



B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

# The role of the church in advocacy



## Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help us explore some of what the Bible teaches about the church’s role in advocacy – standing up for the rights of other people and seeking positive change.



## Injustice and bribery . . .

**Read Amos 5:1-24.** We read in the book of Amos about the injustice of that time. Poor people’s rights were not respected (verse 11), bribery was common (verse 12) and those who fought for justice and truth were despised (verse 10).

Christians frequently think that such problems have nothing to do with their faith, but the Bible tells us that we should stand up for people who are oppressed. Challenging injustice requires considerable courage and persistence. The church has lots of people in it, and several churches together can have enough resources to take action against injustice and corruption.

**Read Micah 6:8.** God asks us to live with humility and act with mercy whilst act with justice. It can be challenging to do all three of these commands effectively. Let us make them our prayer for future direction



## Key points

- We should take time to listen and observe the needs of others.
- We should not do things in our own timing, but prepare and seek wisdom in when and how to speak out.
- Collaboration is often essential for effective advocacy.



## Questions for discussion

- What does Amos chapter 1 say about the way the people treated their neighbours?
- What does God condemn in verse 21? What did it mean for an Israelite of that time to carry out religious festivals? Are there similar situations in the way we practise our faith?
- What does the prophet suggest will be a true and acceptable action towards God in place of these ‘religious festivals’ in verse 24?
- Does our worship lack concern for those who suffer or are treated unfairly?
- How can we include our concern for social justice in the heart of our worship?

Awareness-raising
Children & youth
Climate & environment
Conflict & peace-building
Corruption & governance
Disaster risk management
Discrimination & inclusion
Food & livelihoods
Gender & sexual violence
Health & HIV
Influencing decision-makers
Migration & trafficking
Water, sanitation & hygiene



## Reflection

Reflect on what actions you can take to help those around you who are oppressed.



## Notes

- This Bible study is adapted from one first published in Tearfund (2006) A PILLARS Guide: *seeking justice for all*, [http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/pillars/seeking\\_justice\\_for\\_all/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/pillars/seeking_justice_for_all/)

### Related tools

- B – Advocacy work (Bible study) [*B: Influencing decision-makers-1*]
- B – Being an advocate (Bible study) [*B: Influencing decision-makers-2*]
- B – Fighting injustice (Bible study) [*B: Influencing decision-makers-3*]
- C1 – Ways of taking action [*C1: Awareness-raising-1*]
- C1 – Making the most of meetings with decision-makers [*C1: Influencing decision-makers-4*]
- C1 – Mobilising people [*C1: Influencing decision-makers-2*]

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