

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: Amos

Main Idea

The book of Amos may be lesser known, but its message is bold and deeply relevant. Amos, a shepherd and fig farmer, was sent to a prosperous yet spiritually drifting nation with a clear warning: God is just, and He will not ignore sin. What began as judgments against surrounding nations quickly turned into a wake-up call for God's own people. The surprise wasn't that God judges sin, it was that His people were not exempt. Through vivid sermons and visions, Amos reminds us that God Himself is the standard. He is the plumb line by which every life is measured.

In a culture that constantly reshapes good and evil, this message presses a personal question: Who or what is our objective moral standard? God calls His people not to conform to the world, but to align their lives with His unchanging truth. Yet even in strong warnings, we see His heart for restoration. As we begin our discussion, let's invite the Lord to search us, straighten what has drifted, and anchor us firmly in Him.

"And the Lord replied, 'I will test my people with this plumb line. I will no longer ignore all their sins.'" AMOS 7:8

(In the Bible, a plumb line is a weighted string used by builders to ensure walls are perfectly vertical, serving as a metaphor for how God is the absolute standard of righteousness and justice.)

Make it Practical:

God Is Just — Sin Will Be Addressed. (Amos 1:3; 2:6; 3:1-2).

- God's judgment began with the surrounding nations but did not stop there.
- His own people were held accountable because they were chosen and knew better.
- Being blessed or chosen by God does not exempt us from obedience.
- God's justice is consistent. He will not ignore sin.

God is the Standard — Not Culture. (Amos 5:14-15; 7:7-8; Romans 12:2).

- The plumb line vision shows that God measures His people by His truth.
- Our definition of good and evil must align with God's, not culture's.
- We are called to seek good, hate evil, and refuse conformity to the world.
- God Himself is the objective moral standard.

God's Judgment is Not His Final Word — Restoration is. (Amos 9:11, 14-15).

- Even in warning, God's heart includes mercy and restoration.
- The book ends with the promise of rebuilding and renewal.
- When we realign with God as our standard, hope and restoration follow.
- God corrects His people in order to restore them.

Talk About It

- In Book of Amos, God's people were surprised to find themselves included in His judgment. Why do you think it's easy to recognize sin "out there" but harder to see it in ourselves? What helps you stay spiritually aware and receptive to correction?
- The vision of the plumb line (Amos 7:7–8) reveals that God measures His people against His own standard. What are some subtle ways culture influences our understanding of right and wrong? How can we intentionally anchor our thinking in God's truth instead?
- The book closes with a promise of restoration (Amos 9:11–15). How have you experienced God using conviction or correction to bring growth or renewal in your life? What does it look like to respond to His discipline with humility and hope?

If God is not your standard, something else already is.

Prayer

Father God, we thank You for Your Word and for the way You lovingly speak to us, even when it's hard to hear. Thank You for being a just God who does not ignore sin, and for being a gracious God who always offers restoration. Search our hearts and reveal anything in us that is misaligned with You. Straighten what has become crooked and renew our minds according to Your truth.

Help us to resist the pull of culture when it conflicts with Your Word. Anchor us in You as our perfect standard. May we seek good, hate evil, and shine as lights in a world that desperately needs Your truth. Restore what needs rebuilding in our lives, and lead us forward in humility and obedience. In Jesus' name, amen.

Next Steps

Invite God to Examine Your Life

Set aside intentional time this week to ask the Lord to search your heart. Pray through Amos 7:7–8 and ask, "Lord, where am I out of alignment with You?" Write down anything He brings to mind and take one concrete step toward obedience.

Anchor Your Mind in God's Standard

Choose one area where culture strongly shapes opinions (success, relationships, sexuality, money, truth, etc.) and study what Scripture says about it. Start with Romans 12:2 and ask God to renew your thinking so that His definition of good and evil becomes your own.

Respond to Conviction with Action

If God has recently convicted you about something, don't delay. Confess it, seek accountability if needed, and make a specific plan to change direction. Remember that conviction is not condemnation, it is an invitation to restoration (Amos 9:11–15).