

# life groups

NorthStar Church

Fearless Pt 2

Amos

Pastor Scott

06/02 & 06/03

Main Point

God's loves His people and has called us to the Great Commission. HE calls us to holiness. He watches and brings judgements to our lives for or running away from our relationship with HIM. He knows our hearts and he sees our lives/lifestyle.

Introduction

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever done something "minor" you knew to be wrong simply because you thought no one would notice? Explain.

Why do we think that behaviors like lying are somehow less significant than other wrongs that are more flagrant and observable?

People have a tendency to excuse their own sins while passing judgment upon others. We see our offenses as minor and excusable, while we get offended when other people miss the mark. It is easy to stand in judgment of large noticeable mess ups, yet we commit hundreds of smaller violations of God's commands all the time. While our betrayal may not be as noticeable to the outside world, it rises up to God. He sees. He knows. He judges.

Understanding

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

Have a volunteer Read Amos 2:4-5.

If you're honest, do the wrongs of Judah seem minor? Why is there no such thing as a minor transgression with God? What makes Judah's transgressions worse than the other nations'?

God's people ignored God's law, which all of us do at varying degrees all the time. What made their offense worse than the other nations' offenses is that they knew better. They had God's law to guide them, but they willfully ignored it.

Have a volunteer Read Amos 2:6-16.

The Lord's indictment against the Northern Kingdom of Israel is given in these verses. He accused them of using bribery to pervert justice, of systematically oppressing the poor and needy, of committing shameless immorality, and of bringing sin and unjust gain into the "house of their God."

For what specific crimes or transgressions did the Lord announce He would punish Israel? From this list, what can we learn about what matters to God?

What overall mindset do you think led to a culture where these sins were so widespread?

In what forms do we see people in our society committing similar crimes or sins? What should be our response as followers of Christ?

Apparently the people were not making any effort to hide their sin. What would lead someone to sin openly without caring who saw or knew about it? In what ways are we often guilty of doing the same?

The Lord wants His people to live in ways that show respect to Him and compassion to others. No sin escapes God's notice, no matter how we may try to hide or justify our actions. As believers, we acknowledge our guilt while placing our trust in Jesus Christ.

Scott mentioned 4 primary sins of his people that led to 4 images of coming judgement:

1. Abuse of the needy
2. Ignoring justice
3. Sexual immorality
4. Phony worship

Have a volunteer read Amos 5:21-24. In what ways have you felt that your worship might be "phony"?

The 4 Images:

1. Locust
2. Plumb line
3. Ripe fruit
4. Spiritual famine

Have a volunteer read Amos 8:11-13. In what ways are we, the church today, in a season of spiritual famine?

Application

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Let's discuss God's Plumb Line for a moment. Have a volunteer read the following excerpt from Blackaby and King, Fresh Encounter:

In Scripture, God uses the idea of a plumb line to describe what He is doing with His people. God built His people like a straight wall – true to plumb. When we depart from Him, one of our problems is that we do not realize how far we have departed. We often don't understand how seriously we have strayed from Him. We may not realize how close we are to complete collapse or destruction. God holds a plumb line beside His

people so they can see how far they have departed....Jesus said, "He who does not love Me will not obey my teaching" (John 14:24) but "if anyone loves Me, he will obey My teaching." (John 14:23)...The scriptures serve as a plumb line for us.

The book of Amos closes with hope and 2 layers of promise.

Have a volunteer read Amos 9:11-12. God promises to restore broken relationships, repair broken hearts, and rebuild marriages, families, ministries, etc. to the small remnant: the small group that will drop pride, personal agenda and cry out to God with repentance.

Have a volunteer read Amos 9: 13-14. God promises to rebuild cities, make gardens (daily provision), and plant vineyards (long term blessing and favor).

In what area of your life do you need to hold up the plumb line? What promises of God can you believe if you were to repent and rebuild this area of your life?

Pray

Pray that God would convict you of your sin and help you take ownership of it. Ask that He would help you see all His judgments as good and helpful as you submit to His rule in your life.