

Getting To Know You

1. Have you ever built or constructed something? If so, what was it? How did it turn out? Anything you learn from it? Explain.
2. What are some ways that God has used regular people to bring about radical change?
3. Billy Graham said, "In the Bible, Amos the prophet saw the Day of Judgment fast approaching for Israel. He warned the people to prepare to meet God. Truth is, the word preparedness should be a key word for everyone. It is strange that we prepare for everything except meeting God. We prepare for marriage. We prepare for a career. We prepare for education. But we do not prepare to meet God. Even though most Americans see the storm clouds gathering on the horizon, by and large, we are making few preparations to meet God. This is a time for repentance and faith. It is a time for soul-searching, to see if our anchor holds." Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
4. Henry Blackaby said, "God's written Word is the plumb line for our lives as we walk daily with Him". Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
5. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. Who is Amos? What was his occupations? What kind of formal training or development did he have? When did he live? Where was he from? Who was his primary audience? How was he received? What was Israel (ten northern tribes) experiencing? What was the purpose of the book? What is the theme of the book?
2. How does Amos describe his calling? How does Amos refer to himself? Despite the humility in Amos, how was his faithfulness on display? How did he fulfill what God's calling on his life was?

How can you be like Amos? Who do you need to share the gospel with?
3. When confronting Israel, what was God's rebuke? What was Israel doing? Where were their places of worship? Who established them? How was this contrary to what God had established? What was going on during the religious events? What is God's response to them in chapter four? Does any of this please God? How did they turn from what was supposed to be intimacy with God into apostasy?

Do we ever try to worship according to our own standards and disregard God's? Explain. Who is worship for? If we try to make it about ourselves (whatever that looks like), how are we ceasing to worship? What does that turn worship into? Explain.
4. How wealthy and prosperous was Israel during this period? What did this produce in them? Explain. Where were they putting their trust? What were they doing to the poor? How were the poor and needy being taken advantage of? What is God's view on neglecting the poor, desolate, widows, and orphans? What is God going to do to Israel as a result?

Is there anything wrong with wealth or experiencing material blessing? Explain. What attitude should it produce in us as a result? Was Israel thankful for what they had received? How had it made them materialistic, when it should have made them thankful? Explain.

What kind of military did Israel have at this time? Instead of being responsible, how did it make them arrogant? Who did they start to believe was the reason for their peace and prosperity? In what ways had they forgotten their history and God's provision?

Know any country/ies that sound like this? What application is there for us today? How does Amos' message resonate with you? How should we apply it?

5. What were the visions that Amos receives from God? How does Amos intercede for Israel? What does he do? What is God's response to his plea?

What is the purpose of the plumb line? How important was it in ancient construction? Today? What illustration does God use with the plumb line?

When you assess your life with God's plumb line, how are you doing? Where do you need to do some course correction? What are the benefits of the plumb line?

6. What is a remnant? Why is this remnant language used throughout the prophets? What does the remnant do? In what ways are you a remnant? How can you be used to bring about radical change?

Growing Closer

1. Who is someone you shared the gospel with this week?
2. What have you been reading in your quiet times?
3. What has God been teaching you?