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 maintained; 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sins in the Culture of Amos</th>
<th>Sins in My Culture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. _______________________</td>
<td>1. _______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. _______________________</td>
<td>2. _______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. _______________________</td>
<td>3. _______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. _______________________</td>
<td>4. _______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. _______________________</td>
<td>5. _______________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________

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?

   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________
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.

__________________________________________________________

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.

COMFORTABLE OR CONCERNED?

Amos begins chapter 6 with the condemnation, “Woe to them that are at ease in Zion!” Check the boxes below to rate your “at ease” level for each issue.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who had the vision?</th>
<th>What was communicated?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Genesis 15:1-6</td>
<td>______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezekiel 1:1–2:8</td>
<td>______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel 7</td>
<td>______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acts 10:9-20</td>
<td>______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelation 1:9; 9:17-21</td>
<td>______________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

___________________________________

___________________________________

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Testament Israelites</th>
<th>New Testament Christians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘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!’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘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!’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘When the prophet confronted me about my sin, I told him to mind his own business and keep his opinions to himself?’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘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?’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘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.’</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.*

---

*Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 5, “No Rest for the Wicked” (Micah 2:4-11, KJV)*

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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 judgment 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 evil would come upon them.

Verse 12. Zion would be plowed as a field, and the temple would become heaps.

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!
**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 thee up out of the land of Egypt” (Micah 6:4a).
2. “I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam” (Micah 6:4b).
4. “From Shittim unto Gilgal” (Micah 6:5b).


**Just, Merciful, or Humble?**

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

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

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:

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
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; five phrases have exactly one i; three words in the six phrases have the letter e doubled.)

- cppbw  drw  wdpbh  bpfrqdwjw  ju  wduy  tpioz
- wduyw  trinofpw  dnw  outhnwwrugs  hiutrwpw
- h nibugw  wrg

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 ____________________________
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.

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

Cloak
Breastplate
Fear
Displeased
Garments
Flood
Helmet
Intercessor
Recompence
Redeemer
Truth
Fury

Words associated with justice: ___________________________________________

Words associated with mercy: ___________________________________________

Intercessors Today

Isaiah notes the Lord’s dismay that there was no one to intercede 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
_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

* Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 9, “A Redeemer in Zion” (Isaiah 59:15-21, KJV) *

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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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRUE WORDS, HOLY BEHAVIOR</th>
<th>CONSEQUENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thoroughly amend your ways! <em>(vv. 5, 6, 9)</em></td>
<td>B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consider the fate of Shiloh and Ephraim! <em>(vv. 14, 15)</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” *(Matthew 7:13, 14).*

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” *(John 14:6).*

“By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of 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. llwuf nda trigh (v. 5) ___ 8. boberr (v. 10)

___ 2. dreshed fo dlobo (v. 10) ___ 9. reevdoc het daken (v. 7)

___ 3. neeta puno het tonumsina (v. 11) ___ 10. pekt ym jutmendgs (v. 9)

___ 4. fielded shi beginhour’s fewi (v. 11) ___ 11. slidepo yb loncieve (v. 12)

___ 5. stordeer ot het dretob ihs pleged (v. 7) ___ 12. cutexdee rute tmnedguj (v. 8)

___ 6. eving hsi beard ot eht yurghn (v. 7) ___ 13. ledkaw ni ym stuttaes (v. 9)

___ 7. pressdope hte ropo nad denye (v. 12) ___ 14. ditefl pu sih seey 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.

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 ____________________
_ _______________________________________

Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 11, “A Call for Repentance” (Ezekiel 18:1-13, 30-32, KJV) ©

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Justice, Mercy, Compassion

God expects judgment (that is, 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>J</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>FoRgive wrongs</td>
<td>M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Honor aGreements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>Share grief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don’t Be a Pharaoh!

“Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also” (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 ________________ _______________.

© Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 12, “A Demand for Justice” (Zechariah 7:8-14, KJV)

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My Offering of Praise

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

**Group 1:** O give thanks unto the **Lord**, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

**Group 2:** The works of the **Lord** are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.

**Group 1:** He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the **Lord** is gracious and full of compassion.

**Group 2:** He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant.

**Group 1:** The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.

**Group 2:** They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

**Group 1:** He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

**Group 2:** O give thanks unto the **Lord**, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

**Group 1:** One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.

**Group 2:** They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness.

**Group 1:** The **Lord** is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

**Group 2:** The **Lord** is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

**Group 1:** Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

**Group 2:** Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.

**All:** O give thanks unto the **Lord**, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

*(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–great. 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 "little." 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 err; 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 abhorred and upheld to perverted; 10: change tore down to built up; 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    shows miracles    has compassion
pardons sin      keeps promises

Lesson 9

Justice and Mercy

WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH JUSTICE: breastplate, displeased, fear, flood, garments, recompence, truth, wrath
WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH MERCY: helmet, Redeemer

Could go either or both ways: intercessor, 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


Lesson 12

Justice, Mercy, Compassion: Many responses are possible.

Answer Key for Student Reproducible Pages, Summer 2015 (KJV)

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