



# Authorised Mess — AMOS

## Your details

Name: Lesley White

Church: Messy Church Formby, Merseyside

<b>Bible book</b>	<b>Amos</b>
<b>Theme of session</b>	<b>An ordinary man used by God to show love and justice. God calls ordinary people to speak an unpopular message.</b>
<b>Notes</b>	<b>There are consequences for actions in our relationship with God, because of his love.</b>

## Session details

<b>Categories of activities to get a mix</b>	<b>Activity name</b>	<b>Instructions</b>	<b>Resources needed</b>	<b>Reason for doing this activity</b>
Younger participants	Lion mask	Using wool and fabric, make a lion face on the paper plate. Cut out holes for the eyes. Then attach elastic to make the mask.	Paper plates. Yellow/orange/gold/black wool and fabric. PVA glue. Elastic. Lots of websites have templates.	'The lion has roared' (Amos 3:8)—God is all-powerful, and he has spoken. Think how magnificent Aslan is in the Narnia books. Links to our worship.
Older participants	Outdoor board game	Draw a 4 x 4 chalk square outside, numbering the squares 1–16. The children are the players and the counter. Roll a dice and move forwards 1, 2, 5, 6 squares and move backwards 3 or 4 squares.	Outdoor chunky chalks. Large dice with 4 x positive and 2 x negative verses from Amos attached to the faces.	Actions have consequences (Amos 1: 3a, 6a). Talk about the feelings of the positive/forwards moves and the negative/backwards moves.



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Girls	Fruit pictures	Cut the fruit lengthways so it keeps its profile. Soak the sponges in paint. Press the cut edge of the fruit on to a sponge and then on to paper.	Fruit, paper, water-based paint, dishes with sponges in them.	Amos had a vision of God's people like a perfect bowl of fruit (Amos 8:1). Talk about perfect fruit and bruised fruit. Do we feel perfect all the time? What makes us feel bruised?
Boys	Junk buildings	Get everyone to make a building each, or make one as a group. Then knock it down or jump on it to flatten it.	Empty cardboard packets, all sizes, or construction toys such as Lego, Jenga, Duplo.	Amos shows how God can become angry with his people when they ignore him, and threaten to destroy their homes. Talk about how actions have consequences for each of us.
Word-based	Prayer tree	Write or draw prayers on the pre-cut leaves and then attach to string and hang them up.	Pre-cut sycamore leaf-shaped paper in leaf colours, a branch in a pot or similar, hole punch and string.	Amos took care of sycamore fig trees before he was called by God to be a prophet. He listened to God through prayer (Amos 7:14).
Word-based	'Sorry' card	On the outside, create a picture of what went wrong or how you made someone sad/angry/hurt. On the inside, put a message to say sorry.	Card, pens, stickers, especially of sad and smiley faces, and hearts.	Amos affirms God's loving justice and that he will forgive us when we go wrong and say we are sorry, through our prayers and actions (Amos 8:10).



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Food-based	Fruity meringue nests	Chop up the fruit and pile on to a meringue nest.	Variety of fruit (including some unusual ones like dragon fruit, kumquats), knives, chopping boards, meringue nests (or similar), cream.	Amos had a vision of God's people like a perfect bowl of fruit, in all their variety (Amos 8:1).
Explores global aspect of faith	Map of the Middle East	Do the jigsaw and match the photos to the places on the map.	Print off a map from the Internet of the Middle East from Amos' time on card, laminate it and then cut it into a jigsaw of eight pieces. Print off photos of modern-day life to match to the areas on the map.	The book of Amos refers to lots of familiar places in the Middle East, where God's people were not living his way. Many are place names we hear on the news today, so let's find out where they are.
Opens up great art	Scraper stars	Create a colourful picture with pencils on white card. Colour over it with a black wax crayon and then, using 'scraper pens', scratch stars and constellations.	Coloured pencils, white card, black wax crayons, 'scraper pens'.	God created the stars, darkness and day (Amos 5:8). Talk about how God will 'scrape away' our sins to show our beauty underneath.



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Quiet	Weights and balances	Put the different objects on the scale pans to observe balance and imbalance.	Objects of differing weights, 'balance' scales with two sides to load.	Talk about being fair or cheating with dishonest scales, lying versus telling the truth (Amos 8:5).
Quiet	Sieving	Fill the large container with the sand, nuggets, grains, pebbles, gravel, and mix it up. Then get the children to sieve the mixture into a smaller container, and sort out what they find.	Sand, gold nuggets, grains, coloured glass pebbles, colourful fish tank gravel, large container, smaller containers, variety of sieves.	Talk about how God will sieve out the truth and loveliness in people (Amos 9:9).
Quiet	Making a plumbline	Tie a length of string to the weighty object. Try out the plumbline to see what is straight around your Messy Church.	String, something weighty (such as a pebble, homemade playdough), scissors.	Amos 7:7–8 is the most famous verse in this book. Amos sees a vision of a plumbline, which people use to measure straight vertical lines.



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Really messy	Making a garden	Cut some oasis to fit the plastic tray or fill the tray with compost. Use the materials provided to plant a garden.	Plastic fruit trays, oasis or compost, little pine twigs, flowers, pebbles.	God loves his people and reassures them that they can re-plant their gardens (Amos 9:14–15). Talk about forgiveness for our sins and new life thereafter.
Really messy	Rivers	Create a 'marble run' with the drain pipes and pour the water and balls down the shoot.	Buckets, ½-inch drain pipes, lots of water, balls with 'justice' written on. A waterproof area/outside!	Amos 5:24 echoed in a well-known modern worship song.

## Celebration suggestion

Wear the lion masks made in the activity and practise roaring.

A practical demonstration of actions and consequences—saying sorry, being shown love—God's love and justice.

**Song:** 'Oh Lord, the clouds are gathering' by Graham Kendrick, Mission Praise 509.

**Song:** The following 'marching song' to the 'obvious' American Army drill tune. The leader sings the line first, then everyone sings the same line, and so on throughout the song.

Amos was a shepherd boy  
But his friends he did annoy  
To his people he did go  
'Cos Father God did tell him so.



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My people Israel make me sad  
The things they do are really bad  
Their neighbours too are really mean  
Their wickedness is just obscene.

Tell them what they ought to know  
What their Bible tells them so  
Being kind is really cool  
That is just the Golden Rule.

You can't love God and still be bad  
It just makes your Father sad  
'Cos what you reap is what you sow  
And our Bible tells us so!

The plumbline stands so straight and tall  
It's a measure for us all  
Are we crooked? Are we straight?  
Wickedness is what God hates.

A bowl of fruit was giv'n to show  
The Israelites the way to go  
For Israel things will get real bad  
And your people will be sad.

Return to God and show his love  
And grace will come from heav'n above  
Be fair and kind and nice to know  
For what you reap is what you sow.



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## Meal suggestion

- ✿ Shepherd's pie, as Amos was a shepherd. (Use veggie mince for veggies.)
- ✿ Fruity meringue nests and cream (made in the activity).

## Faith in Homes suggestion

- ✿ Make a plumbline to act as a talking point for your daily actions: are they straight or crooked?
- ✿ Make a sorry card to give to someone you need to say sorry to.

## Primary School RE idea

**KS1 and KS2:** Use weights and measures to explore the idea of fairness. Incorporate the concept of Fairtrade.