



Amos

*An
Invitation
to the
Good Life*

JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD

GROUP SESSION ONE



To access the video teaching sessions, use the instructions in the back of your Bible study book.

INTRODUCTION:

The Good Life Is the God Life

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

The good life disappears unless we know how to _____ it correctly.

The Israelites weren't really living the good life because they had rejected the _____ life.

FOUR THEMES IN AMOS:

1. Privilege brings _____.
2. Past history is not a substitute for present _____.
3. Religious ritual is not the same as true _____.
4. God is _____ in judgment and restoration.

If you want to review what you just experienced, go to jenniferrothschild.com/amos to get a written summary of this video message.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

- ▶ Why did you choose to do this study of Amos?
- ▶ How do you think most people in our culture would define the good life? How would you define it?
- ▶ This study will repeatedly state that the God life is the true good life. But why are we sometimes tempted to not believe that truth?
- ▶ Amos was just a common guy called to a God-sized task. How has that also been your story? In what ways is that the story for all of us who follow Christ?
- ▶ Which of the four themes prevalent in the book of Amos intrigues you the most and why?
- ▶ What do you hope to get out of this study of Amos?



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INTRODUCTION:

The Good Life Is the God Life

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

The good life disappears unless we know how to define it correctly.

The Israelites weren't really living the good life because they had rejected the God life.

FOUR THEMES IN AMOS:

1. Privilege brings peril.
2. Past history is not a substitute for present faithfulness.
3. Religious ritual is not the same as true righteousness.
4. God is sovereign in judgment and restoration.

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INVITATION ONE:

Live Assured

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Israel was surrounded by enemies, but God was assuring her of

His _____, _____, and _____.

FOUR THINGS WE CAN DO WHEN WE FEEL SURROUNDED:

1. Feel the _____ but focus on the _____.

2. Pray for _____.

When you feel surrounded, if you don't pray for _____, you'll miss seeing what's really going on.

3. Avoid _____.

4. Show _____.

Your happiness, your thriving in life is based _____ on how people

treat you and _____ on how you treat others.¹⁸

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CONVERSATION GUIDE

DAY ONE: Do you feel qualified to do what God has called you to do? Explain. What are some things you allow to hinder you from serving the Lord? How would you compare the religious climate in Amos's day to the spiritual climate in the church today? If you sense the church is drifting from true worship, are you confronting or contributing to that drift? Explain.

DAY TWO: How have you sensed God's protection and presence surrounding you in the last few days? How has He been the glory in your midst? What helps you leave vengeance and judgment to God when you deal with the wrong done to you and wrong inflicted upon the world?

DAY THREE: How have you seen hate wreak havoc in your own life and the lives of those around you? Why is it difficult to let go of the bitterness and hate we harbor? What steps can you take to express brotherly love to those you find difficult to show love?

DAY FOUR: Do you ever feel like God is far off and not paying attention to the injustices taking place around you? Explain. How can you know that's not true? How can you pray about these injustices? And how does God want you to be an answer to your prayer?

VIDEO: Why is focusing on the facts so important when you feel surrounded? Your happiness and ability to thrive in life is less about how you're treated and more about how you treat others. Do you agree or disagree? Explain. How have you seen this be true in your life? What is something God taught you this week? Why is it so important that you accept God's invitation to live assured?



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INVITATION ONE:

Live Assured

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Israel was surrounded by enemies, but God was assuring her of

His presence, protection, and care.

FOUR THINGS WE CAN DO WHEN WE FEEL SURROUNDED:

1. Feel the feelings but focus on the facts.
2. Pray for vision.

When you feel surrounded, if you don't pray for vision, you'll miss seeing what's really going on.

3. Avoid vengeance.
4. Show generosity.

Your happiness, your thriving in life is based less on how people treat you and more on how you treat others.¹⁸

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GROUP SESSION THREE



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INVITATION TWO:

Live Faithful

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Faithfulness: a “long _____ in the same direction.”¹³

Faithfulness is not a feeling. It’s _____.

FOUR FACTS ABOUT FAITHFULNESS:

1. When we are faithful to God’s _____, we will be faithful to the _____.
2. When we are faithful to God’s Word, we will experience _____.
Three benefits of wonder/awe:
 1. _____.
 2. _____.
 3. _____.
3. Faithfulness has a _____.
4. _____ has a greater cost.

