



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## AMOS: God Has No Favorites, part 3

### GETTING STARTED

How do you see all human beings struggle with hypocrisy?  
How and why do we as Christians struggle with hypocrisy?

### QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

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

How can it be easy for us to forget “to do right”? How does Amos determine what is right and wrong?  
What does God through Amos accuse the Israelites of?  
Why would it be important for Amos to ground God’s justice and judgments in the fact that He is Creator and Designer of all of Creation?  
What would it look like for justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream?  
What is the significance of understanding justice (mishpat) not only as retributive, but restorative. Taking actions to correct injustice, not just “tweet” about it?  
What is the significance of righteousness (tsedaqah) being about right relationships?

### EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Amos 3-6]

(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.

Why did God speak out against Israel? (3:1-2)  
Why was Israel’s punishment inevitable? (3:3-8)  
What were the injustices of Israel? (3:9-10)  
What catastrophes did Amos unfold? (3:11-15)  
Why did Amos speak against Samaria’s upper-class women? (4:1-3)  
How were the Israelites guilty of religious hypocrisy? (4:4-5)  
What was Israel’s persistent attitude toward God? (4:6-13)  
What lament did Amos summon the people to hear? (5:1-3, 16-20, 27)  
How was repentance possible? (5:4-6, 14-15, 23-24)  
What were the Israelites accused of? (5:7, 10-13, 21-22, 25-26)  
What was Amos’s portrayal of God? (5:8-9)  
What did Amos say to those who enjoyed affluence and comfortable living? (6:1-7)  
How did Amos describe the complete devastation of Israel? (6:8-14)

## QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

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 should we feel toward those who are disadvantaged?

If Amos were to visit our church and my home, what examples of "religious hypocrisy" could he point out?

What standards, or "plumb lines" can we use to measure justice and righteousness by that may be the wrong ones?

Why is it important to measure justice and righteousness by God's "plumb line"?

What is the difference between believing in God and doing justice and righteousness?

In what way did Jesus alone perfectly do justice and righteousness AND judge sin and evil? In what way does the book of Amos point us to Jesus?

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

## 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?