

Supplemental Questions for The Twelve

AMOS

The Lion Roars (Introduction)

- God knows where sin leads, as we saw in Hosea. His call for us to repent is out of His love for us who can wander away so often. What is the biggest challenge for you in listening to God? Is it time, the chaos of life, priorities? What is the most difficult thing about pausing to seek God?

Right Into The Ditch (1 Kings 11:38, 12:28; 2 Kings 14:23-24)

- The spiritual heritage of the Northern Kingdom was not a good one. People might have been making some money, but the foundation that the political and religious leaders of the day had laid was crumbling fast. What is your own spiritual heritage? Was the foundation of faith in God laid for you by Christian elders, or did you come to find God's goodness by having to lay a new foundation in Christ for you and your family?
- What God wants is for us to seek Him and live—find abundant life in Christ and sustaining power through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. He gives true life. What thoughts or desires urge us to resist Him so often in order to maintain lives that keep disappointing us and leave us exhausted in the pursuit of the “next thing”?

All Eyes On Me (Amos 1:2, 7:14-15)

- Amos was not a prophet by trade or by family lineage. He was just a regular ol' guy who cared about what God cared about and listened when He spoke. That should encourage us. God supplies all that is needed. He is just looking for someone who loves Him, trusts Him, walks with Him, and is willing to go. What if God calls you in your heart to go and do what He desires that might be out of your comfort zone? Will you go? What feelings come up when you think about this?
- Amos spoke in a brutal time to people who cared nothing for God or His good ways. Abuse and oppression were the order of the day. How would it make you feel to stand in the city center and proclaim God's hard but compassionate words to people like this?

Wait For It (Amos 1:3-2:8)

- Much of Amos contains the words of God to His own people in the Northern Kingdom who were acting like the nations around them instead of reflecting His character in how they lived. Why do you think God's major message in Amos was to His own people rather than to the nations around them? How does God's warning His people reflect God's love for them?

The Furnace Of God (Amos 2:6-8, 3:2; James 1:2-4)

- For all of us, the process of becoming more like Christ by His work in us can sometimes feel like a furnace burning away the impurities and solidifying our spirits in holiness. Have you been in the "furnace of God" before? How did the love of God and His care for you in shaping your heart become more real to you in that process?
- So many followers of Christ don't welcome the heat of God's furnace in their lives. We can content ourselves with limping along in floundering faith instead of letting God get to the heart of the matter and do His cleansing and purifying work from the inside out. What are some attitudes and actions you think may encourage welcoming the furnace of God as a believer? What kinds of things work against allowing this deep work of God in us?

No Surprise There (Amos 3:7-8, 9-10, 11-12)

- God doesn't sneak up on us. In this passage, God was calling out for His people to stop chasing what the world offered and return to Him and His ways of peace. God communicates to us today clearly with no "surprises" in His word about how we should follow Christ and care for others. How do God's clear words like these in Amos encourage you to follow Him closer?
- There are some who see God in bad ways as a mean nasty destroyer in the Minor Prophets. I hope you see the love of God in His warnings to His people. How might some read the words of the Minor Prophets and get the wrong impression of God?

How Low Can You Get? (Amos 4:1-3, 4-5)

- The lives that God's wayward people were leading spilled over into how they related to Him. God made it all too clear to the men and women of Amos' day that He could not be bought and could not be fooled by their religious show. God looks on the heart. What are some key qualities that come to mind about worshipping God with your whole heart as His son or daughter in Christ?
- What are some things that might be indicators of wounded fellowship with God in our expressions of worship?

Prepare (Amos 4:6-11, 12; 7:10,12-13; 5:21,23-24)

- How does God most often need to speak to you for you to listen to Him?
- The greatest indicator of how a person will act in any given situation depends largely on what they conceive God to be like and whether they take a high or low view of Him. If someone were to follow us around and observe every action and hear every word, what might they tell us about what we conceive God to be like?
- Is it easy to take God for granted in His kind words of mercy, grace, and forgiveness? Do His hard words move you more than His tender words?

Seek Me And Live (Amos 5:1, 4, 6, 15; 2 Kings 17:7-8; 16-18; Amos 9:2,8; Ezekiel 18:23,30-32, Amos 9:13,14)

- In the midst of these fiery words in Amos to God's rebellious and perverse people, God still called out to them to repent, to seek Him, and live. He takes no pleasure in the death of anyone. What does that say to you about the character of God, even to us who are so prone to wander?

