

2025 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 5

Series Overview and Guides

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

We find security in a healthy relationship with the righteous God.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"The one who made the Pleiades and Orion,
who turns darkness into dawn
and darkens day into night,
who summons the water of the sea
and pours it out over the surface of the
earth—the Lord is his name"

—Amos 5:8

Premise

why we are studying this

Idolatry is endemic to fallen humanity, a plague that knows no boundaries and shows no disposition to halt. The core reason behind our susceptibility to idolatry is insecurity, especially spiritual insecurity. In a dizzying cycle, we long for justice and righteousness, feeling insecure in their absence. We therefore turn to idols to mask fear and bolster confidence. Yet such idolatry only serves to deepen injustice and unrighteousness, initiating the cycle once again. The cycle can only be broken in a relationship with YHWH, who opens heaven's gate by grace through faith.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"Seek the Lord and live."

—Amos 5:6

When, in disgrace with Fortune and
men's eyes, I all alone bewep my outcast
state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my
bootless cries, And look upon myself and
curse my fate,
Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,

Featured like him, like him with friends
possessed, Desiring this man's art, and
that man's scope,
With what I most enjoy contented least;
Yet in these thoughts myself almost
despising, Haply I think on thee, and then
my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at
heaven's gate;

For thy sweet love remembered such
wealth brings
That then I scorn to change my state
with kings

—William Shakespeare
Sonnet 29

Theme

what the study is about

Amos asserts that Israel is rightly insecure in her relationships. The country is in danger both materially with other nations and intrinsically within. The cause of this danger is a misunderstanding of the righteousness of God and a subsequently improper response to Him. Both the nation and the individuals are called to repentance.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"In much of church history...little attention has been paid to it [Amos]. Why? It is because the book speaks powerfully against social injustices and religious formalism, and many who would otherwise read the book have been implicated in such sins and are condemned by it."

—James Boice
The Minor Prophets

"I have attended evangelical churches and participated in many Bible conferences. Yet never have I heard a responsible treatment of Amos' strong words about the injustices done through the misuse of wealth...[Rarely] have I heard in a conservative evangelical church any really forthright preaching about these things, which are so important in God's sight. Prophecy, yes – but only in its predictive, eschatological aspect with little or nothing about the major witness of the prophets against the idolatry of things."

— Frank E. Gaebelien
Challenging Christians to the Simple Life



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The content of this study guide is based on the sermon and personal study notes of

Dr. M. Wayne Braudrick
Lead Pastor, Frisco Bible Church

and is developed by the Frisco Bible Curriculum Team:

Contributors:

AJ Rinaldi, Steve Wilson, Tom Cutrell,
Lauren Noske, Jeanie Brooks

General Editor:

AJ Rinaldi

Layout and Design:

Steve Wilson

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The Lord Roars.

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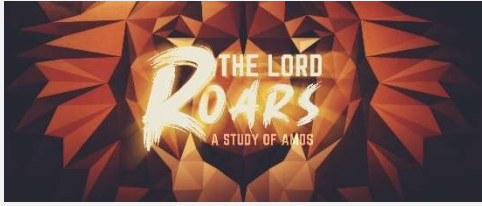
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Frisco Bible Church
8000 Sanctuary Drive
Frisco, TX 75033
972.335.8150
contactus@friscobible.com
www.friscobible.com

SERIES 5 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 1:1-2

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Amos introduces us to himself. He is a fascinating man: from Judah but sent primarily to preach in Israel; seemingly well-off yet excoriating the wealthy who are unjust; not a professional prophet yet sets the tone for all prophets. The introduction also introduces YHWH, who reminds us that He is Creator, Covenant God, and Communicator.

OBJECTIVE

We listen to God's word.

