

# a Hard Way to Reach a Goal

**Bible  
Adventures**

LESSON 6



Imagine that you are part of a poor family who lived in Bethel during the time of Amos. Your life goal is to own your own small farm, with enough crops to live on. Try to find your way through the maze to reach your goal. Each time you come to a roadblock, look up and read the Scripture verse. **Then keep going on; don't give up!**

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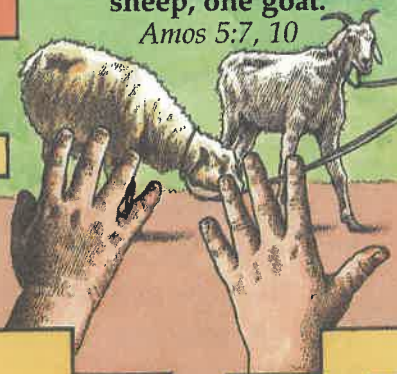
Government tax takes away your crops.  
*Amos 5:11*



Merchant uses dishonest scales.  
Overcharged for grain.  
*Amos 8:5*



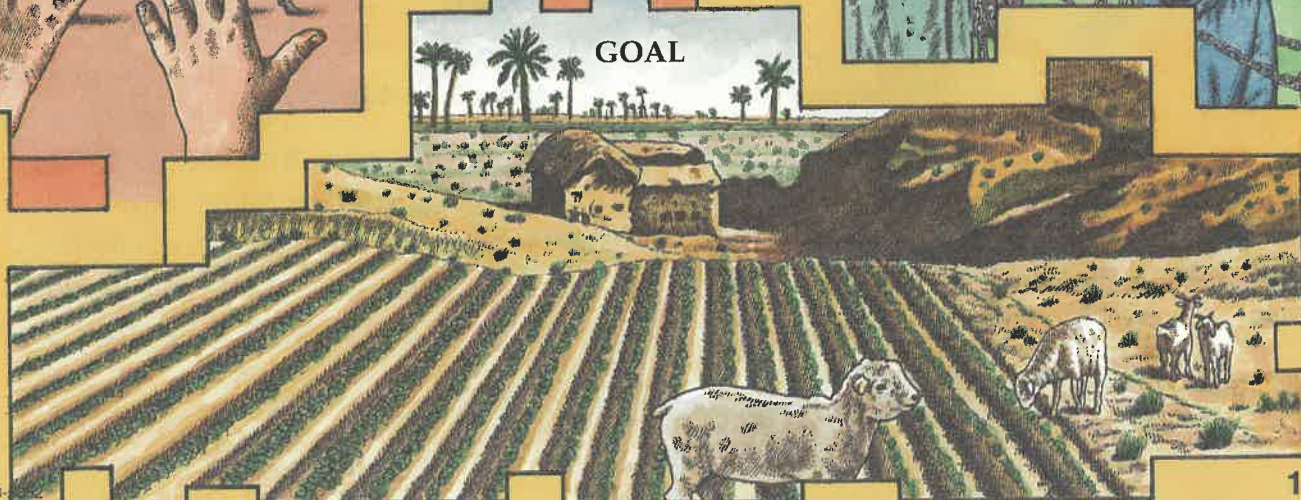
Lose court case, give up one sheep, one goat.  
*Amos 5:7, 10*



Unable to pay rent, family sold into slavery.  
*Amos 2:6*



GOAL





# DISHONESTY DOESN'T PAY!

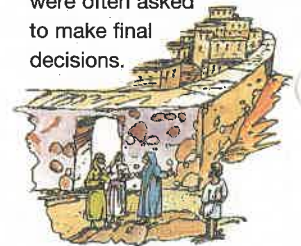
**T**he people of Israel had neglected God's law. They were unfair to the poor, forcing them to pay bribes to corrupt judges.<sup>1</sup> God sent a shepherd to be a prophet and preach against the injustice in Israel. The prophet Amos boldly proclaimed God's message to Israel: Turn from your evil ways



or face God's punishment.

**Read Amos 2:10-12. What did God remind the people that He had done for them? How did the people respond?**

<sup>1</sup>Court trials were held outside at the city gates while the public watched. Older, respected men of a city acted as judges. In difficult cases, priests were often asked to make final decisions.



**What did Amos tell the people to do in Amos 5:6? What did he say their judgment would be like if they didn't obey God?**



**Amos 5:11-12, 21-24**

You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax

on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. For I know how



many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. "I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"



<sup>3</sup>People were sold into slavery as a common Bible-times punishment for people who couldn't pay their debts.

**Underline some of the evil things the people were doing.**

**Read verses 13-15. What did Amos tell the people they should do? What would the results be?**

The priest of Bethel<sup>3</sup> named Amaziah<sup>4</sup> lied to Jeroboam, king of Israel, about Amos's message. Then Amaziah told Amos to leave Bethel and go back to Judah.

