

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

### 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,

## 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.

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*



Frisco Bible Church  
*a redeemed community*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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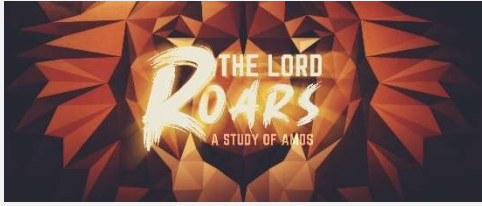
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SERIES 5 | SESSION 1

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.

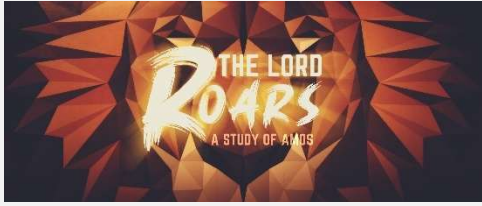
## Session 1: The Lord Roars

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?

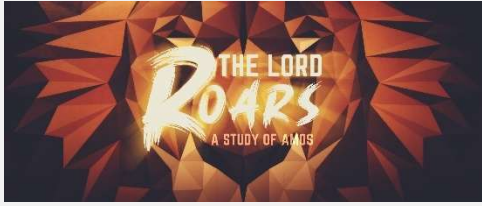
4. Believers today are not immune from idolatry.

- 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?

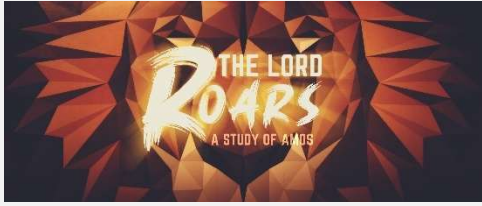
5. Read the following verses as six separate declarations or sections. Discuss the transition between the different sections and thematic progress from one to another.

- 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."

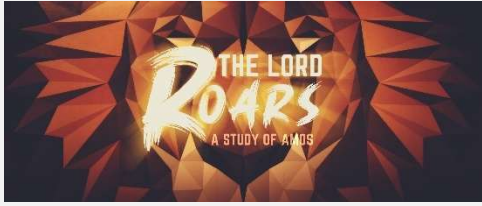
- What is the irony there?
- Why is God's judgment just?





SERIES 5 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 6:1-14

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The wealthy of Israel assume they are above consequences even though evidence both spiritual and physical declares otherwise. They live luxurious lives without a thought for the ruin of their countrymen or country, thinking their own power and cleverness explain their exaltation. Yet they will be the first deported by Assyria. Destruction will be total, stretching to the furthest extents of the northern kingdom (Hamath in the north and wadi Arabah in the south).

OBJECTIVE

We humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord.

FALSE UNDERSTANDING

"Amos confronted those who relied on the nation's traditions about the day of the Lord (5:18-20), their own wealth (6:1-7), and the nation's military might (6:8-14) ... These oppressors deceived themselves with a nationalistic ideology based on a false understanding of the source of their blessings."

—Gary V. Smith  
*The Prophets as Preachers*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we humbly recognize God as the source of our blessings.

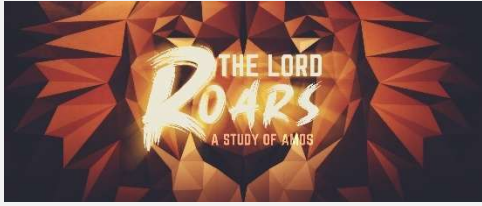
## Session 5: The Lord Commands

1. Read Amos 6:1-2 and Psalm 132:13-18. At the time Amos wrote, Assyria was not very powerful; the wealthy Jews living in the capital cities of Jerusalem and Samaria felt secure from enemy attack and were indifferent to the needs of the poor.
  - Compare those Jews with believers in America today.
2. Read Amos 6:3-7.
  - How do we hold ourselves accountable from becoming complacent, indulgent, and distracted by luxuries?
  - Discuss how opportunities to use your gifting in edifying the Body of Christ can help with those efforts?
3. Read Amos 6:8-10 and Luke 16:15.
  - We are often proud and impudent; if we reject God's warnings, we may face His judgment. Contrast the kind of judgment that a believer and a non-believer should fear.
4. Read Amos 6:11-14 and Proverbs 16:18. The people claimed success by their own strength, but it was Yahweh who has strengthened them.
  - In what ways (e.g. place, situation, culture) do we see this very same attitude playing out today?
  - What should our response be as Christ-Followers?  
*Hint: This is not a right or wrong discussion. There should necessarily be a great deal of subjectivity among believers when it comes to our individual and collective calling in the world.*
5. What is the ONE thing every Christian IS called to do in a broken world?



