STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SUMMER OF LOVE: LOVE IS A VERB!

Read Amos 1:1- 4:13 – Amos’ speech concerning foreign nations and the condition of Israel.

Why does Amos speak harshly of foreign nations and even his own people? What have they done that upset God, and, by proxy, upset Amos?

Read Amos 5:1-17 – Amos’ Lament for Israel

God’s Story

1. In Chapter 5 Amos begins a lament for Israel. What is Amos witnessing that has him troubled according to verse 2-3?
2. In what ways does Israel’s fate look similar to that of foreign nations spoken of in Amos 1:1-4:13?
3. Out of the midst of a troubling time, Amos presents a way forward for the collapsing nation of Israel. According Amos 5:4, what is that way?
4. According to Amos 5:6, what is the alternative way that people seem to be following that is bringing them to ruin?
5. Read Amos 5:8-13. Amos reminds Israel that God is the creator of the world and the one who brings light out of darkness and provides everything for the earth. Just as God was capable of creating everything, God is also capable of destroying everything. Why might God consider taking away the abundance that he provided in the first place, according to Amos?
6. Amos shows the way for fallen Israel, a way that will provide the possibility for a healthy society. Read 5:14-15. According to Amos, what is the basis of a healthy society?

My Story

1. Consider the last time you watched to news. What things did you see that evoked you to lament?
2. Think about the things that you find upsetting when done by others. In what ways do you do the same thing only in different ways to different people?
3. In times of social change, what is the most important first step toward securing a solid future according to Amos 5:4.
4. In what ways do some people get advantages over other people in life? Are all of these advantages earned or equally available to all people? Why or why not?
5. Think about the word, “abundance.” What does it mean to you? Is it ever possible to have more than enough? Why or why not?
6. What is injustice and why is it dangerous for everyone belonging to a society?