ROARING LION

"Amos's message begins with a bang, startling the reader with its vividness and intensity. Roaring like a fierce lion, the Lord emerges from His earthly residence in Jerusalem to take vengeance upon the nations. In its ancient Near Eastern context, this word picture depicts the Lord as a mighty warrior-king who is capable of annihilating His enemies. Ancient rulers would often compare themselves to raging lions in order to emphasize their courage and prowess on the battlefield."

—Robert B. Chisholm, Jr.
Interpreting the Minor Prophets

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that our hearts and minds are attuned to God's word.

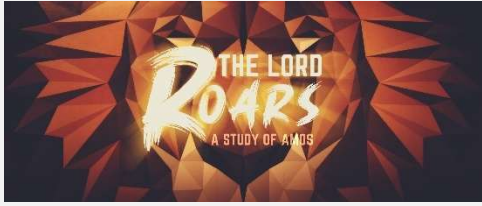
Session 1: The Lord Roars

1. Amos was described as a breeder of sheep and a shepherd, or herdsman. He also had the expertise to prepare sycamore fig trees for harvest, which required more advanced methods of horticulture.
 - Why do you think God chose to use this businessman to prophecy at this time?
2. At a time when Israel was prospering, Amos rebuked wealthy Jews who were mistreating their brethren.
 - Why do you think God called Amos to exhort this group of people to repent?
3. Read Genesis 49:9-10, Revelation 5:5, Amos 1:2, and Amos 3:4-8.
 - Compare the roar of the lion with God's message through this prophet.
 - What is God communicating in these passages?
4. Read Amos 1:2 again.
 - Discuss the imagery in this passage and how it sets up the rest of Amos' prophecy.



SERIES 5 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 1:3-2:5

KEY IDEAS

THEME

YHWH speaks against the nations for their crimes. All but the last two are judged according to the promise given Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt." (Genesis 12:3)

- Syria crushed northern Israel.
- Philistia took territory from Judah and sent slaves to Edom.
- The major Phoenician city-state of Tyre practiced a similar evil, a sin made worse by treaty violations dating back to David.
- Edom violated not only the Genesis command but also ties of family.
- Ammon broke the Davidic treaty as well, pushing north into Gilead where they practiced ethnic cleansing.
- Moab appears to have also violated treaties.
- Judah is not prosecuted for human crimes. Rather, they have rejected God's word and followed lies.

OBJECTIVE

We keep God's word.

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we remain fully devoted to Him.

Session 2: The Lord Speaks

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and Amos 1:3-8.

- For what is YHWH promising to judge Damascus and Gaza?

2. Read Amos 1:9-12.

- Tyre and Edom committed genocide against entire populations and sold others into slavery; did they deserve God's judgment?

- Why was Edom's sin particularly offensive to the Lord?

3. The Gentile nations are accused of crimes against humanity, but Judah is charged with chasing after idols and being unfaithful to its covenant with YHWH.

- Discuss other passages in Scripture that highlight God's desire for His people to be wholly devoted to Him?

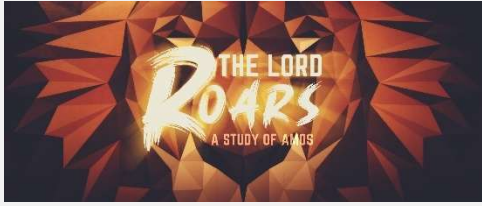
4. Believers today are not immune from idolatry.

- Why do we so often succumb to idolatry?
- How does turning to idols mask our fear and bolster our confidence?
- How does idolatry serve to deepen injustice and unrighteousness?
- How can we break this cycle of misplaced affections and be restored in fellowship with the One True God?



SERIES 5 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 2:6-4:5

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The Lord judges Israel and shows the logic behind His justice. The principles exposed here are equally pertinent in our new covenant:

- People and objects are not to be confused.
- Sex is to be enjoyed in covenant.
- God and His word must be remembered.
- Veneer spirituality will always get exposed and judged.
- The one who is given much is held to greater responsibility.

OBJECTIVE

We live responsibly before God.

