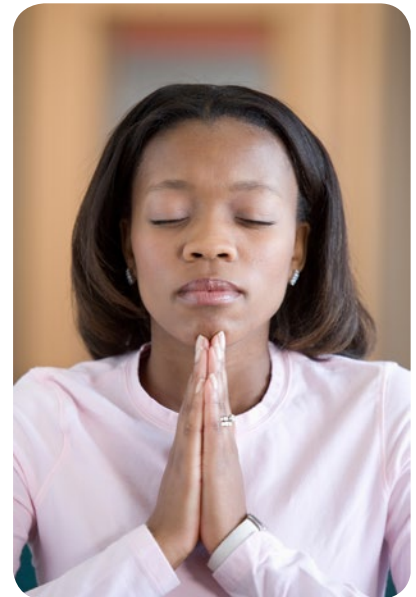
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How does that principle apply to us as we assemble for worship or in our private times of devotion and praise?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Photos.com

# NO CONCERN? NO COMFORT!

Amos has something to say about the comfortable dwellings of the insensitive and sinful Israelites. In Amos 3:15 (not in today's lesson text), he refers to four kinds of homes and their future disposition. List those below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

How does the above compare and contrast with what Amos 6:11 says? Jot your ideas below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



iStock

How was the present and future status of those homes a good representation of the present and future status of the nation of ancient Israel itself? Jot your ideas below.

Photodisc

# COMFORTABLE OR CONCERNED?



iStock

Amos begins chapter 6 with the condemnation, "Woe to you who are complacent in Zion!" Check the boxes below to rate your "at ease" level for each issue.

	Very Comfortable	Very Concerned
Regarding world poverty	□ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □	□ ··· □
Regarding other religions	□ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □	□ ··· □
Regarding sexual immorality	□ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □	□ ··· □
Regarding corruption	□ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □	□ ··· □
Regarding unsaved people	□ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □ ··· □	□ ··· □

What evidence supports your self-ratings? What changes do you need to make, and how will you do so? Jot ideas here. →

# VISIONS

Today's text describes a divine communication that we might call *a vision*. Look up the texts below that describe visions given to various people by God. Note the recipient of each and summarize the vision's content.

	<b>Who had the vision?</b>	<b>What was communicated?</b>
Genesis 15:1-6	_____	_____
Ezekiel 1:1-2:8	_____	_____
Daniel 7	_____	_____
Acts 10:9-20	_____	_____
Revelation 1:9; 9:17-21	_____	_____

One understanding of *vision* in modern culture is that of "a picture of what your organization's future makeup will be and where you are headed," with regard to strategic planning. How is the Bible's depiction of *vision* or *visions* different from this?



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# GOD'S CALL AND DECLARATION

The book of Amos may be seen as God's call for justice and his declaration of ways he will see that justice prevails. Skim back through the texts studied this month and identify two text references you think best represent these two truths, one each.

## God's Call for Justice

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Hemera



iStock

## God's Declaration of How Justice Will Prevail

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# WHO, ME?

Even though it's easy for us to condemn the Israelites for their wickedness, it is possible for us to drift into their same sinful patterns of thinking and behaving. Read the hypothetical comments of the Israelites on the left and suggest a modern parallel that presents a danger for the Christian to avoid.

OLD TESTAMENT ISRAELITES	NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS
<i>"I'm tired of Micah's gloom and doom prophecies! I'd much rather listen to that new prophet, Joab, who says God wants us to be happy!"</i>	
<i>"I couldn't sleep last night remembering how my neighbor cheated me on that worthless set of oxen. But I finally figured out a way to get even!"</i>	
<i>"When the prophet confronted me about my sin, I told him to mind his own business and keep his opinions to himself!"</i>	
<i>"I just don't understand why my life has to be so hard! How can Micah say God is a merciful God when he lets me suffer so much?"</i>	
<i>"So what if she's a widow with a bunch of kids? If she can't keep up her payments, then she shouldn't have put up her house as collateral."</i>	

## MERCY RECEIVED AND PRACTICED

How does the following statement apply to your life? Jot ideas below.

