

Lectionary Bible Study

For Sunday, July 14, 2024 (Pentecost 8)

Amos 7:7-15

Discussion Starters

1. What is a plumb line? What does it mean to be "true to plumb?"
2. Who is Amos, and what is his role in this story?
3. Who is Amaziah, and what is his role in this story? Why would he want Amos out of Israel?
4. What would be unusual about a prophet from Judah speaking to the people of Israel?
5. What qualified Amos to be a prophet? What qualifies someone today to speak the word of the Lord?

Ephesians 1:3-14

Discussion Starters

1. What do you know about the city of Ephesus? The church at Ephesus?
2. Describe the "blessings in Christ" that are bestowed on Christians.
3. How does being "chosen" by God relate to our salvation? How do you know if you are chosen?
4. What has God done for us, according to this passage?

Mark 6:14-29

Discussion Starters

1. Why does the writer of this gospel include this "flashback" as he writes about the sending out of the disciples?
2. Why might Jesus be mistaken for John the Baptist or Elijah?
3. Why did Herod jail John? Why did he behead him?
4. Would you consider John's ministry to have been a success or a failure?

WRAP UP

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?