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CONVERSATION GUIDE

- DAY ONE:** How have you found yourself rejecting God’s Word? Are there certain times, seasons, or situations when you are more prone to do this? Explain. What does it mean for you to embrace God’s Word, and how does that change the trajectory of your sin spiral?
- DAY TWO:** How and why does physical prosperity become a sin trap for us? How has that happened in your life? How can you guard against that happening? What are some other weak areas of your life that the enemy exploits to lure you to sin? How have you experienced the strength, grace, and forgiveness of the Lord in these areas?
- DAY THREE:** How can intentional remembering of how God has worked in the past help shape how we live with hope in our present and future? Who are the people in your past that God used to steer you toward Him? What did they do and how did it make a difference in your faithfulness to the Lord?
- DAY FOUR:** When was a time God carried you through a difficult circumstance or season? How did He show you His faithful love and care? How was Jesus the ultimate burden bearer for us?
- VIDEO:** How would you explain the phrase, Faithfulness is a “long obedience in the same direction”?¹⁴ How has faithfulness to the Lord been costly for you? How have you experienced joy in your faithfulness? What is something God taught you this week? Why is it so important that you accept God’s invitation to live faithful?

INVITATION TWO:

Live Faithful

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Faithfulness: a “long obedience in the same direction.”¹³

Faithfulness is not a feeling. It’s obedience.

FOUR FACTS ABOUT FAITHFULNESS:

1. When we are faithful to God’s Word, we will be faithful to the work.
2. When we are faithful to God’s Word, we will experience wonder.
Three benefits of wonder/awe:
 1. Improves critical thinking.
 2. Improves your health.
 3. Improves relationships.
3. Faithfulness has a cost.
4. Unfaithfulness has a greater cost.

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INVITATION THREE:

Live Chosen

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Our identity begins with _____.

You _____ your identity.

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT IDENTITY:

- 1. Identity impacts _____.
- 2. Your identity demands _____.
- 3. Your identity should initiate _____.

For our identity to be secure and grounded so that it initiates the proper action, we must completely identify with _____.

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CONVERSATION GUIDE

DAY ONE: How does knowing you are God's chosen and loved family affect the way you see God, yourself, and His purpose for you? On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being "I don't know God at all" and 10 being "I know God intimately," how would you rate your current relationship with Him? Why did you choose your score? What can you do to continually push that score higher?

DAY TWO: Why is it so important for us to understand that while God's love is deep and unconditional, it is not permissive or passive? How does that truth affect our daily walk with Him? How should it affect the way we view and relate to those around us who don't know Christ? Amos used his words skillfully to share the message God had for His people. Would you say you're doing the same? Explain. How can you better use your words to encourage believers and share the gospel with the lost?

DAY THREE: Have you ever been taunted, disrespected, or rejected because of your willingness to speak truth? Explain. How did that affect your faith? How did God use that experience in your life and witness? Is God currently asking you to take a step of faith and obedience that brings inherent risk? If not, take a moment and ask God to give you courage when that time comes. If so, how are you responding?

DAY FOUR: Do you have a sandpaper person in your life? If so, what is that person doing that is rubbing you raw? How are you dealing with that person? How does facing opposition often indicate you are walking in obedience? How does your identification with Christ give you strength to keep moving forward in joy and with purpose?

VIDEO: What's the difference in hoarding our identity versus stewarding it? How does knowing whose we are affect how we understand who we are? What is something God taught you this week? Why is it so important that you accept God's invitation to live chosen?





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INVITATION THREE:

Live Chosen

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Our identity begins with God.

You steward your identity.

THREE TRUTHS ABOUT IDENTITY:

1. Identity impacts influence.
2. Your identity demands integrity.
3. Your identity should initiate action.

For our identity to be secure and grounded so that it initiates the proper action, we must completely identify with Christ.

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INVITATION FOUR:

Live Humble

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Humility is not just an attribute, not just an attitude. It is an _____.

QUALITIES OF A HUMBLE WOMAN:

1. A humble woman has a right _____ of herself.

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself _____.”¹⁸

2. A humble woman has a right _____ of her _____.

To be contrite means you have remorse over your sin, which leads to _____, which results in restored _____.

