THRIVE: REFLECT • CONNECT • ACT

REFLECT

Amos 5:21-24

Amos identifies as a shepherd and cultivator of sycamore-fig trees. He warns of coming judgment on the people of Israel & Judah. Scholars date his message between 760-755 BCE. Amos calls the nation to repentance for the ways the rich take advantage of the poor, saying the judgment will take the shape of extended drought and famine.

- How does this background affect your understanding of his image of justice rolling down like water and righteousness like an ever flowing steam?
- How does this metaphor speak to you about justice and righteousness?

CONNECT

- If Amos were alive today, what do you think his observations about life in our city/state/country might be?
- Who are some people you consider to be modern-day prophets—men and women willing to challenge the powerful and speak up for the marginalized?

ACT

Think about an issue that angers and/or confuses you. Then, use these guiding questions to consider:

1. What makes you feel angry and/or confused about this issue?
2. What specific context and/or population is directly affected?
3. Are you and/or your community are affected by this issue? What is your and/or your community's personal experience with it? What are some similarities and/or differences?

Research organizations working toward justice on this issue. Make an action plan with those you are close with.



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Did you know...

Biblical prophets were not fortune tellers, but were individuals who spoke on behalf of God, typically calling the nation to repentance. They spoke truth to power.

Frequently, they began their message with warnings but ended with a word of hope for restoration.

Sixteen prophets lend their names to books of the Bible. Amos was one of the so-called minor prophets. This designation was not a reflection on the importance of their messages, but the relative brevity of the books