SERIES 5 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 7:1-8:14

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God grants Amos insight to the first four visions, including a censorial interruption from the government. Together, these chapters show that one is doomed to rotten failure when trusting anything other than God and His Word. Government, business, achievement, and religion will disappoint. Ultimately, those who ignore the scripture will long for it without relief.

OBJECTIVE

We are secure in God alone.

A PLUMB LINE

"Everything built by God is built on Him. Everything built by God is built up around Him – you and I are like living stones build as a spiritual house unto God's Glory. And the plumb line of God's Word the Bible keeps us straight and true..."

Israel had gotten so far away from the God of their Fathers, the Lord almost has to introduce Himself to them – and we get a remarkable picture with how active the Lord really is in our lives."

—Thomas J. Schetelich  
*A Plumb Line in Israel*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we trust God and His Word.

## Session 6: The Lord Sets a Line

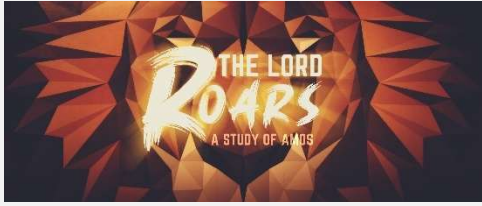
1. Read Amos 7:1-6, Exodus 32:31-35, Romans 9:1-3 and 10:1-2.
  - In Amos 7, what were the visions of judgment that God showed Amos (verses 1 and 4)?
  - Why do you think Amos interceded for the Israelites (verses 2 and 5)?
  - Discuss other instances where people were moved to appeal to the Lord on behalf of others. Consider the following: Genesis 18, Numbers 14, 1 Samuel 12, 1 Kings 18, and Romans 9:10.
2. Read Amos 7:7-9
  - What was the third vision of judgment that God showed Amos?
  - Why do you think Amos didn't intercede for the Israelites after the third vision of judgment? (See also Jeremiah 11:14).
3. Read Amos 7:10-17.
  - In what way is Amaziah functioning like a state-sponsored religious representative?
  - Why does trust in the Government lead to a false sense of security?
  - Where do we see this happening today?
4. Read Amos 8:1-6.
  - How might a basket of summer (or 'ripe') fruit represent the spiritual condition of Israel?
  - How could it also relate to the present-day Church and cultural Christianity?
5. Read Amos 8:7-14, Isaiah 13:9-10, Joel 2:30-31, Matthew 4:4, and Deuteronomy 8:3.
  - What images are used throughout Scripture to describe the coming judgment?
  - Discuss the importance of the Word of God for preparing and sustaining His people until He returns.





SERIES 5 | SESSION 7

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2025

PAUSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 9:1-15

KEY IDEAS

THEME

In judgment, the overwhelming pressure of God's presence changes creation. New physical laws are introduced that astronomically increase productivity. Spiritually, God and His word remain unalterable. The millennium will come, a remnant will be rescued, the Davidic covenant fulfilled, and the promise of Abraham realized as Gentiles bear God's holy name.

OBJECTIVE

We are people of the restoration.

PROMISED BLESSING

"The abundance described in vv. 13–15 stands in stark contrast to the ruin and destruction that fell on Israel after God repeatedly warned them, appealing to them to come to repentance (4:6–11). Again, the point is that God does not intend for judgment on Israel to be final, but to be a tool through which blessing may ultimately come."

—John Oswalt  
*ESV Study Bible*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we trust in His promises.

## Session 7: The Lord Restores

1. Read Amos 9:1-4 and Amos 5:21-23.

- Compare these passages with Psalm 33:18 and Psalm 34:15-16.
- Why was the Israelites' religion offensive to the Lord?
- Why do you think the Lord's warning emphasized that He would strike the capitals (tops) of the structure?
- How might this have related to Israel?
- What can the present-day Church learn from this?

2. Read Amos 9:5-8.

- Why do you think the Israelites lost sight of their mission as a people that was set apart for the Lord?
- How did the Lord plan to rectify this?
- It seems with the Israelites, the more things change, the more they stay the same. Discuss how Amos' message would have been relevant during the time of the Judges.

3. Read Amos 9:8-12.

- For what future hope did God preserve a remnant in Israel? (See also Jeremiah 23:3 and Zechariah 13:8-9.)

4. Read Amos 9:13-15.

- Discuss the past and future, the already, and not yet fulfillment of this passage.
- To what does this ultimately refer?