3. A humble woman has a right _____ for _____.

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CONVERSATION GUIDE

DAY ONE: Why is pride such a hindrance to our faithful walk with Christ and our service to Him? How have you seen pride negatively affect your spiritual life? What would you say are the qualities of a humble person? Which of these qualities are most difficult for you to embody? What needs to happen for you to walk in humility more consistently?

DAY TWO: How do you see the damaging attitudes of apathy and entitlement in our culture? How do you see these things present in your life? What effect are they having in your faith walk? What are some specific things you can do or choices you need to make to live selflessly rather than selfishly?

DAY THREE: Spiritual rituals and traditions are not all bad, but what could be the danger of continuing to do the same thing over and over? Have you ever seen those negative effects in the life of a church you were attending? What are some possible warning signs that you're just going through the motions in your spiritual life? What could be the consequences if you continue down this path?

DAY FOUR: Probably none of us have gold statues in our house we pray to, but we still have idols. How would you define “idol”? And what are some things in your life that can become an idol to you? How does pride make it difficult to admit we're wrong? Why is being able to recognize and acknowledge error so important in our spiritual lives?

VIDEO: Do you think you have a right estimate of yourself? If not, what hinders your ability to evaluate honestly? Why is it so important that you see yourself rightly? If humility is not just an attitude and attribute but also an action, how are you actively seeking to live humbly? What is something God taught you this week? Why is it so important that you accept God's invitation to live humble?



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1. A humble woman has a right estimate of herself.

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2. A humble woman has a right assessment of her sin.

To be contrite means you have remorse over your sin, which leads to repentance, which results in restored joy.

3. A humble woman has a right adoration for God’s Word.

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INVITATION FIVE:

Live Justly

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Justice is not _____. Justice is righteous _____.

Three elements of living justly:

1. _____ action
2. _____ action

Two elements to our private action of living justly:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____ action

The foundation of God's throne is _____ and _____.

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CONVERSATION GUIDE

DAY ONE: What are some current issues or situations that prompt you to lament for our world, country, community, or your family? A key phrase in Amos is "Seek God and live." What does that mean to you, and how are you currently living that out?

DAY TWO: Who are the "least of these" in your community? How are you and your church seeking to meet their needs and treat them righteously and justly? What does it look like for you to hate evil and avoid evil?

DAY THREE: How does our self-interest get in the way of treating people righteously and justly? The Israelites had lost sight of the true character of God and His purposes in the world. Does that ever happen to you? Explain. How can you maintain a right understanding of God and His ways?

DAY FOUR: If fruit reveals our hearts, what is your fruit revealing at this moment about the status of your heart? Do you ever grow weary of doing good? Explain. What's the main culprit that zaps your strength to do good? How can you guard yourself against this kind of exhaustion?

VIDEO: What does it look like in your life to shun evil or actively oppose it? Is lament a part of your prayer life? If so, in what way? If not, why should it be? What is something God taught you this week? Why is it so important that you accept God's invitation to live justly?



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INVITATION FIVE:

Live Justly

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Justice is not activism. Justice is righteous action.

Three elements of living justly:

1. Public action
2. Private action

Two elements to our private action of living justly:

1. Lament
 2. Repent
3. Perpetual action

The foundation of God's throne is justice and righteousness.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

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INVITATION SIX:

Live Prayerful

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

THREE ELEMENTS OF HOW TO PRAY LIKE AMOS:

1. Women who pray like Amos confirm God's _____.

There is a difference between God's _____ and

God's _____.

We want what our Master _____ for us, not necessarily what we

_____ for ourselves.

2. Women who pray like Amos cry out for _____.

We deserve _____ from God.

3. Women who pray like Amos _____ their _____

and _____.

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CONVERSATION GUIDE

DAY ONE: How would you explain the sovereignty of God? Why is this aspect of God's character so important? How has God's sovereignty been evident in your life? What does it mean to intercede for someone? For whom do you need to be interceding right now?

DAY TWO: When God answers your prayers, does it usually happen quickly, or does it take a while for Him to respond? Give an example of each. What's the last prayer you prayed that God answered? Do you consider your prayers to be powerful and effective? Why or why not?

