

Wednesday

Read Amos 7:12-13 *Jeroboam exiles Amos*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why did God send Amos to be a prophet to Israel?*
2. *How do you deal with bad news?*

Prayer Focus It would be easier, we think, if those pesky people who see the bigger picture would just leave town. Open our eyes to see where they are pointing, Gracious God. Help us trust in your compassion to face what we see.

Thursday

Read Amos 7:14-16 *Amos' reply*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why does Amos need to show his credentials?*
2. *Have you ever tried to tell the truth and been told to keep it to yourself? How did you respond?*

Prayer Focus It's not easy to deal with what seems like bad news on every front. God Our Compass, help us listen to the ones you send to us to show us where we've gone off the mark. Let us be open to your loving criticism and your plan for restoring your world.

Friday

Read Amos 7:17 *Amos prophesies Israel's fate*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Do you think it was necessary to make Israel suffer such a harsh fate?*
2. *How can you help to avoid and heal the consequences of putting ourselves first?*

Prayer Focus You have shown us the way through Jesus and through the ones who have remained steadfast in faith and in love. Holy Redeemer, give us eyes to see and the courage to act on what you require of your people today.

Willfully Blinded

Pastor's message: Amos 7:7-17; When we refuse to accept evil in and around us, our demise is inevitable. Yet, when we humble ourselves and listen, we have a better future.

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Have you ever had to re-locate to another city or country? Briefly, how was that experience for you?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Amos 7:7-17**

- Discuss observations about the text
 - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
 - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)



WILLFULLY BLINDED July 10, 2022

Monday

Read Amos 7:7-9 *God draws a line*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why is God using a plumb line to judge Israel? What was God measuring?*
2. *Reflect on how you are built by God to be straight and true—in God's image. How can you honor that creation today?*

Prayer Focus We don't want to see hard lines drawn for us. We want to be able to negotiate. But you know the trouble we can get into in following our own wills and drawing our own lines. Show us how to see and follow your guide, as your children.

Tuesday

Read Amos 7:10-11 *Amaziah warns against Amos*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *What do you think Amos' words meant to Amaziah?*
2. *Amaziah blames Amos for disturbing Israel. How do we tend to treat people who point out our faults?*

Prayer Focus We don't like hearing bad news about ourselves—we want to silence harsh words, even if they're true. We want to cover our ears and keep going as we are rather than change our ways. Help us to humble ourselves, God, so we can know your will and your peace.