JUSTICE

"God alone provides what humans need: *justice* in man's relationship to man and *righteousness* in man's relationship to God."

—Charles Dyer

The Purpose of Amos -

Lecture at Bent Tree Bible Fellowship

"When a society acquiesces in and welcomes an evil, knowing it is evil, that society is doomed."

—H.L. Ellison

The Prophets of Israel: Ahijah to Hosea

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we remember and follow God's word.

Session 3: The Lord Crushes

1. Read Amos 2:6-8.

- What does this passage say about the value of people over money and possessions?
- How does verse eight describe a violation of God's commands in Exodus 22:25-26?

2. Read Genesis 2:18-24, Amos 2:7b-8, and Leviticus 18:6.

- Discuss God's plan for sex to be enjoyed in a covenant relationship between a man and a woman.
- What specific sin does this passage address?
- Where else in scripture do we see similar issues?

3. Read Amos 2:10-13 and Judges 13:1-7, 24-25.

- Judges 13-16 tells the story of perhaps the most well-known Nazirite from scripture. In what ways did Samson fail to exhibit the self-discipline that is required of a Nazirite?

4. Read Amos 2:14-16. Fleeing and resisting would not allow Israel to escape God's judgment.

- What are some other Bible passages that demonstrate God's swift judgment?
- How should believers respond to passages like Acts 5:1-11, and 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3?

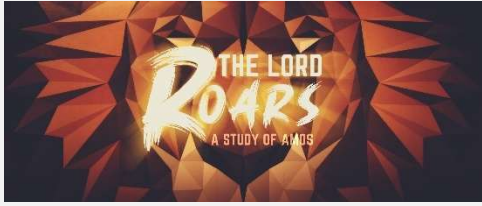
5. Read the following verses as six separate declarations or sections. Discuss the transition between the different sections and thematic progress from one to another.

- Amos 3:1-10
- Amos 3:11
- Amos 3:12
- Amos 3:13-15
- Amos 4:1-3
- Amos 4: 4-5



SERIES 5 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 4:6-5:27

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Despite humanity's continuous rejection of God's call, His presence doesn't rightly destroy every soul. God laments over His people and rescues a remnant of Israel. Those who seek Him find life! Yet, sadly, most of us are like Israel, consumed with religiosity and working the systems of the world.

OBJECTIVE

We seek the Lord and live.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

"Every believer can take comfort in the fact that, while sometimes it seems that God does not interfere in human affairs, the world is never out of his control. His sovereignty extends to every aspect of human experience"

—Thomas Edward McComiskey
The Expositor's Bible Commentary

PRAYER

"O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire Thee with our whole heart; that, so desiring, we may seek, and seeking find Thee; and so finding Thee may love Thee; and in loving Thee, may hate those sins from which Thou hast redeemed us."

—Anselm of Canterbury
on Amos 5:4

Session 4: The Lord is Here

1. Read Amos 4:6-11.

- What did God bring about to get the attention of His people?
- Is it possible to discern whether tragedies are caused by human failures or God's correction?
- From a human perspective, as people of faith trusting in the sovereignty of God, to what extent does it matter?

2. In spite of God's discipline, Israel did not repent. Read Amos 4:12-13.

- Does it sound like God will give His people another chance to repent?
- Why or why not?

3. Read Amos 5:1-3.

- How does God feel about the fall of Israel?
- Though none deserve rescue, what percentage does this passage suggest will survive as a remnant?

4. Read Amos 5:4-6, 5:14-15, and 5:24.

- What does God repeatedly promise to those who seek Him?
- What might His promise of life look like when, for instance, the brutal Assyrians would soon overtake the nation of Israel?
- How does this compare with Judah's eventual fate in Babylon?

5. Read Amos 5:5, 10-13, 16-23, and 25-27. Out of prideful ignorance, some Israelites were looking forward to the Day of the Lord and trusted in their religious practices in an attempt to "work the system."

- What is the irony there?
- Why is God's judgment just?

