

The Lion Roars

Nations Accused

Welcome What do you consider the most important issue facing the world? Why?

Worship

This is amazing grace – Phil Wickham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjXjkbODrro>

Word

The Bible project summary can be found on this link:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/amos/>

If able, show the introduction (0:00 to 1:05 which sets the context into which Amos prophesied. Depending on your group you may wish to continue up to 2:25 which covers the chapters we are studying. (The themes covered in the video will be drawn out in the study.)

Amos 1:1 – 2:3

In this section it is important to remember that these nations surround Israel and Judah – who have not had the law as presented by Moses or knowledge of the God who gave it.

Read v 1:1-1:8

Q. The start of each section begin in the same way – for 3 sins even for 4 I will not turn back my wrath..... . What does he mean by this?

Q. What sins have these two communities guilty of? (Treating humans as objects)

Amos 1 and 2

Read 1:9-1:12

Q. In what way is the sin of Tyre (v9) different from the sin of Gaza (v6) but similar to the sin of Edom (v11)? (brotherly relations involved)

Read v1:13 – 2:3

Q. Who are the “victims” in this passage? (the defenceless).

Q. As all these nations did not know God, why and on what basis is he judging them? (See Romans 2:12-15)

Q. How can this section comfort us when we look at the crimes committed by nations (and individuals)?

Read v2:4 – 2:16

Q. What sin(s) is Judah guilty of (as is Israel (v14))?

Q. What other sins is Israel guilty of? (v 6-8)?

Q. What makes them even more culpable? (v 10 – 11)

Q. For Israel we could read Church. What are the implications for us? (for example you might consider – how seriously we take God’s word, do our actions demonstrate our obedience, the consequences of disobedience)

Witness

This may be a time to stop and lament. You could listen quietly to this song before praying for the nations and the church.

Who can sound the depths of sorrow – Graham Kendrick

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nG8CBot9vFA>

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Let Justice Roll

Welcome – Have you ever misinterpreted a saying or a situation? What happened? or have you ever been so focussed on something that you missed the main point?

Worship

Break our hearts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-61YZazSYo>

Word

Remember that Israel (both Israel and Judah) were secure, prosperous and enjoying a time of peace.

Read Amos 3:1,2

Q What privileges did the people of Israel have? How is this also a picture of the Church?

Q What can we learn from the second part of v2? Why did God say this to them? Does it apply to us? (Heb 12:5,6)

Read Amos 3:3-10

What is Amos trying to do in v3-8? (You may want to draw attention to v1 of Chapters 3,4,5.)

What warnings had Israel received in the past? Scan Amos 4:6-11.

Amos 3-6

Q Why do you think God invites the enemies of Israel to observe what is happening? (v9) What does the world see when it observes the church?

These chapters build up a picture of the lifestyle of Israel at the time, how God views it and consequences.

Wealth – 3:10, 4:1, 5:11,12, 6:4-6

Q What was wrong with their wealth?

Q What will be the consequences?

Q How does this apply to us today?

Religious observance – 4:4-5, 5:21-23

Q Looks good – what was wrong with it?

Q How does this challenge us?

Q What does God tell us to do? 5:5,6, 5:14,15, 5:24

Q What does this look like in practise? (Individually, within the church, within our community/nation.

Witness

You may want to listen quietly to this asking the Lord to reveal where are attitudes and worship are displeasing to him, seeking forgiveness but also what he does require of us.

The Heart of Worship – Matt Redman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD4tB1o6YLw>

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Visions of Judgement

Welcome – Have you ever decorated or built something without using a plumb-line or a spirit level? What happened?

Worship

O Breath of life

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnDnclPgt-M>

Word

Having spent some time calling on Israel to wake up and smell the coffee he now shares visions of the coming judgement.

Read Amos 7:1-6

Q. Why do you think God revealed to Amos what he intended to do?

Q. Considering what has gone before what would your response be? How does Amos respond?

Q. What does it reveal about God's nature?

Q. What can we learn from this about our intercessions for those that are lost?

Q. What stops us interceding for others.

Amos 7 and 8

Read Amos 7:7-8:3

Q. What is a plumb-line used for? What is the plumb-line that God will use and who will be tested by it?

Q. What institutions would be wiped out initially? Why?

Q. Is there a challenge for church and state here?

Q. How does the priest of Bethel (and the king?) respond and why?

Q. How does Amos's response help respond to those who want to stop us from speaking about Jesus?

Read Amos 8:11-13

Q. What are the consequences of rejecting God's Word being proclaimed faithfully.

Q. What challenge does this present to us?

Witness

Read Amos 8:4-10

Compare v8-10 with those in Matthew 25:45-51 – a reminder that Jesus on the cross has taken our judgement upon himself.

Once Again – Matt Redman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkK4YHy-wNg>

Pray also for the bible translation work of Bruce Rossington and for those who provide Bibles where they are scarce. Also that God's word is faithfully proclaimed.

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Mercy and Hope

Welcome

What do you do to 'escape from it all'?

Worship

Search me and Know me – Michael Card

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvNu3zgvFW8>

This is a song based on Ps.139. You may choose to read it as an alternative to listening to the song. Thank God that he knows each one of us and that his presence is with us wherever we are.

Word

Read Amos 9:1-10

Q. What picture does this paint of the judgement of Israel?

Q. Does he leave any hint to give the people hope and for whom will there be no hope (v8-10)

Read Amos 9:11-15

Q. What is the picture painted here?

Q. What will God do for them?

Q. What will the people do?

Amos 9

Q. In what ways will it be different to the times before judgement came?

Witness and Reflection

Q. From these studies how would you describe what true worship looks like?

Q. What does it mean 'to let justice roll on like a river and righteousness like a never failing stream (5:24) individually, within the church and within community?

Q. Have you/we/the church been complacent in proclaiming and living out the gospel?

Q. In what ways, if any, has your understanding of the nature and character of God been challenged or changed?

Use this as opportunity to pray for each other, the church and the community.

You could consider using this worship song to finish with

God of Justice – Tim Hughes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3NeLRb1LY4>