

2026-04-29 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: The Book of Amos - "Too Little for Too Long"

Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word, inviting the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where we may have become complacent or presumptuous in our faith.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you heard a warning but didn't take it seriously until it was almost too late. What did you learn from that experience?

Sermon Overview

This message introduces the book of Amos, a shepherd called by God to deliver an uncomfortable message about judgment. The central theme warns against taking God's grace for granted and becoming presumptuous about our salvation while neglecting genuine repentance and holy living.

Key Takeaways

God's patience has limits - While God is "slow to anger," His patience should not be mistaken for approval or indifference.

Presumption vs. Paranoia - We must find balance between being presumptuous about salvation ("I'm good to go") and being paranoid about it (never having assurance).

Attention prevents taking for granted - When we stop paying attention to God, we begin to take His grace for granted.

God's kindness leads to repentance - God's goodness to us, even when we don't deserve it, is designed to bring us to genuine repentance.

Persistence in doing good matters - Romans 2:7 emphasizes those who "by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality."

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

Amos was a shepherd, not a trained prophet. What does God's choice of Amos tell us about who God uses and how He equips people for His purposes?

The phrase "for three sins... even for four, I will not turn back my wrath" appears repeatedly in Amos 1-2. What do you think this phrase means? Why does God use this pattern?

Read Romans 2:1-11. How does this New Testament passage connect with the message of Amos?

Personal Reflection

The pastor mentioned the danger of "cutting ourselves slack" - making excuses for behaviors we know aren't right. In what areas of life are you most tempted to do this?

On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate yourself on "paying attention" to God right now? What evidence supports your rating?

Have you ever experienced God's kindness during a time when you knew you were living in sin? How did you respond?

The sermon mentioned that American Christians may be "sold out to comfort more than holiness." Do you agree? What does this look like practically?

Going Deeper

Amos spoke against social injustices: selling people for profit, denying justice

to the oppressed, and trampling on the poor. What modern equivalents do you see today? How should the church respond?

The pastor said, "If we're participating in the same sins as [unbelievers], they're going to be even more convinced that what they're doing is not wrong." How does our lifestyle either validate or invalidate our witness?

Read Matthew 7:21-23. How does Jesus' warning about people saying "Lord, Lord" relate to the message of Amos?

Application

What's the difference between genuine repentance and just saying "I'm sorry"? Share an example of true repentance from your life or Scripture.

The sermon mentioned that we should know God's voice like sheep know their shepherd's voice. How can we become more familiar with hearing God's voice?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Attention Inventory

Each day, set aside 15 minutes to simply "pay attention" to God through His Word without any agenda except listening.

Journal what you sense God speaking to you.

Option 2: Grace Gratitude

Make a list of 20 ways God has shown you grace in the past month.

Spend time thanking Him and asking if there are areas where you've taken His grace for granted.

Option 3: Repentance Check

Ask God to reveal one area where you've been "cutting yourself slack."
Practice genuine repentance: confession, turning away, and making restitution if needed.

Option 4: Justice Action

Research one form of injustice mentioned in Amos (human trafficking, oppression of the poor, etc.).

Take one concrete action to help: donate, volunteer, or advocate.

Accountability Question

Who will you share your choice with to help keep you accountable this week?

Memory Verse

Romans 2:4 - "Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?"

Prayer Focus

Confession & Repentance

Spend time in silent confession, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of presumption or complacency.

Pray for genuine hearts of repentance, not just surface-level apologies.

Gratitude for Grace

Thank God for His patience, kindness, and the sacrifice of Jesus.

Express appreciation for specific ways He's shown grace in your lives.

Intercession

Pray for those who don't yet know Christ, that they would respond to God's kindness before it's too late.

Pray for the church in America to awaken from complacency and pursue holiness.

Pray for victims of injustice around the world.

Closing Thought

The message of Amos isn't meant to create fear or shame, but to awaken us to the seriousness of our relationship with God. His grace is real, abundant, and available—but it's also meant to transform us, not just comfort us. Let's respond to His kindness with lives that reflect genuine repentance and persistent pursuit of righteousness.

For Next Week

Read Amos chapters 3-4 in preparation for the next sermon. Pay attention to:

What specific sins does God address?

How does God describe His relationship with Israel?

What warnings does He give, and how do the people respond?