*✧ To whom much mercy is given, much mercy is required. ✧*

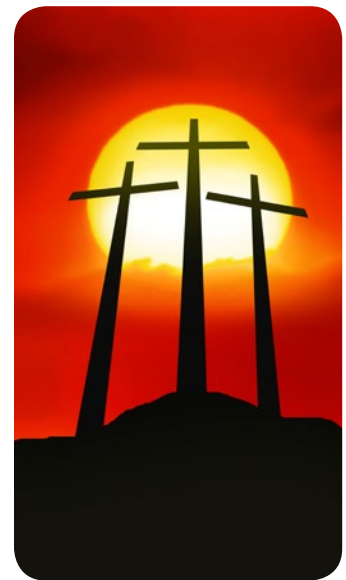
---



---



---



Hemera

## WHAT DID MICAH SAY?

Read through the following summaries of Micah 3:5-12. Find the incorrect words or phrases and replace them with the correct ones.

*Verse 5a.* Micah had a word to say about the false prophets who caused the people to leave.

*Verse 5b.* The false prophets were willing to go to war against anyone who would not give them land.

*Verse 6.* Night was going to come upon these prophets, when they would see many visions.

*Verse 7.* The seers would be ashamed when they receive an answer from God.

*Verse 8.* Because Micah was full of power by his own spirit, he would declare to the Israelites their sins.

*Verse 9.* The heads of the house of Jacob loved justice and upheld all that was right.

*Verse 10.* The bad leaders tore down Zion and Jerusalem with blood and iniquity.

*Verse 11a.* The corrupt leaders of the Israelites were in it for the praise they received.

*Verse 11b.* The greedy leaders believed that some disaster would come upon them.

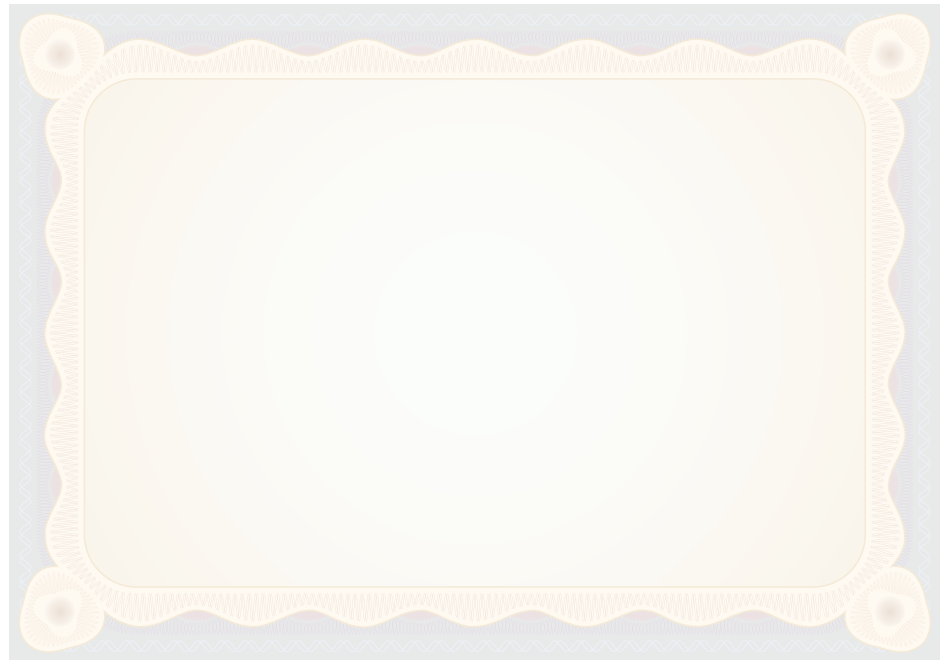
*Verse 12.* Zion would be plowed like a field, and the temple would become a heap of rubble.

## WHAT WILL YOU SAY?

Select a church leader who has had a positive impact on your life. Use the space at the right to jot a note of appreciation to that person. Then clip it out and put it in the mail!



iStock



iStock

*Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 6, "No Tolerance for Corrupt Officials" (Micah 3:5-12, NIV)*

Copyright © 2013 by Standard Publishing. Permission is granted to reproduce this page for ministry purposes only. Not for resale.

