

The Cry of the Prophets



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Surveying the Source

Isa. 58:3, 4, 6, 7; Amos 3:9–11; 4:1, 2; Mic. 6:8–13

Plotting the Course

The students will:

- ▶ Identify three instances in the Bible where Jesus took the time to care for the poor and needy.
- ▶ Explain the concept of how what we do for the poor and helpless is essentially doing the same unto God.

- ▶ Discuss the actions of the children of Israel in Mic. 6:8–13, and why this was considered sin in God's eyes.

Preparing to Lead

This week's lesson teaches that as God's children, we are to follow His example and intentionally help those in need. Neglecting to do so is a sin in God's eyes. God's thoughts and actions are centered around a selfless love for others. Christ "served out of love," "diagnosed the problem," "prayed for

wisdom and power," and "obeyed." He selflessly served anyone who could benefit from His words or touch. How are our attitudes like that of Israel toward the poor and needy today? How can we change? Ponder these things as you delve into deeper discussion with your students.

Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, pens, laptop/tablet/mobile device

Getting Started

A. Pass out the Reproducible Activity. Have the students list, in each box, something that they will take time to do this month for each of the represented people groups that will reflect the love of Christ. (They may select one or more people per category.) Ask them to choose an accountability partner or someone they can work together with to accomplish the goals.

B. Look up the following link: <https://youtu.be/F5CvGJds6DQ>. Discuss the class's reactions to the treatment of the man in the nice suite versus the man who appeared homeless. Then pass out paper and pen to each student and have them to write out five instances in the Bible where Jesus took care of the needs of the people. Give them a few minutes to think and write. Ask them to list times when the Israelites or the Pharisees treated Gentiles or those less fortunate the same way the homeless man in the video was treated.

Delving Into the Word

A. Read Matthew 12:9–13, 22–37. Discuss how Jesus healed the sick and the reaction of the Pharisees looking on. Where was their focus, and why did they not seem happy for those Jesus healed?

Look at the warnings of other prophets in Micah 6; Isa. 1:15–23; Ezek. 15:6–8; and Amos 4:1, 2. Did the prophets' warnings help or does it seem like things got worse? What is God's reaction toward Israel?

B. With the teacher as the mediator, divide the class into two or three groups. Ask the following questions and see which team can find the answer the quickest based on the texts given. (They will need Bibles to reference.)

Who was the group of people speaking to in 1 Samuel 8:4, 5, 10–18? What were they seeking?

Why did the Lord send a message that the children of Israel would be taken away (Amos 4:1, 2)?

When Jesus was not healing the sick and caring for the poor, what was He doing (Matt. 13:54; 26:39, 42, 44)?

Why does God not retain His anger forever (Mic. 7:18, 19)?

Discussing the Ideas

1. Why do you think the children of Israel did not heed the warnings given by the prophets to change their ways?

2. Why didn't God allow their punishment of captivity to come quicker?

3. Why would you consider Israel hypocrites?

4. Israel thought they were close to God, but what was causing them to be

further from Him?

5. What is in your life that is keeping you from a closer relationship with God?

6. What are some things that are being done to the poor and needy that will eventually bring about God's judgment? How is it different from what Israel was doing?

Closing the Activity

To conclude, have your class ponder this: the house of Jacob asks God "Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?" His response to them is, "Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure and oppress all your workers. Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist" (Isa. 58:3, 4). We have opportunities to give to the poor on the streets. We don't know their circumstances, (it is not our job to try to figure it out) but we must help however we are called

to.

Ellen White points out that God does not intend to end poverty on earth. "It is His means for the development of character" (Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, p. 186).

Read Deut. 15:7, 8 as a class. Invite each student to write the name of someone they know who has a need that they can meet. To end the class, pray in pairs that God would grant opportunities to meet those needs through you in the coming week.

Larrie S. Gray, Laurel, Maryland, USA

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Goals for the Month

In each box, list something that you will take time to do this month for each of the represented people groups listed that will reflect the love of Christ. (You can select only one person per category, but you may choose more if you would like.)

FAMILY	FRIENDS	NEIGHBOR
STRANGER	HOMELESS	CHILD
CO-WORKER	SICK	MENTALLY CHALLENGED