



Discussion Questions

Amos 1-2

Sermon: The LORD Roars Against Injustice

- ❖ **A Self-Proclaimed “Non-Prophet” Begins His Oracles Against Injustice (1:1–2:5)**
 - God meets Israel at the peak of their prosperity and comfort with a foreboding message. (1:1-2)
 - God condemns the crimes against humanity committed by Israel's neighboring nations. (1:3–2:3)
 - Judah is rebuked for breaking the law of God. (2:4-5)
 - **Question:** Is our focus so consumed by the wrong actions of others that we neglect to consider our own sins?
- ❖ **Israel Is Rebuked for Their Oppression of the Vulnerable and Rejection of God (2:6-16)**
 - God is against the oppression of indebted people. (2:6-7a)
 - God is against sexual exploitation. (2:7b)
 - God wants indebted people to be treated with kindness and compassion. (2:8)
 - God expects covenant loyalty and obedience in response to His saving acts. (2:12)
 - **Question:** Where do you need to repent for your participation in oppression? Where is God calling you to stand against it? Does how you treat those in your community reflect what God has done for you?
- ❖ **Bottom Line: God sides with the poor and vulnerable against oppression.**

Understanding Scripture

1. **Read the passage aloud.**
 - **Question:** How would the original audience have understood this passage?
 - **Question:** What was God's desire for them?
2. **Reread key verse(s) aloud.**
 - **Question:** What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
 - **Question:** What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?
3. **Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.**
 - i. Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
 - ii. Ask everyone, “What are some possible interpretations?” Encourage curiosity!
 - iii. If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.
4. **Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group (“Okay, so far we've seen in Amos...”)**
 - **Question:** What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
 - **Question:** How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Applying Scripture

5. **Allow free-flowing discussion, incorporating questions focused on heart and habit transformation.**
 - **Amos 1:1-2** | What does it reveal about God's character that He would choose to use someone like Amos to deliver His message rather than someone who would be considered more qualified?
 - **Amos 1:3-2:5** | Why do you think Amos used this “rhetoric of entrapment” when he began condemning the surrounding nations? When have you been humbled (by having the rug pulled out from underneath you) while you were criticizing someone else's actions or being overly judgemental of them?
 - **Amos 2:6-8** | How do you respond to people in financial hardship? Do you judge, ignore, help? Why is this such a difficult and confusing thing to deal with? How can we handle things like this in a way that brings glory to Christ?
 - **Amos 2:9-12** | Why does God rehearse His history of saving before declaring judgement? How can remembering what God has done affect your obedience? Do you replicate to others the same love, grace, and forgiveness God has shown to you?
 - **Application** | What is one way you can actively stand against the oppression of others this week? Whether it is through service, generosity or obedience, what is one way you can actively express gratitude to God? Who in your life can you begin to better show love, grace, mercy, and/or forgiveness to?