DAY THREE: If you were to measure your life right now against the plumb line of God's Word, how straight would you be? In what areas of your life would it show crookedness? In the parable mentioned in the Day Three study, who are you more like—the Pharisee or the tax collector? Explain.

DAY FOUR: How does living prayerful open the eyes and ears of your heart? Are you making some choices right now that you possibly will regret in the days to come? Explain. What will it take for you to make different choices?

VIDEO: What's the difference in praying for God to act in His power and praying for God to act according to His authority? How does acknowledging we have needs help us be spiritually healthy? What is something God taught you this week? Why is it so important that you accept God's invitation to live prayerful?



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INVITATION SIX:

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BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

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1. Women who pray like Amos confirm God's authority.

There is a difference between God's authority and

God's power.

We want what our Master desires for us, not necessarily what we

desire for ourselves.

2. Women who pray like Amos cry out for mercy.

We deserve nothing from God.

3. Women who pray like Amos confess their frailty

and need.

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INVITATION SEVEN:

Live Hopeful

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

If _____ is the narrator, this story is going to end OK.

THREE PLOT TWISTS OF HOPE:

1. Hope _____ fallen things.

John 1:14 says the Word became flesh and _____ among us.

If your God is _____, then so is your hope. But if your God is

not _____, then never will your hope be dead, and your God is

not _____.

2. Hope _____ broken things.

3. Hope _____ all things.

Earth is _____, and heaven is _____.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

DAY ONE: What are some things outside of Christ that people in the world put their hope in? Do you ever find yourself shifting your hope to some of those things? Explain. What does it mean that we are hidden in Christ? How would you explain that to a new believer? And why is there such hope in that truth?

DAY TWO: How does knowing God is sovereign give us hope? Are you currently facing a situation that just knowing God is sovereign brings you comfort and helps you keep looking forward? Explain. How are *nevertheless* and *but God* words of hope? What's a *nevertheless* or *but God* moment in your life when the Lord stepped into your mess and turned it around?

DAY THREE: Do you look forward to the "day of the LORD," or do you dread it? Explain. Why does knowing this future "day" is coming give you hope? Our God is a God of restoration. What are some things you're looking forward to God restoring?

DAY FOUR: What are some blessings of restoration you have seen in your life and the lives of those around you? What hope and comfort do you find in knowing that God is not finished with you yet and that He is carrying on to completion what He started in you?

VIDEO: How has hope repaired things in your life? One day God will renew all things. What are you most looking forward to in that day? What is something God taught you this week? Why is it so important that you accept God's invitation to live hopeful?

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INVITATION SEVEN:

Live Hopeful

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

If *hope* is the narrator, this story is going to end OK.

THREE PLOT TWISTS OF HOPE:

1. Hope *raises* fallen things.

John 1:14 says the Word became flesh and *tabernacled* among us.

If your God is *dead*, then so is your hope. But if your God is not *dead*, then never will your hope be dead, and your God is not *dead*.

2. Hope *repairs* broken things.

3. Hope *renews* all things.

Earth is *short*, and heaven is *long*.

Don't forget to go to jenniferrothschild.com/amos to get a written summary of the video message sent to your inbox.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

- DAY ONE:** What are some things outside of Christ that people in the world put their hope in? Do you ever find yourself shifting your hope to some of those things? Explain. What does it mean that we are hidden in Christ? How would you explain that to a new believer? And why is there such hope in that truth?
- DAY TWO:** How does knowing God is sovereign give us hope? Are you currently facing a situation that just knowing God is sovereign brings you comfort and helps you keep looking forward? Explain. How are *nevertheless* and *but God* words of hope? What's a *nevertheless* or *but God* moment in your life when the Lord stepped into your mess and turned it around?
- DAY THREE:** Do you look forward to the "day of the LORD," or do you dread it? Explain. Why does knowing this future "day" is coming give you hope? Our God is a God of restoration. What are some things you're looking forward to God restoring?
- DAY FOUR:** What are some blessings of restoration you have seen in your life and the lives of those around you? What hope and comfort do you find in knowing that God is not finished with you yet and that He is carrying on to completion what He started in you?
- VIDEO:** How has hope repaired things in your life? One day God will renew all things. What are you most looking forward to in that day? What is something God taught you this week? Why is it so important that you accept God's invitation to live hopeful?