

2026-05-06 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Warnings, Reluctance, and God's Judgment

Based on Amos 3 and 2 Peter 3

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to speak truth to your hearts and give you courage to hear and respond to His Word, even when it challenges you.

Icebreaker

Share one thing you've been putting off that you know you should do. It can be something simple (cleaning out a closet) or significant (having a difficult conversation). What makes you reluctant to do it?

Key Themes from the Sermon

1. Reluctance and Procrastination in Our Spiritual Lives

We often avoid doing what God calls us to do

We're reluctant to share difficult truths with others

We delay addressing areas of sin or disobedience in our own lives

2. God's Gracious Warnings

God doesn't judge without warning (Amos 3:7)

He reveals His plans through His servants

Ignoring warnings doesn't make them less real

3. The Danger of Prosperity

Material blessings can deceive us into thinking we're doing well spiritually

We can become hoarders rather than sharers

Contentment is a learned spiritual discipline

4. The Reality of Coming Judgment

God's patience shouldn't be mistaken for approval

The day of the Lord will come "like a thief" (2 Peter 3:10)

Our responsibility is to warn others and live righteously

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

Amos 3:7 says, "Surely the sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets." What does this tell us about God's character? How should this affect our response to biblical warnings?

The sermon mentioned that Israel had "winter houses" and "summer houses" yet were spiritually bankrupt. How can material prosperity blind us to spiritual poverty? Can you think of modern examples?

Read 2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise...He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish." How does understanding God's patience change how we view His warnings about judgment?

Personal Reflection

The pastor asked: "Is there anything in my life that I know biblically isn't what God wants me to do, but I've kind of given myself a pass?" Take a moment of silence for personal reflection. What comes to mind?

Discuss the difference between moral, immoral, and amoral issues. Why is it important to distinguish between these categories? Where do we tend to get confused?

The sermon emphasized contentment as "a learned secret" (Philippians 4:11-12). On a scale of 1-10, how content are you with what you currently have? What makes contentment difficult in our culture?

Application and Action

James 4:17 says, "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." What is something God has been prompting you to do that you've been reluctant about? What's holding you back?

The sermon addressed our reluctance to share the "whole truth" of the gospel, including warnings about judgment. Why are we more comfortable sharing about God's love than His justice? How can we balance both?

Amos was called to leave his comfort zone (shepherding) to deliver an unpopular message. What uncomfortable assignment might God be giving you? How can this group support you in being obedient?

Key Takeaways

God warns before He judges – His warnings are acts of grace, not cruelty

Prosperity can be spiritually dangerous – Material blessings don't equal spiritual approval

Reluctance is normal, but obedience is required – Even prophets struggled with difficult assignments

We're called to share the whole gospel – Including the uncomfortable parts about sin and judgment

Contentment must be learned – It's a spiritual discipline that protects us from deception

Time is running out – We must speak truth while there's still opportunity

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to commit to this week:

Option 1: Personal Inventory

Set aside 30 minutes for honest self-examination

Ask God to reveal areas of reluctance, procrastination, or disobedience

Write down what He shows you and one specific step toward obedience

Option 2: Practice Contentment

Make a list of blessings you currently have

Identify one area where you're always wanting "more"

Fast from browsing, shopping, or consuming media in that area for one week

Option 3: Share the Whole Truth

Pray for one person who needs to hear about God's love AND His justice

Ask God for an opportunity to have a conversation this week

Prepare by reviewing key scriptures about both grace and judgment

Option 4: Stewardship Check

Review your finances, possessions, and time investments

Ask: "Am I hoarding or sharing what God has given me?"

Identify one specific way to be more generous this week

Scripture Memory

Amos 3:7-8 "Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared—who will not fear?

The Sovereign Lord has spoken—who can but prophesy?"

Closing Reflection Questions

What is one thing God spoke to you personally through this sermon?

What is one thing you will do differently this week as a result?

How can we pray for each other regarding areas of reluctance or needed obedience?

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

Courage to address areas of reluctance in our own lives

Wisdom to discern between God's blessings and worldly distractions
Boldness to share the whole truth of the gospel with others
Hearts that are tender to God's warnings rather than hardened by them
Contentment with what God has provided
Those who are facing judgment without knowing it (like Jackie, mentioned in the sermon)

For Next Week

Read Amos chapters 4-6 in preparation for the next sermon
Journal about one area where you practiced obedience despite reluctance
Be prepared to share how God worked through your obedience

Leader's Notes

Be sensitive: This sermon deals with heavy topics. Create a safe space for honest confession without judgment.

Don't rush: Allow silence for reflection. The Holy Spirit works in quiet moments.

Stay balanced: Emphasize both God's grace AND His holiness. Don't lean too heavily on condemnation or cheap grace.

Follow up: Check in with group members during the week, especially if someone shared a specific area of struggle.

Model vulnerability: As a leader, be willing to share your own areas of reluctance or needed growth.