WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

# Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

**Series Title**: Spiritual Famine
**Key Scripture**: Amos 8:1-14
**Recorded Sermon**: https://www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/spiritual-famine
**Date + Speaker**: October 27, 2024; Pastor Mark Scarr

**Starter**:
Imagine what it must have been like to be a prophet in the days of old. How did they get their message across without radio or the internet?

**Discussion**:

1. Pastor Mark mentions how everything was going great for the Israelites and how that lured them to ignore their spiritual and moral depravity. How do "good times" lead us to spiritual slumber? How can we ensure that we do not drift away from God and into spiritual slumber in "good times"?
2. In Amos 1:1, Amos is "just" a shepherd from Tekoa. What significance does his background have on his role as a prophet, and what can we learn about God's choice in using "ordinary" individuals for extraordinary purposes? How does Amos' introduction set the stage for his messages?
3. Pastor Mark says that God's Word is a boundary to protect us and bring us freedom. How does God's Word bring freedom? Freedom from what? What are the boundaries that God's Word sets? What do they protect us from?
4. Pastor Mark says true worship is living out our faith 24/7. He also mentions how our actions during the week might not match our Sunday worship. How is this mismatch manifested? How can we live out our faith outside of Church? What Scriptures help us to build and strengthen and live out our faith?
5. Amos' warning starts with Judah and the surrounding nations (Amos 1:3-14), but there was a later message for Israel (Amos 2:6-16). How does that help us understand how we might draw lessons from messages that we do not think are directed at us?
6. Amos delivers messages of judgment against various nations. How does this illustrate the role of a prophet in calling out sin, and what lessons can we draw for speaking out against wrongdoing that we notice today?

7. We are God's chosen family (Amos 3:2). How does that relate to his decision to pass judgement? What does this teach us about the relationship between our spiritual privilege and responsibility?
8. Pastor Mark speaks about how three signifies completeness of sins and four is an overflow of sins (Amos 1:3-13; Amos 2:4-8). What does it teach us of God's character that even after the overflow of four sins, He still patiently warns us and does not push the "judgement" button?
9. In Amos 7:1-4, Amos describes a vision of locusts and fire devouring the land. How does this vision symbolize the coming judgment?
10. In Amos 8:13&14, we see the despair that will come upon those who rely on idols. How does this help us understand where we should place our trust and security?

**Diving Deeper**:

11. Pastor Mark says that God's Word helps make our faith go up.
Reflect on our collective responsibility as a Christian community in creating spaces where the Word of Christ is heard, and even contributing to the spread of the Gospel. How can we support each other in this mission?
12. Reflect on the significance of prophets in the Bible and on Amos' prophetic role. How does Amos' interaction with God show the relationship between divine judgment and prophetic intercession?
13. Amos sees the Lord standing by the altar (Amos 9:1). How does this vision emphasize God's control and authority over judgment? Considering the people's inability to escape God's judgment (Amos 9:1-4) what does this teach us about our own need for repentance and dependence on God's mercy?
14. While this teaching speaks of judgment, how can we find hope and redemption in the broader context of Amos and the Scriptures?