# REMEMBERING HISTORY

Without looking in your Bible, see if you can match the historical references in today’s lesson with the passages that provide the details. Then check your Bible for the correct answers.

- \_\_\_ 1. “I brought you up out of Egypt” (Micah 6:4a).
- \_\_\_ 2. “I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam” (Micah 6:4b).
- \_\_\_ 3. “What Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered” (Micah 6:5a).
- \_\_\_ 4. “From Shittim to Gilgal” (Micah 6:5b).

**A. Exodus 3–14.    B. Joshua 3:1–4:19.    C. Numbers 22–24.**  
**D. Exodus 4:29; 15:20 (also Numbers 26:59).**

# JUST, MERCIFUL, OR HUMBLE?

Check the one quality that best illustrates the following scenarios. Then answer the questions below.

Scenarios	Just	Merciful	Humble
1. You allow someone else to take the credit for a project on which you did most of the work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Following the death of someone who mistreated a family member, you provide a meal for his or her family.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. When a teller gives you an extra \$20 bill by mistake, you return the money to the bank.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. You allow a car that previously cut you off to enter your lane during a traffic jam.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. When working with your life group to clean the church, you cheerfully accept the job of scrubbing the toilets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. You write an encouraging letter to someone who is in prison for stealing your car and wrecking it.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Following a traffic accident that was your fault, you truthfully answer all the investigator’s questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. When your boss is criticizing a coworker for a mistake that you made, you speak up and take the blame.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

From these eight scenarios, select one that would be the hardest for you to do. What would have to happen to make the proper response just “second nature” to you as a Christian? Jot ideas below:



iStock

---



---

# WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU?

Break the code to discover thoughts from today's text that tell how great our God is! When you have identified a word, use the known letters to help decode the other words in the phrases below. (Clues: Each phrase has the letter *s* two or more times; each phrase has exactly one *i*; three words in the six phrases have the letter *e* doubled.)

c p p b w   d r w   w d p p h

b p f r q d j w   j u   w d u y   t p i o z

w d u y w   t r i n o f p w

d n w   o u t h n w w r u g

h n i b u g w   w r g

s p p h w   h i u t r w p w

## MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR TODAY

Micah used imagery familiar to his audience: a shepherd tending sheep. How would you rewrite his message of hope for a modern audience that is not familiar with agrarian language? The images below can give you some ideas.

*For Micah's audience:* God is like a shepherd, who feeds his flock and protects them in various ways.

*For a modern audience:*

"God is like \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_"

"God is like \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_"

"God is like \_\_\_\_\_, who \_\_\_\_\_"



Photodisc



Photodisc



Hemera



iStock



# JUSTICE AND MERCY

Find the words associated with today's text from the box at the right in the puzzle below. Then categorize each word as being associated primarily with justice or mercy in today's text.

A R J T R U T H D K E K Q  
 I I J U K V D H I T N G P  
 M C P N C A I Z A J W J B  
 I Y X I K L O L F J T I R  
 D N W D I S P L E A S E D  
 O P T S T T G Y C B D R L  
 O Y T E S I A V Z E B F F  
 L V Y A R P R T E M L E H  
 F M E G E V M M W Z A A A  
 T R H R A Q E G E R I R V  
 B I B T W R N N T Q A U R  
 W Y F N F I T U E Q N T V  
 J C T P B E S K A T R L H

Cloak	Breastplate
Fear	Displeased
Garments	Flood
Intervene	Helmet
Redeemer	Repay
Wrath	Truth

**Words associated with justice:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Words associated with mercy:** \_\_\_\_\_

# INTERCESSORS TODAY

Isaiah notes the Lord's dismay that there was no one to intervene on behalf of God. Write below the name of at least one Christian (and nonpolitical) organization today that does so. Then write a prayer for them. Use this prayer in your personal devotion in the week ahead. Before next Sunday, research other such organizations and pray for them as well.



