

## Block 1: Amos the Prophet

### Lesson 1: The life and ministry of Amos

- 1.1.1 Get the students to share their hopes for the course.
- 1.1.3 Remind students of the need to read the text of Amos for themselves and to take their own notes. For many people, this is the best way of remembering what is in the Bible.
- 1.1.6 Make sure students know where the map is to be found (p.???) and that they can check their answers with the map on px.
- 1.1.9 How did people get on with the timeline? Remind them that they can check this against our timeline on p???. It may be that some students will have access to other resources that do not give exactly the same dates as ours. You will have to help students to recognise that dating Old Testament events is usually an art not a science.
- 1.1.16 E.g. humiliated, isolated, insecure, angry, a failure...? For some students, it will appear to be a pointless exercise to imagine what the prophet felt. For others it will be highly significant and will help them 'enter into the world of the text'.
- 1.1.22 Get students to share their thoughts. Is it helpful to have outsiders come and share God's message? Are we willing to listen?

### Lesson 2: The context of Amos' ministry

- 1.2.9 There is an interesting parallel passage in Exodus 32, where Aaron makes the golden calf and seems to suggest that they are worshipping the Lord (see Exodus 32:2-5). Are our claims to worship God alone actually sometimes muddled and confused? See if people can give specific examples.
- 1.2.14 Was Amos' prophecy simply a prediction of what was going to happen or was he proclaiming God's judgment on Amaziah for rejecting his message? What role, if any, does judgement and warning have to play in today's church?
- 1.2.16 For Discussion if needed. Point students to the reading at the end of the Block.
- 1.2.18-20 Make sure that students have grasped the relationship between Background, Message and Application and the steps Observe, Explain, Apply. Check whether they are happy with the questions to ask when interpreting a text.

### Lesson 3: The contents of the book of Amos: Chapters 1-6

- 1.3.7 Make sure that students are clear about why it is important to note when one section ends and another begins (even when we may not

agree!). Note how different conclusions about this affect the meaning of the passage.

- 1.3.9 Did students find the places on the map?
- 1.3.12 Does anyone think that Amos' prophecies were delivered to the nations rather than spoken in Israel? Are they able to argue their point convincingly? If so, make sure you encourage them.
- 1.3.14 What do people think here? Do they agree with the feedback given? I think that it has something to do with the dramatic effect of drawing in Amos' hearers so that his main argument strikes home with greater force. However, I don't think that Amos was simply making up the judgement God would bring on the other nations.
- 1.3.16 Encourage the students to enter their headings into the outline in Appendix 1. This process will help them remember the content of the book.