



DISCUSSION GUIDE

AMOS: God Has No Favorites, part 2

GETTING STARTED

How have you seen that it is sometimes easier to see the “sin” in other people’s lives, but not our own? In what way does this relate to the book of Amos?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

One of the lessons of Amos in chapter 1-2 is that with a great calling, comes great responsibility and greater consequences.

In what way is that true to life? How have you seen this positively and negatively (in you, or the world around you?)

What does that mean for us as Jesus followers?

What would this mean if we applied it to our everyday lives?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Amos 1-3:2]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

When did Amos, the shepherd, reveal his visions? (1:1)

What was the theme of Amos’s message? (1:2)

What was the pronouncement of judgment, (and why?) against Damascus? (1:3-5), Gaza (Philistines)(1:6-8), Tyre (1:9-10), Edom (v. 11), Ammon (1:13), Moab (2:1)?

What was the pronouncement of judgment, (and why?) against Judah (2:4), and Israel (2:6)?

What was the significance of “for three sins, even four?”

What was the significance of the chronological order of the nations?

How would God deal with Israel’s sins? (2:6-16)

How does 2:9- 3:2 explain why God’s judgment is harsher with Israel?

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

What advantage was there in God choosing Amos, a shepherd and a farmer, to deliver such a harsh prophetic message to His people?

If you were to speak out against social injustice, what would compel people to listen to you?

How might a wealthy Christian church today compare with affluent Israel in Amos’s day?

What types of social and religious corruption do you see in Christian circles?
How has the church (or believers) grown hard and callous in their dealings with others?
What level of responsibility do you feel toward those who are disadvantaged?
In what ways do we turn a deaf ear to God's Word?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?
What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?
How can we pray for each other?