

The Common Thread

Amos: Righteousness and Justice Redefined

Community Group Questions

1. What were your general impressions and takeaways from the AMOS videos shown in this message?
2. Discuss the following verse: **Amos 5:24 ESV**—“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”
3. How do we generally define “righteousness” in our religious circles? How does God define it?
4. Discuss this statement: “You can’t be righteous outside of receiving God’s righteousness, but you can’t do righteousness outside of treating people as God treats them. Israel kept many parts of God’s rules, but ignored treating people the way that God treated them, which was his definition of righteousness.”
5. How does idolatry lead to a perversion of justice, as Amos pointed out in Israel’s treatment of the poor and marginalized?
6. Discuss this statement: “He was showing mercy because he was reserving the “punishment” part of judgment for Himself on the cross. Now, justice for us is not pointing out all that is wrong in someone else, though there is a lot. Justice is showing the mercy of God to others, especially the poor and marginalized.”
7. “God’s justice says that we owe people a debt of love in direct proportion to the price Christ paid to redeem us.” Discuss this statement in light of **Romans 13:8 ESV**—“Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who **loves** another has fulfilled the law.”