

Study Questions for SUMMER OF LOVE: THE MEASURE OF LOVE!

Read Amos 7:1-17

God’s Story

1. In Amos 7:1-3, God shows Amos a vision of locusts eating the grass of the land. Read Exodus 10. What does the presence of locusts in Amos vision imply for Israel?
2. Amos gets a second vision in 7:4-6. What does Amos see? What might it imply for the future of Israel?
3. One of the most powerful visions of Amos occurs in 7:7-9. It is the vision of the plumb line. If a plumb line is a device that measures the tilt or straightness of a wall, what might God be trying to communicate to Amos about Israel?
4. Amos 7:10-11 speaks of the uncomfortable vocation of a prophet. Why is the work of a prophet difficult, according to this passage?
5. In 7:12-16, Amos gets into a conflict with Amaziah, the priest of Bethel. As a professional priest, Amaziah apparently had an issue with Amos and his words. According to the passage, why might Amaziah have been upset with Amos?
6. Amos 7:17 is the clincher of this section of scripture when Amos announces to Amaziah what the Lord says concerning Israel. What does God say is going to happen to Israel?

My Story

1. Think about yardwork. Have you ever had the occasion when insects, animals or disease blighted your vegetation? If you lived before the age of insecticides when you grew your own food, how would such blight have affected your life?
2. Parts of the United States experience seasonal forest fires. What is the impact of such fires on the lives of people who live in places affected by such events? How does knowledge of this impact help you empathize with Israel as they are confronted by Amos?
3. Think about a wall or window that is not sitting straight. What does an off-kilter wall or window imply or make you feel when you see it? What do you think is going to happen to the house that is off-kilter? Apply the same conclusion to a spiritual house that is off-kilter.
4. Biblical prophets are often assumed to be people who foretell the future, when in fact, they mostly proclaim uncomfortable truths about the present that promise certain future outcomes if things don’t change in the present. How does the honest assessment of your present circumstances aid you in circumventing bad outcomes in your future?
5. The conversation between Amaziah and Amos underscores the way that God oftentimes uses laity in providing the prophetic leadership of God. In what ways, do you see yourself as providing prophetic leadership in your congregation?
6. Amos 7:17 speaks a harsh truth about what Israel became and what happened as a result. In what ways do you see the caution in this passage as calling the church to renewal and recommitment in the modern world?

