

02 TOO LATE TO REPENT

KEY TEXT: AMOS 4:1-13

CENTRAL truth

We are God's representatives in the world, and people form their opinion of Him based on our behavior. When we don't take care of people in need and worship God the way He deserves, we can expect Him to correct us. **God holds us accountable when we don't follow His call to obedience.**

key question

How could we twist the way we worship to glorify ourselves rather than God?

Sermons, worship sets, the giving of offerings, work projects, and other such opportunities only please God when they glorify Him rather than the people involved. Although God wants us to use the gifts and talents He has given us to worship Him with excellence, He is more concerned with the condition of our hearts than with our performance. When we serve, we must focus on glorifying God by calling attention to His attributes instead of just showcasing our own abilities.

keep in mind

Unfortunately, the media has been saturated over the last few years with stories of people in positions of church leadership who abused those positions for their own pleasure or gain. Some of your teenagers may have been deeply affected by these stories. If so, they are likely skeptical of anyone who stands on a platform or claims to be a church leader.

Be careful not to let your group discussion devolve into a gossip session or dwell on the mistakes of specific people. Rather, encourage your students toward authenticity in their own worship and challenge them to set an example of humility in positions of leadership.

application

How can we guard our hearts against insincere worship?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students should be able to evaluate the sincerity of their own worship. They should expect God to correct them if they live for themselves instead of Him and hold them accountable if they ignore that correction.

FOR THE LEADER: Encourage students to focus on authenticity in their own worship and to refrain from judging the motives of others. Help students see the importance of worshipping genuinely and treating others with love as God commands us, so that people will get the right idea about Him.

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