



June 16, 2024

**The Lion Roars:
Week 6 – The Restoration**

Big Idea: The last word of Christianity is always restoration, redemption, and revival.

Overview: The “prophet” of doom ends with a future hope. One commentator notes this passage is “lavender and roses” instead of “iron and blood.” The last five verses of this minor prophet look forward to a future reality. Exile and judgment will come to Israel, and this occurs in 522 B.C. However, Amos looks past this exile, to a reality that will be. The future hope for Amos is that Israel will be restored and brought back to the former days of David’s reign, with a united kingdom, military expansion and national success. However, the New Testament writers see this passage (Acts 15:16-17) as the fulfillment of Jesus as the true King who will come and restore all that has been lost due to sin. This interpretative shift is necessary as we look back on the Old Testament and interpret these words of Amos. Through Jesus, our true King has come to welcome all into the Kingdom, bringing prosperity, peace, and assurance as the presence, penalty, and power of sin is done away with!

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 30th. We will start providing this guide on September 15th.

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:

- Have you ever been in a challenging season of life that seemed that would never end? How did you make it through?
- What are you currently going through that is heavy that you need encouragement in?

Learning from God’s Word: Bible Study Discussion

Read Scripture: Amos 9:11-15

Questions for Discussion:

1. The King and the Kingdom vs. 11-12

- “David’s fallen shelter...” is the reestablishment of a Kingly ruler like David. In the New Testament, Jesus is the fulfillment of Amos’ prophetic hope as Jesus is in the lineage of David.
 - What has functionally changed in your life because of Jesus’ kingly authority?
 - In what way have you experienced “repair”, “restoration” and “rebuilding” (see vs. 11) because of His kingly rule in your life?
- “Edom” is a lost reference to us. But to ancient Israel, “Edom” was symbolic of everything that stood against God and His people. Amos is telling us that Edom will be included into this future reality.
 - Who in your life symbolizes someone who is so far away from Jesus right now? How can you pray and work toward them understanding who Jesus is?

2. Life and Liberty for All vs. 13-14

- These verses speak of God’s bounty. How are you experiencing the bounty (or plenty) of God right now?

- What does this look like practically? Is it financial? Is it emotional (hope, joy)? Is it relational?
 - Amos is foreseeing a time where the presence and power of sin is no more. The New Testament talks about the “sin that so easily entangles.” What will this existence be like, for us to not have the addictions, pain, brokenness, and despair of this world?
 - The future reality for a follower of Jesus is sure, even when our circumstances aren’t. What are you going through now that demands patience, perseverance, and this future hope Amos speaks about and that Jesus provides?
- 3. The Sure Promise of God vs. 15**
- God reassures Israel that although they will face exile, there will be a moment where they will be restored back to their land. What promise of God are you relying and reciting to yourself currently?

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?