



Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C  
Sunday School

Lesson 3 June 15, 2025

GOD IS NOT FOOLED

# SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

**School/Class:** But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

**School/Class:** Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

**School/Class:** He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

**School/Class:** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

**School/Class:** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

**School/Class:** For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING**

**ALL:**

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. **2 Peter 3:18**

## **Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**

### **GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



- Bible Basis: Amos 5:14-27
- Bible Truth: Amos declared to the people that God will not be fooled by insincere offerings and will severely punish all sinners.
- Memory Verse: VERSE: "But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream" (Amos 5:24).
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: KNOW how God establishes justice for the righteous and punishes deceivers; RECOGNIZE and reflect on actions of injustice within the community of faith; and COMMIT to stopping unjust practices, participating in them, and helping others do the same.
- Background Scriptures: Amos 5; Hosea 11:1-7-Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



**Amos 5:14-27, KJV**

14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

16 Therefore the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord, saith thus; Wailing shall be in all streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skilful of lamentation to wailing.



**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



**Amos 5:14-27, KJV**

17 And in all vineyards shall be wailing: for I will pass through thee, saith the Lord.

18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! to what end is it for you? the day of the Lord is darkness, and not light.

19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

20 Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



**Amos 5:14-27, KJV**

21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



**Amos 5:14-27, KJV**

24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

25 Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel?

26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.

27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the Lord, whose name is The God of hosts.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## LIGHT ON THE WORD

There were three major feast days in the nation of Israel: the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover), the Feast of Harvest (Pentecost), and the Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles). These were pilgrimage festivals that required participation from the entire Israelite community. All work was to cease and travelers made their way from all over Israel to celebrate these festivals in Jerusalem. Sikkuth is another name for the Mesopotamian astral deity Sakkut (Ninib). This god was also associated with the planet Saturn.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## LIGHT ON THE WORD

It was commonly believed that this god was not introduced until after the Assyrian conquest, but recent scholarship has revealed that Aramean merchants and other foreign travelers helped to spread the worship of Sikkuth in Israel. Kaiwan (Chiun) was the Babylonian Saturn god. The name actually means "the steadiest one" and is taken from the planet Saturn's slow moving orbit. The differences in spelling are likely because when foreign gods were referenced, the original vowels were often replaced with the vowels from the Hebrew word for "abomination." The Phoenicians were thought to offer human sacrifices to this god.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will know that know some people cover their evil ways with outward acts of goodness.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



# INTRODUCTION

## The Death of Israel

Amos began chapter 5 as a eulogy for the "dead" nation of Israel. Israel isn't yet dead, but the lament is meant to impress on the nation the severe danger it was in. The death of Israel is described as the death of a virgin (Amos 5:2). The death of a virgin would have been considered particularly tragic because she had no children to carry on her memory. This type of death is distinctly permanent. Furthermore, the dead virgin is described as having been left lying in a field, unburied. To leave a body unburied was a shocking and appalling image to consider, yet this is how the demise of Israel is described. Its depraved moral climate and refusal to turn back to God have indeed set it on the path of destruction.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will reflect on how Judah and Israel's expression of faith was inconsistent with the ways they treated others and is a reminder of how our faith should be aligned with God's justice.



**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



**I. LOVE GOOD, HATE EVIL**

Choose Good Over Evil

Amos 5:14-15

Israel had become complacent in their presumption of God's favor (v. 14). Israel mistakenly believed that, despite their sinful ways and their worship of other gods, they could still count on God's protection. However, Amos declared to them that their actions displeased God and will result in the destruction of their nation.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



**I. LOVE GOOD, HATE EVIL**

Choose Good Over Evil

Amos 5:14-15

**14** Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD,  
the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

Amos continued with the refrain of seeking. The word seek (Heb. darash, dah-RASH) is used in 5:4 and 5:6 to refer to the people seeking the idol sanctuaries and then to refer to seeking God. In this verse, Amos used it to refer to good as opposed to evil. The good that the people were to seek was justice for the poor. Amos held out the promise of the Lord's presence if they sought good. This highlighted the fact that the Lord was not with them to begin with because of their injustice and oppression.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



**I. LOVE GOOD, HATE EVIL**

Choose Good Over Evil

Amos 5:14-15

**15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.**

This seeking of good was more than just an outward action. It radiated from an attitude of the heart. Amos used strong words here. Seeking good is spelled out as hating (Heb.sane', sah-NAY) evil. In other passages of the Old Testament, this word is used to refer to an enemy. The Israelites were friends with evil and stood on the side of injustice. By using this word, Amos confronted them and challenged them to choose sides. Being on the side of good meant establishing "judgment in the gate."

