

Amos chapter 5

A picture of life in Israel v 7-13

What sort of picture do we get of the people of Israel in these verses? What have they forgotten (v8-9)?

What God sees in Israel, v4-6, 14-15 and 18-26

What is the difference between seeking God and seeking Bethel (v4-5)? [Look at v18-26 for some examples of it.] Why does it matter?

What God will do, v1-3, 16-17 and 27

The first section of the chapter (1-17) begins with a funeral lament (v1-3) and ends with a reminder of the events of the Exodus. Read Exodus 11:4-7, which v16-17 seem to be echoing. With that context in mind, why are v3 and v16-17 so shocking?

How will all this end, v27?

Thinking it through

How has this passage challenged your view of church?

How can we make sure that we are seeking God rather than 'church going'? How might this affect what we do before, during and after church (and life group)?

How is seeking and loving good linked to seeking God? Why are both needed?

Can you think of examples of what seeking and loving good might look like in our Monday to Friday lives?

For individual reflection

What things do I need to change so that I seek God and not religion?

What things can I change so that I seek good and speak for good?