Week 9 Amos

Connect: choose 1 question and discuss for 5-7 minutes.

Describe one incident where you have seen justice and righteousness prevail where what is wrong is made

Name one person from fiction or history that you admire as an advocate for justice and say why.

Read these passages aloud:

Amos 2:6-3:15 -

Amos 5:21-24 - The Day of the LORD, a dark day

Amos 6:11-14

Amos 7:14-17 -

Amos 9:11-12 nadom

Engage the text as a group:

1. What do you observe?

2. What questions do you have of these texts?

favor?

Why does Amos matter?

The book of Amos matters because it shows us how deeply God cares for the lowly, the downtrodden, the oppressed, and the marginalized. The book of Amos shows us that Israel wrongly understood material prosperity or economic the wealthy in Israel who built up and hoarded

wealth at the expense of the poor, and God shows compassion for the poor who are being oppressed.

Right now, the richest nation on earth and the most powerful in military might is the United States. Many who live in the U.S experience material prosperity and the comfort and luxuries that come along with that. However, there are still many who live in poverty and struggle with how to get out of it. Sociologists, economists, and psychologists point to the shrinking of living-wage employment opportunities, institutional racism, the variations in educational opportunities, and the burden of health care costs as a few of the reasons why it can be so challenging for poor people in a very wealthy country to access any of that wealth for themselves. Historians also remind us that the USeconomy was built through slave labor and the genocide of the native peoples. We must not ignore or forget that. We need to be honest about the wn like

waters and right eousness like an ever-flowing stream.

To be clear: the United States is not ancient Israel. But, some may be tempted to

on of Israel did. The book of Amos shows us that this is not habitually doing the rituals God required while persisting in economics, customs, and politics that further oppressed the poor was breaking the very rituals they were supposed to

The book of Amos provides an opportunity for us to ask ourselves: in what ways are we paying lip service in our but not living it out? How can our social and economic practices, our language, our friendships, our politics, our charitable giving or volunteering relieve the financial pressures of those who live



necessarily the case.

be honoring.

right toward the poor as an expression of their faith. God requires the same of us today.

