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## Growth Group Homework

Reading the week of May 10-14, 2021

*Discussing the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>*

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### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. In your memory of anger, what situation do you remember made you the most upset?
2. Have you ever given testimony or spoken up in another's defense? In the case, what was easy or hard for you to do?

### GOING DEEPER/ Dixon First Reads Together

**Amos: *Characteristics*:** Whereas his contemporary, Hosea, focuses on the love of God and spiritual adultery, Amos focuses on the righteousness of God and social injustice. He often makes his points by use of a simple rhetorical question (e.g., 5:25). Amos speaks as a simple Judean farmer burdened for the materialistic nation of Israel. His prayer averts the total destruction of Israel (7:1-6), and yet his message was most unpopular. However, social acceptance didn't matter to one whose job was not on the line (7:12-15). In Amos, God roars like a lion (1:2) and brings hope only at the end (9:11-15). The book of Amos is constantly shadowed by clouds of judgment as the Lord reacts to the cruel social events in the land. Amos' message is an uncomfortable one in any age. Amos challenges us to examine ourselves and our society and to confront in justice wherever we find it.<sup>1</sup>

**Monday: *Amos 4: Cows of Bashan***

For Amos, the way we treat the needy is the area by which we are judged. To what extent do you think the Christian churches get involved in trying to alleviate poverty and oppression?

What would it mean for you to prepare to meet God? Would that instill in you fear or joy?

**Tuesday: *Amos 5: Justice Like a River***

Recall a time you wanted, even prayed, for someone you loved to make a positive change in their life. What happened and how did you feel about it?

The Lord says, "Seek me and live" (v.4) What spiritual disciplines help you feel more alive in the Lord?

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<sup>1</sup> Serendipity Bible, For Personal and Small Group Study

**Wednesday: Amos 6 : Perversion of Justice**

Think about three areas of your life in which you feel somewhat insecure. What are they?

What do you think is the difference between pride and confidence? Do you think you can develop confidence without pride? If so, how? If not, why?

**Thursday: Amos 7 : Amos Refutes Amaziah**

Have you ever prayed like Amos, “God, I beg you to stop”? If so, how did God answer? If not, in what situation would you expect yourself to pray like this?

If there is one thing out of the ordinary that God is calling you to do, what would it be?2021

**Friday: Amos 8 : Fruit Basket Upset**

Comparing our church to a tree, what do you think we see in it, baby seeding, full blossoms, green fruit, good fruit, or overripe fruit? Why do you think so?

If there is a strange silence of the Bible in the churches, how would you account for that? What do you think makes us deaf to God?

Prayer Requests:

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**Growth Group Community Service Project**

We ask every group to take on at least one service project a year (the ideal is two) and to have at least one social gathering (potluck) per half a year. Please consider with your group members of what community service you'd like to participate in. There is a project list made by our church that you can join in and outside the church.

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