

TIMB NH Kids Message Outline: Week 45: 11/24/2024

NT Book:	1 Peter
OT Book:	Amos
Focus:	This Is My Bible
Theme:	Believers as a Holy Priesthood
Passage:	1 Peter 2
OT Story:	Amos 5 - Israel's Empty Rituals
Thematic Points to Hit:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Peter tells us that every believer is being built up into a holy priesthood - not just those who work at a church. (1 Peter 2:5, 9)2. So then what does a priest do? Peter says that part of this is that we are "offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." And also that we "may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:5, 9)3. Our desire, then, should be to carry out this function well. So then what are "spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ?"4. We can begin by looking at what not to do. In the book of Amos, the Israelites had gotten into a pattern of believing that God wanted just ritual and observance and came to trust in the rules themselves. But God says He <i>despises</i> their festivals. (Amos 5:21-23) But why?5. If its not about the rituals or the festivals or the observances <i>themselves</i> (God has commanded many of these to the Israelites), what did God want? God says He wants justice and righteousness. (Amos 5:24) Before we do anything to represent God, we should make sure we are following Him and His ways.6. Israel was certainly not doing that. They walked around convincing themselves God was

showing them favor because they were doing all the feasts and sacrifices, but never even attempting to address their own evil that stood in opposition to God's will. (Amos 5)

7. Spiritual sacrifice looks like putting away our old selves with its evil desires and earnestly desiring to do good for God, not just jumping through hoops to check off a box.

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Small Group:

Once you have your group of kids in your room, you may choose to do the following activities in any order you choose.

Game: Dire Straights

Play a couple rounds of Dire Straights with the kids. (Instructions are in the box) Use the securities mechanic to illustrate the idea that what matters is on the inside of the card, not the outside. When it comes to how we serve God, it is a similar thing. We need to be careful that we aren't doing things just to *appear* good on the outside to others instead of inwardly delighting in service to the Lord.

Game: What's In Your Heart Craft

(See example photo below)

1. With your paper in landscape view, fold the sides of your page into the center of the page, creating three parts.
2. Fold the whole page in half - lightly so that the crease is not too deep.
3. From the centre of the page, measure and mark a few centimeters from the top of the page then cut the two edges of the heart to meet into the middle where your mark was made.
4. At the bottom of the page use scissors to cut the point of the heart to meet into the middle of the bottom edge.
5. Cut four slips of white paper and stick them with glue to the front of your heart (as pictured).
6. Open up your heart and write down or draw all the good things that you have in your heart, or that you would want God to see.

Discussion

1. What does it mean to be a priest/ part of a priesthood? What are the roles of a priest?
2. Peter says that we are "offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." What does that really mean? How does this differ from how Israelites might have initially thought of 'sacrifices'?
3. Israel shows us a prime example of spiritual sacrifices vs. physical sacrifices. What were they doing wrong?
4. Was there anything wrong with their religious feasts, and their observances in themselves? What was it that made them unacceptable?
5. So then what are spiritual sacrifices that we can be making today?



'WHAT'S INSIDE MY HEART?' CRAFT

