

# 04 A GREAT REBUILD

KEY TEXT: AMOS 9:5-15

## CENTRAL truth

**God offers us hope if we repent.** Just because we haven't yet experienced consequences for our actions doesn't mean there won't be any. Just because we can't see the benefit of changing doesn't mean there isn't a reward waiting for us if we do. God takes the behavior of His children very seriously, so we should, too.

## key question

**Why is it so important for us to pay equal attention to all aspects of God's character, even the aspects we don't like or understand?**

We like to think about the fact that God is compassionate, gracious, merciful, and patient, but He is also just. He always does the right thing, and He cannot ignore sin because it hurts people and compromises His reputation. When we ignore any aspect of God's character, we risk misrepresenting Him to the world. When we ignore His justice and treat people badly, we invite His holy anger.

## keep in mind

People don't like to be told what we can and can't do. If we don't understand God's character, comprehend His love for us, or accept that He has our best interests at heart, we tend to reject the teaching of His Word. Some of your students probably fit in this category. Others have probably been called judgmental for speaking God's truth in love.

As you teach, be careful to discuss all of God's characteristics. Explain that God's righteous wrath isn't subjective, impulsive, or selfish, like human anger. It is always measured, intentional, and appropriate. Explain that God's grace makes it possible for us to avoid His wrath and that knowing the truth according to His Word makes it possible for us to recognize and receive that grace.

## application

**What can we do to show the world we truly belong to God and are not just pretending to follow Jesus?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students should understand that people who truly know God respect Him because He deserves it. They should walk away with the kind of healthy appreciation for God's wrath that inspires obedience and compels them to speak the truth according to the Bible.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Make sure students understand that God is not only worthy of their affection, but also worthy of their respect. You should encourage students to remember God's wrath along with His grace, without threatening or intimidating them into obedience. Remind students that true obedience is an act of love (see 1 John 5:3).

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