

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS FOR THE MINOR PROPHETS OF ISRAEL – PRE-EXILE JONAH, HOSEA, AMOS

WARM UP

What are the things currently happening in America that you believe grieve the heart of God most? Why?

EXPLORATION

1. Jonah, Amos and Hosea were all written during the time of King Jeroboam II of Israel prior to the exile into Assyria. His reign lasted 41 years, and while he was politically powerful and economically successful, he was an evil king. (Read 2 Kings 14:23-29 for background)
2. Read Amos 2:4-8 and Hosea 4:1-3. What were the Israelites primary sins? What were the consequences?
3. Read Hosea chapters 1 & 3. How does God use the prophet Hosea's life as an example to Israel of their behavior? How does Hosea's experience provide a description of what our sin feels like to God?
4. Read Hosea 6:1-10 and 10:12-13. What is Hosea revealing about the heart of God and the heart of Israel in these passages?

5. The book of Jonah is unique in that it is historical narrative and Jonah, the prophet, wants nothing to do with God's mission for him. Read Jonah 1:1-3. Why was Jonah resisting God's call?

6. Read Jonah 3:1-4:1. What happened that made Jonah so angry? Why do you think God would use a guy like this in such an amazing way.

APPLICATION

These prophets illustrate the fact that God chooses very different people and means to proclaim His message of repentance. Each of them was called way out of their comfort zone. Which of them can you most resonate with? Why?

We have all been entrusted by God with bringing the message of the "good news" of Jesus to people around us. Being faithful to speak it out in places that seem antagonistic is difficult. Share your present greatest difficulty in being faithful to this message and pray for each other.