# CP Discussion Questions

Amos 3:1-15

**Sermon: The Sound of Holy Justice**

❖ *The Lord's word confronts His people (Amos 3:1-11)*
  ➢ Israel's special relationship with the Lord calls for greater accountability. (vv.1-2)
  ➢ God's prophetic message exposes Israel's misplaced assumptions about Him. (vv.3-8)
  ➢ God's redeemed people have fallen to the depths of their oppressors, which results in their destruction. (vv.9-11)
  ➢ **Question:** If being in a relationship with God is something that calls us to live out the compassionate justice of God to those around us, what mindsets or values might we need to challenge in our hearts?
❖ *Israel is devoured at every side (Amos 3:12-15)*
  ➢ The devouring lion will leave behind only scraps (vv. 12)
  ➢ False securities and unjust gains will be exposed (vv. 13-15)
  ➢ **Question:** What are some of the false securities that could so easily be undermined or exposed as insufficient? How is God's true refuge a greater source of hope and security?
❖ **Bottom Line: The identity and security of God's people are found only in life with God.**

| 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 3:1-2** | Israel's special relationship with the Lord calls for greater accountability. What does it look like for a church body, organization, or other self proclaimed Christian groups to not lean into this accountability? What are some examples of this you see today?
   ➢ **Amos 3:3-8** | Why do you think Israel assumed they were exempt from God's judgement? What does it look like to only embrace the "comforting" qualities of God's character while ignoring his other qualities, like holiness and justice?
   ➢ **Amos 3:9-11** | How does God's indictment of Israel reveal how they have fallen and become like the oppressors He once saved them from? If Israel was blind to this pride that was bringing about their own destruction, what can we do today to not fall into the same trap they did? How can we learn from their mistakes?
   ➢ **Amos 3:12** | What does the imagery in this verse teach us about the consequences of stubborn, continuous rebellion? Where are you sensing God's warnings, nudges, or convictions? What line of thinking leads us to push away and delay obedience to these convictions or warnings?
   ➢ **Amos 3:13-15 |** Take a look at your life, the way you live it, and your plans for it. Is your security rooted in God, or in the false securities of this world (money, government, relationships, etc)? If your security is found in these false things, how can you go about loosening your grip on them?
   ➢ **Application** | As a follower of Christ, what is one way you will step into the deeper accountability God calls us all into this week? Where do you need to set up safeguards and disciplines to protect yourself from being blinded by your own pride? What security, that is found in this world, do you need to let go of?