**Organization(s)**

---



---

**My Prayer**

---



---



---

iStock

# THE POWER OF WORDS

The people in Jeremiah’s day needed to learn that words lead to behavior that results in consequences. In the boxes on the right, enter the consequences that were to result from the words and behavior on the left.

LYING WORDS, SINFUL BEHAVIOR	CONSEQUENCES
<p>The temple of the Lord protects us! (vv. 4, 8)</p>	<p>A.</p>
<p>As long as we show up for worship, we’re free to do as we please! (vv. 9, 10)</p>	

TRUE WORDS, HOLY BEHAVIOR	CONSEQUENCES
<p><i>Thoroughly amend your ways!</i> (vv. 5, 6, 9)</p>	<p>B.</p>
<p><b>CONSIDER THE FATE OF SHILOH AND EPHRAIM!</b> (vv. 14, 15)</p>	

## START WITH TRUTH

Now let’s try it the other way around: start with truth, then predict lies that would attempt to replace it.

### Truth That Is Firm

“Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13, 14).

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

“By grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).

### Lies That Oppose the Truth

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

## A SCRAMBLED MESS

Unscramble the words below from Ezekiel 18:1-13. Then identify them as the actions of a righteous man (R) or a wicked man (W). *Hint:* the words are in the correct order, but the letters are not.

\_\_\_ 1. stuj nda trigh (v. 5)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 2. deshs dlobo (v. 10)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 3. seat ta het tonumina shiners (v. 11)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 4. fieldes shi beginhor's fewi (v. 11)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 5. turners thaw eh koot ni pledged (v. 7)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 6. evigs hsi doof ot eht yurghn (v. 7)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 7. espressop hte ropo nad denye (v. 12)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 8. ventoil (v. 10)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 9. disprove noglitch (v. 7)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 10. peeks ym slaw (v. 9)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 11. sitcomm berrybo (v. 12)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 12. gudsej rialfy (v. 8)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 13. slowfol ym recedes (v. 9)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 14. kolos ot hte solid (v. 12)

\_\_\_\_\_

## START FROM SCRATCH

Think about excuses you may be using as a rationalization for not following God's Word. Complete the blanks below and commit yourself to change.



Hemera

*God's Word says I should \_\_\_\_\_*  
*\_\_\_\_\_*  
*but instead I blame \_\_\_\_\_ or use*  
*\_\_\_\_\_ as an excuse not to do what*  
*I know I should. Dear God, today I commit myself*  
*to following your Word by \_\_\_\_\_*  
*\_\_\_\_\_.*

# JUSTICE, MERCY, COMPASSION

God expects justice, mercy, and compassion to characterize his people's dealings with one another! Complete the acrostics below with words or phrases that identify what these can entail. One has been completed in each to get you started.

J  
U  
S  
T  
I  
C

Honor agreements

M  
E  
FoRgive wrongs  
C  
Y

C  
O  
M  
P  
A  
S  
Share grief  
I  
O  
N



## DON'T BE A PHARAOH!

“This time also Pharaoh hardened his heart” (Exodus 8:32). Are you a Pharaoh? Identify one area where you may be hardening your heart against God. Write a prayer below to confess this behavior to God and to commit to change.

Heavenly Father,

I confess that I have been unyielding in my response to You concerning \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_. Forgive my hardness of heart and help me to submit to Your will! My plan for change is to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_.



iStock

# MY OFFERING OF PRAISE

Read the verses below responsively as an offering of praise to God for all his blessings.

---

**Group 1:** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

*Group 2:* Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

**Group 1:** He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

*Group 2:* He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

**Group 1:** The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

*Group 2:* They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.

**Group 1:** He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—holy and awesome is his name.

*Group 2:* Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

**Group 1:** One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.

*Group 2:* They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

**Group 1:** The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

*Group 2:* The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

**Group 1:** Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

*Group 2:* You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

**All:** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

---

*(Scripture taken from Psalms 107, 111, and 145.)*

## Lesson 1

*A Foundational Truth.* The picture of the leaning tower of Pisa should suggest eventual collapse.

*Sins: Then and Now.* The sins to be listed in the Amos column are found in verses 6b-8 of the lesson text. Learners may count the sins differently if some sins are seen as mere variations of others.