**Read Amos 7:14-15 to learn how Amos answered Amaziah. What did God tell Amos to do? Based on this study, why did God send Amos to preach to the people of Israel?**

<sup>3</sup>Pronounced BETH-ul. After the reigns of David and Solomon, the nation split into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. Bethel was an important city in Israel.

<sup>4</sup>Pronounced am-ah-ZIE-ah.

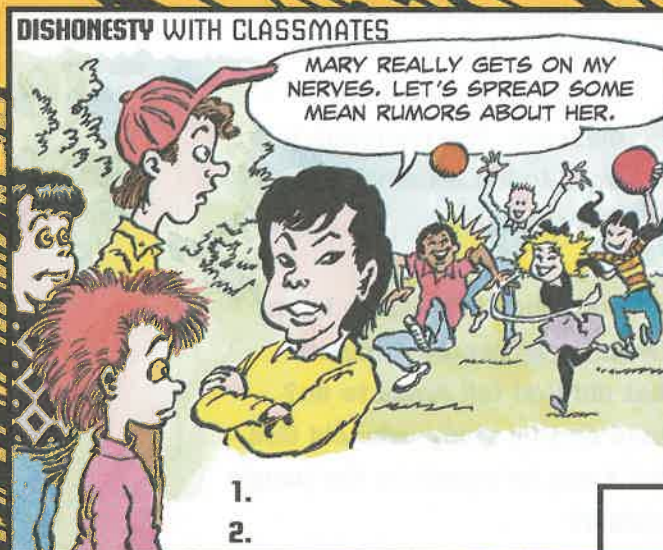
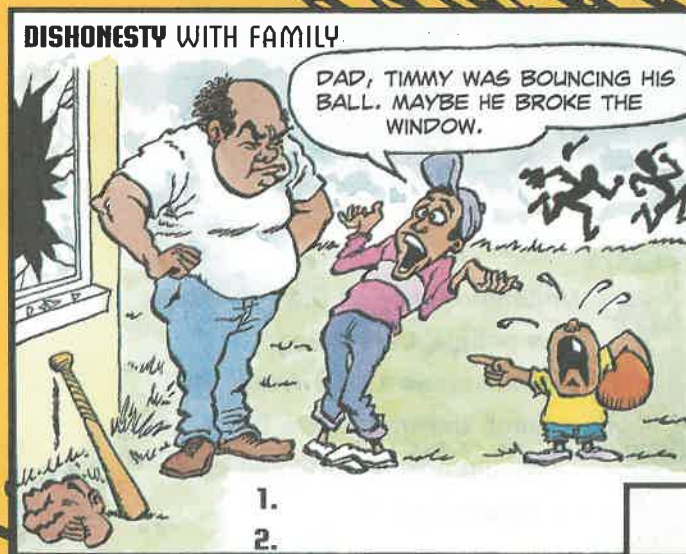
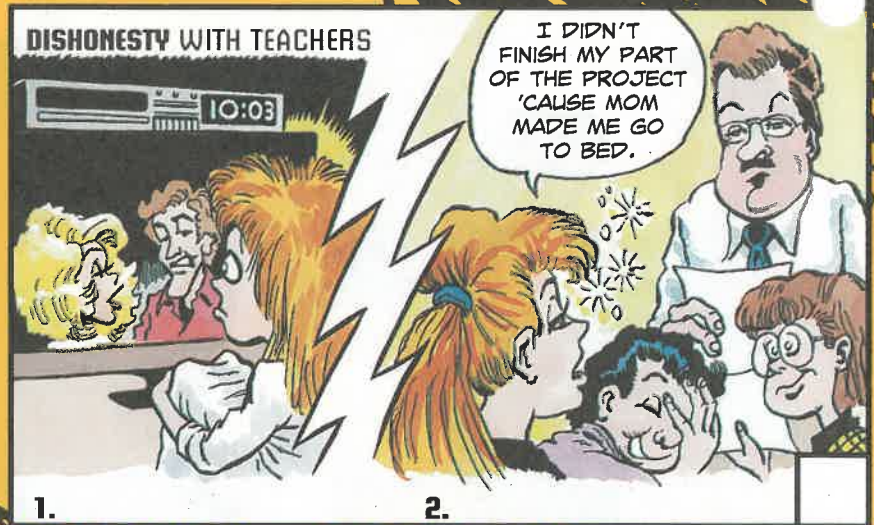


# AN HONEST LOOK AT

## DISHONESTY

Take an honest look at the kids in these pictures. Under each picture, write

1. **WHY** you think the kid is being dishonest, and
2. **WHO WILL BE HURT** by the dishonesty (in addition to the kids themselves).



**NOW TAKE AN HONEST LOOK AT YOURSELF.** Check the boxes with pictures that show a dishonest problem you have. (Be honest!) If your problem isn't shown, write it on the line below and write a way to become more honest in that area.

I have trouble being honest about

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I will \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

to become more honest.

### KEY VERSE

"Hate evil, love good." Amos 5:1