



June 2, 2024

**The Lion Roars:  
Week 5 – Let Justice Roll Down**

**Big Idea:** There is enormous opportunity for the church to rise up with acts of justice and love, to bring healing and hope to our neighbourhoods, city, and world.

**Overview:** God is frustrated with Israel. They continue to live in their imaginary world of peace and prosperity, but the favour of God has disappeared. They think they are flourishing, but God, through Amos, has and will judge this wayward nation. Amos critiques this self-confident and mistaken people: their incorrect assumptions and counterfeit worship God is finished with. Amos does not just address the things that are wrong, but rather casts vision for what should be happening instead. Instead of pride and injustice, Amos calls for justice and righteousness. It's not just about what Israel should not do, but rather what needs to take place. This is the call and challenge for KAC: we would humble ourselves before God, offering our whole selves to Him, and loving the world we live in.

**Housekeeping note:** We will not provide Life Group material through the summer as the majority of Life Groups stop meeting. The first weekend without Life Group material will be June 30<sup>th</sup>. We will start providing this guide on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Life Group Objectives:**

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage or dig into the series you are going through as a group. We desire for you to have the Bible play a key role in your time together.
2. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?
3. With a series on biblical justice, think intently on how your group can play a part in being active in your neighborhood through a serve project, or to engage with agencies in our city doing their part to bring lift to marginalized people.

**Conversation starters:**

- What are you looking forward to about the summer?
- What has been your main takeaway from this series in Amos thus far?
- How do we understand and process the tone and tenor of Amos that is direct and confrontational?

**Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

**Read Scripture:** Amos 5:18-27

**Questions for Discussion:**

**1. Mistaken Beliefs – Amos 5:18-20**

- What happens to Israel when they imagine peace with God, when there is none?
- What happens to us, when we live in an imaginary world where our sin has blinded us from reality, and we live disconnected from God (while going through all the motions)?
- We often feel warmed by the love of God and dis comforted by His judgement. How do you make sense of a God who judges Israel like this?

**2. Counterfeit Worship – Amos 5:21-23**

- What does inauthentic (counterfeit) worship look like?
- What does it say about Israel (and about us) that we can go through the religious motions without every engaging our love and affection for Jesus?
- What mechanisms (people, processes) do you have in your life that are able to speak freely to you about what they see in your life (both encouraging and concerning)?

### **3. Worldwide Blessing – Amos 5:24**

- What does justice mean?
- What does righteousness mean?
- Justice and righteousness are like water that keeps a field alive. So it is with our church. How are you engaging in justice and righteousness?

#### **Listening to God:**

- How has God been present in our discussion so far? What themes have emerged?
- Brainstorm how your life group can be more than just a conversational prayer group, and a group that is committed to justice and righteousness.

#### **Prayer Prompts and Application:**

- Be sensitive to the group as this can be a heavy discussion. Give people space to process their thoughts and emotions. Create safety and openness to share and pray. Remember, you are not there to fix all the difficulties or places of dissonance, but simply to point them to Jesus!
- Invite members of the group to share prayer requests. Gently nudge people to go a few levels deeper by being specific and vulnerable.
- Pray for clarity as each person thinks about the sphere of influence they have been sent into. Where is God asking you to engage in, being sanctified and sent to do so?