## Lesson 2

*Why, God?* Answers are sins listed in 2 Kings 17. The three-letter summary is *sin*.

*A Worship Principle.* 1. God wants obedience, not the mere “going through the motions” of religious ritual. 2. Connection is with Amos 5:22. 3. Going through the motions of the Lord’s Supper, etc., means nothing to God if the worshipper lives in disobedience to him. (Learner responses may be worded in various ways.)

## Lesson 3

*No Concern? No Comfort!* The four kinds of homes in Amos 3:15 are 1–winter; 2–summer; 3–ivory; 4–mansions.

The similarity is that comfortable surroundings will be destroyed; the contrast is that the four houses of 3:15 are distilled down in 6:11 as “great” and “small.” The destruction of seemingly secure houses would signal destruction of seemingly secure Israel.

*Comfortable or Concerned?* Calls for personalized responses.

## Lesson 4

*Visions:* Genesis 15:1-6: Abram (Abraham) received promise of offspring; Ezekiel 1:1-2:8: Ezekiel saw four living creatures, etc.; Daniel 7: Daniel saw four great beasts representing kingdoms; Acts 10:9-20: Peter saw “unclean” animals that God declared were already “clean,” challenging Peter’s definition of clean/unclean; Revelation 1:9; 9:17-21: John was given information about the end times.

## Lesson 5

Many responses are possible on both activities.

## Lesson 6

*What Did Micah Say?* 5a: change *leave* to *go astray*; 5b: change *land* to *food* (or *payment*); 6: change *many* to *no*; 7: change *an* to *no*; 8: change *his own spirit* to *the Spirit of the Lord*; 9: change *loved* to *despised* and *upheld* to *distorted*; 10: change *tore down* to *build*; 11a: change *praise* to *money*; 11b: change *some* to *no*; 12: change *the temple* to *Jerusalem*.

## Lesson 7

*Remembering History:* 1-A; 2-D; 3-C; 4-B.

*Just, Merciful, or Humble?* 1-humble; 2-merciful; 3-just; 4-merciful; 5-humble; 6-merciful; 7-just; 8-just. (Note: disagreements among learners will make for good discussion.)

## Lesson 8

*Who Is a God Like You?*

feeds his sheep	delights to show mercy
shows miracles	has compassion
pardons sin	keeps promises

## Lesson 9

*Justice and Mercy*

+ + + T R U T H + + E + +  
+ + + + K + + + + T + + +  
+ + + + A + + A + + + +  
I + + + + O L + + + + R  
D N + D I S P L E A S E D  
O + T + + T G Y C + D + +  
O + + E S + A + + E + F +  
L + + A R P R T E M L E H  
F + E + E V M M W + + A +  
+ R + R + + E + + R + R +  
B + + + + R N N + + A + +  
+ + + + + T + E + + T +  
+ + + + + S + + + + + H

Words associated with justice: breastplate, displeased, fear, flood, garments, repay, truth, wrath

Words associated with mercy: helmet, Redeemer

Could go either or both ways: intervene, cloak.

(Note: responses that differ can lead to good discussion.)

## Lesson 10

*The Power of Words*

A. Entries should summarize consequences listed in verses 12-15.  
B. Entries should summarize consequences listed in verse 3.

*Start with Truth:* Opposing Matthew 7:13, 14 can be the lie that “a loving God will save everyone.” Opposing John 14:6 can be “there are many ways to God.” Opposing Ephesians 2:8 can be insistence on “works righteousness.” Many other answers are possible.

## Lesson 11

*A Scrambled Mess:* 1–R, just and right; 2–W, sheds blood; 3–W, eats at the mountain shrines; 4–W, defiles his neighbor’s wife; 5–R, returns what he took in pledge; 6–R, gives his food to the hungry; 7–W, oppresses the poor and needy; 8–W, violent; 9–R, provides clothing; 10–R, keeps my laws; 11–W, commits robbery; 12–R, judges fairly; 13–R, follows my decrees; 14–W, looks to the idols.

## Lesson 12

*Justice, Mercy, Compassion:* Many responses are possible.