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



**I. LOVE GOOD, HATE EVIL**

Choose Good Over Evil

Amos 5:14-15

**15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.**

The gates of the town were often used for courts of justice and centers of trade, and there the Israelites did most of their oppression of the poor. So this was where they could show that they loved good and hated evil instead. If the people sought Him and sought good instead of the sanctuaries at Bethel and Gilgal, then maybe he would be gracious (Heb. chanan, khah-NAHN) to them.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



**I. LOVE GOOD, HATE EVIL**

Choose Good Over Evil

Amos 5:14-15

**15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.**

Amos communicated that there was still the possibility of God showing favor and mercy to them. A remnant of Joseph was offered grace. After breaking away from the Southern Kingdom of Judah, the ten tribes were often referred to as Joseph. Referring to the remnant of Joseph was to appeal to those who chose to seek good, although most of Israel did not.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



# **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

## **Loving Good**

In order for some to be spared, Israel must both seek good and avoid evil. The two-fold action of seeking and avoiding is emphasized in verse 15. They were to "hate" the evil and "love" the good. The terms "hate" and "love" indicate decisions that one must make. Seeking good connected with choosing to love good. Avoiding evil connected to choosing to hate evil.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## II. A DAY OF DARKNESS

God's Holy War Against Israel  
Amos 5:18-20

Again, the prophet's message seized on Israel's presumption of God's favor. It was common in times of trouble for the Israelites to long for "the day of the Lord," when God would rescue them from their enemies. But "the day of the Lord" will now be a day of reckoning.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## II. A DAY OF DARKNESS

God's Holy War Against Israel  
Amos 5:18-20

18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light. 19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. 20 Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

"The day of the Lord" is a term that refers to the Lord appearing and waging a holy war with His enemies. This is the first reference to the Day of the Lord in the Old Testament. Amos implied that those Israelites who were involved in oppressing the poor longed for this Day of Judgment. He lets them know that it will not be a good time for them; it will be darkness and not light. The images of running from a lion only to meet a bear or running into a house only to be bitten by a serpent describe the Day of the Lord as a time where they will not be able to escape God's judgment.



**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



# **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

## **Nowhere to Hide**

For those who turned to idols and denied justice to the poor, there will be no rescue, but rather darkness and judgment waiting for them. This was a jarring turn of events for Israel. It is described metaphorically like escaping a lion, only to find that you must escape a bear; then resting at home, only to find that a snake is waiting to bite you.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



### III. GOD DESIRES JUSTICE, NOT EMPTY RITUALS

Israel's Despicable Acts  
Amos 5:21-24

The worship of other gods had seeped into Israel's religious practices, but the people still maintained their Israelite rituals and festivals too. However, God was not fooled by their empty worship. True worship flows out of the hearts of those who earnestly seek to follow God's will. A true worshiper's relationships and personal life will be consistent with their public worship.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



### III. GOD DESIRES JUSTICE, NOT EMPTY RITUALS

Isreal's Despicable Acts  
Amos 5:21-24

21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

Outwardly impressive religious acts of good will that are selfishly done do not move the heart of God. The phrase "your feast days" (Heb. chag, KHAG) refers to the three main festivals that God established in Israel: Passover, Pentecost, and the Feast of Tabernacles (Ex. 23:14-19; Deut. 16:16-17). Israel was abusing all of these festivals at this time. God rejected what Israel did in these feasts, which had a form of godliness but lacked the power thereof.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



### III. GOD DESIRES JUSTICE, NOT EMPTY RITUALS

Isreal's Despicable Acts  
Amos 5:21-24

21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

The implication is that God Himself may establish events, activities, or procedures, but His people can pervert, abuse, and misuse them to achieve their own selfish ends. The Lord says He will not smell in their assemblies (Heb. atsarah, at-sa-RAH). Amos is possibly referring to the solemn assembly on the seventh day of Feast of Unleavened Bread and the eighth day of the Feast of Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:8, 36). The Lord would not be pleased with any of the worship practiced on those days because of the absence of justice and right living.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



### III. GOD DESIRES JUSTICE, NOT EMPTY RITUALS

Isreal's Despicable Acts  
Amos 5:21-24

21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

None of the offerings prescribed in the law would please God. The Lord would not accept their burnt offerings (Heb. 'olah, oh-LAH), in which the whole animal was consumed with fire. This was a symbol of the total commitment of the worshiper's life to God. He would not accept their meat offerings (Heb. minchah, min-KHAH). These were sacrifices devoid of blood and intended as gifts to the Lord.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



### III. GOD DESIRES JUSTICE, NOT EMPTY RITUALS

Isreal's Despicable Acts  
Amos 5:21-24

21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. 22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

Lastly, He would not accept their peace offerings (Heb. shelem, SHEH-lem), as these gifts were a sign of reconciliation or friendship, and this was not the state of their relationship with God. All of the worship rituals here were to be symbols of the people's real-life walk with the Lord, and offering them without the true reality behind them was hypocritical. This made their offerings unacceptable to the Lord.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



### III. GOD DESIRES JUSTICE, NOT EMPTY RITUALS

Isreal's Despicable Acts  
Amos 5:21-24

**23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.**

Celebrations and rejoicing in God's presence played an important part in Israel's temple worship, which God had established. The Israelites used many kinds of musical instruments to praise God for His goodness and faithfulness (2 Chronicles 7; Psalm 149). In this instance the Lord actually called their songs noise (Heb. hamon, hah-MONE). It is not the joyful noise of Psalm 100:1, but the noise and confusion of a host of people – noise that the Lord did not want to hear.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



### III. GOD DESIRES JUSTICE, NOT EMPTY RITUALS

Isreal's Despicable Acts  
Amos 5:21-24

24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

God illustrated the nature of judgment (justice) and righteousness by using the phrases "rundown as water" and "as a mighty stream," which speak of the ongoing and unobstructed movement of an ever-flowing body of water. The word for stream, nakhal (Heb. NAH-khal), is the word for a desert wadi. These small narrow valleys laid dry and barren for much of the year until a torrent of rain flooded them and made them into flowing streams. The Lord had already laid out the stipulations of justice in His covenant, and He is waiting for His people to fill the dry and barren land with justice and righteousness as the rains fill up a desert wadi.



