

2026-06-10 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Standing Firm in God's Calling

Based on Amos 7:10-8:6

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by thanking God for His word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and application.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: Have you ever felt called to do something outside your comfort zone or expertise? What was your initial reaction?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

God calls ordinary people to extraordinary tasks - Amos was just a shepherd and fig tree caretaker

Opposition will come when we speak God's truth - Amaziah the priest resisted Amos's message

Ministry flows from God's calling, not our abilities - We partner with the Holy Spirit, not our flesh

God judges nations that oppress the poor and ignore His ways

We must be faithful witnesses regardless of the response

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text (15 minutes)

What stood out to you most from Amos's encounter with Amaziah the priest?

Why do you think Amaziah reacted so strongly to Amos's message? What does this reveal about the religious establishment at that time?

How did Amos respond to being told to go home and stop prophesying?

What can we learn from his response?

Personal Reflection (20 minutes)

The sermon mentioned that "a little bit of corruption corrupts the whole."
Where do you see this principle playing out in our culture today?

Have you ever experienced pushback from friends or family when you tried to live more faithfully for Christ? How did you handle it?

Amos said, "I was neither a prophet nor a prophet's son... but the Lord took me." When have you felt inadequate for something God was calling you to do?

Going Deeper (20 minutes)

The pastor said, "Most people only want to do what they think they can do because they have a talent or ability." How is serving in our spiritual gifts different from serving in our natural talents?

God judged Israel for:

Cheating the poor

Dishonest business practices

Religious hypocrisy

How might Christians today be guilty of similar things without realizing it?

The sermon referenced Matthew 24 and Jesus's warnings about the end times. How should awareness of Christ's return affect how we live today without becoming paranoid or complacent?

Application (15 minutes)

What is one area where you sense God calling you to step out in faith, even though you don't feel qualified?

Is there someone in your life who needs to hear truth from you, but you've been hesitant to speak? What's holding you back?

How can we be "ambassadors doing God's will on earth" in practical, everyday ways this week?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to put into practice:

Option 1: Obedience Over Comfort

Identify one thing you believe God has been prompting you to do

Take one concrete step toward obedience this week

Share your experience with the group next time

Option 2: Ministry Assessment

Evaluate your current service in the church

Ask yourself: "Am I serving from my comfort zone or from God's calling?"

Pray about where God might want you to serve differently

Option 3: Truth in Love

Think of one relationship where you've been silent about faith

Pray for an opportunity to share God's truth with humility

Be ready to speak when the Holy Spirit opens the door

Option 4: Justice and Compassion

Identify one way you can serve "the poor and needy" in your community

Take action this week (donate, volunteer, visit, advocate)

Reflect on how God views our treatment of the vulnerable

Memory Verse

Amos 7:15 - "But the Lord took me from tending the flock and said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Guided Prayer Focus:

Pray for courage to obey God's calling even when it's uncomfortable

Pray for our nation to return to God's ways

Pray for those who are suffering or being oppressed

Pray for faithfulness until Christ returns

Pray for specific requests shared by group members

For Further Study

Read Amos chapters 7-9 in their entirety

Compare Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 (Jesus's prophecies)

Study other "unlikely" prophets God called (Moses, Gideon, Jeremiah)

Research the historical context of Amos's ministry

Leader Notes

Be sensitive to those who may be struggling with feelings of inadequacy

Encourage honest sharing about fears and failures

Emphasize God's grace alongside the call to obedience

Don't let the discussion become politically divisive; keep focus on personal application

Create space for silence and reflection, not just talking

Closing Thought: "The true approach to ministry is, God, what do you want me to do and how do you want it done? It's not being a good person and ministering out of the flesh."