**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



# **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

## **Justice Rejected**

Israel's worship was hypocritical. They publicly gave offerings to God and worshiped Him with their music, but they continued to reject justice and righteousness in their everyday lives. Their religious practices had become distasteful to God, and He refused their show of piety. Rather than continued injustice and hypocrisy, the Lord desires a continual, daily flow of justice and righteousness.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## **IV. ISRAEL'S IDOLATRY RESULTS IN EXILE**

Judgement Against Hypocritical Worship  
Amos 5:25-27

Israel's unfaithfulness is called out here. In addition to making offerings to Yahweh, they began worshiping foreign deities. Idol worship often included parades in which the people would carry handmade representations of their gods.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## **IV. ISRAEL'S IDOLATRY RESULTS IN EXILE**

Judgement Against Hypocritical Worship  
Amos 5:25-27

25 Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? 26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. 27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.

The Lord ended His pronouncement of judgment upon Israel's hypocritical worship with a rhetorical question. He asked if the Israelites have offered sacrifices to Him in the wilderness. While there were sacrifices made to the Lord in the wilderness, they were not a regular feature in Israel's religious life until after the conquest. The Lord is affirming that His relationship with them was not dependent on sacrifices and offerings. He had been with them in the wilderness without regular sacrifices.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## **IV. ISRAEL'S IDOLATRY RESULTS IN EXILE**

Judgement Against Hypocritical Worship  
Amos 5:25-27

25 Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? 26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. 27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.

Next He confronts them on their worship of beyond a simple understanding of right and idols. They have paraded images of Sikkuth and Kaiwan through their streets to their shrines. Sacrifices, sacred dancing, and other perverse forms of worship followed this parade. Many translations say the "tabernacle of Moloch and Chiun your images." Other translations say "Sikkuth your king and Kaiwan your star god." The second translation is more probable as Sikkuth and Kaiwan were worshiped as astral deities in Mesopotamia connected to the planet Saturn.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## **IV. ISRAEL'S IDOLATRY RESULTS IN EXILE**

Judgement Against Hypocritical Worship  
Amos 5:25-27

25 Have ye offered unto me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? 26 But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. 27 Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.

In ancient times, Saturn was observed as being a star and influencing agriculture. This explains the reference to "the star of your god" (v. 26). In the next verse, Amos predicts that instead of them carrying their gods to the shrine to worship, they will be carried away captive. The phrase "beyond Damascus" points toward the coming Assyrian invasion that would take place, and the resulting demise of the Northern Kingdom.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



# **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

## **Punishment and Exile**

Amos described an image that depicted Israel, the chosen people of Yahweh the one true God, carrying around idols made to worship other gods (v. 26). It is a sad betrayal of the God that had redeemed them. Idolatry leads to injustice. It is at the root of their oppression of others and their choosing to love evil and not good. As a result, the Lord will send them into exile – what happens to all those who choose other gods.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will discover that acting for justice  
requires putting aside self-interest.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## BIBLE APPLICATION

Most Christians have no problem determining the difference between good and evil. In fact, even non-believers often choose to do the right thing. But merely choosing not to do evil is different than actively opposing evil. Opposing evil requires a level of conviction that goes beyond a simple understanding of right and wrong. It is often the case that only certain individuals will go out of their way to oppose an injustice. Most people are content to sit by while others are treated unfairly. It is God's desire that Christians would not only seek to do good, but also oppose evil and injustice. We are charged with standing for justice in our communities and in our world.



**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will listen to God's calls for justice  
and respond with a commitment to do justice.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



## STUDENT RESPONSES

It is often difficult in the moment to choose to love good and hate evil. One way to be prepared for those times and situations where we have decisions to make is to determine what is good or evil. Get a piece of paper and on one side write "Love Good" and on the other side write "Hate Evil." On the "Love Good" side, write all the ways that you can seek good in your daily life. On the "Hate Evil" side, write all the ways that you can hate evil in your daily life. Thinking about these things beforehand can help us to not only avoid falling into sin, but also move us forward in serving others in our community.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



# Prayer

Dear God,

We worship You in spirit and in truth. May Your majestic and awesome power continue to give us the courage and strength that we need to choose good over evil.

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

**Lesson 3 June 15, 2025**  
**GOD IS NOT FOOLED**



Next Sunday  
June 22, 2025  
Lesson 4  
Rebuked for Selfishness  
Amos 6