



# CURRENT

session page

## Walk the Line

**Amos 7:7-15 | Session 10.28**

### Before the Session

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Thoroughly review all the referenced resources for this session in advance.
- Encourage your group to listen to the Faithelement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at [faithelement.net](http://faithelement.net).

### Context

Watch together this [video of the Poor People's Campaign](#) and ask:

- What current situation do you think most lends itself to a revival of the the Poor People's Campaign?
- What are your thoughts of groups that have lately been protesting social injustices?
- In what ways do you think our stances on social injustice line up with God's plumb line?
- For what events are we willing to take a stand on despite what our leaders say?

## Content

Read [Amos 7:7-15](#), and watch the Bible Background Video for this session.

Continue by asking the group:

- Why do you think so many people tend to confuse the idea of a prophet, who literally speaks for God, with a soothsayer, who predicts the future?
- What is the purpose of a plumb line?
- In what ways does Amos' image of a plumb-line translate to our lives and why would he use that illustration to his original audience?
- If a prophet walked into our church or community and stretched out a plumb line to measure us, how would we expect our leaders to reply and why?
- Given that Amos was asked to leave the city after prophesying, what have we learned from this experience that we can apply, as a society today?
- What does it mean to say "the land cannot bear the weight of those words," especially in today's context?
- What kinds of things make us reluctant to speak, as Amos was?

## Closure

Continue by watching John Dickerson's [commentary on civility](#) and asking:

- How do you feel about this commentary and why?
- We have heard a lot of talk on social media and in reports of "Why can't we just be civil?" and "Listen to everybody and respect others' opinions," yet prophets, like Amos, called out society for not taking care of widows, children, orphans and others. Why were his actions considered to be the "proper" actions of a prophet, while doing so in today's climate might not be?
- To what degree do Christians have a responsibility to point out injustice versus appearing "civil?"
- How do we navigate the difference between the need to turn the other cheek and the need to speak or act?
- On what social issues might God be calling you to speak with a prophetic voice?

Close with a prayer that God may lead us to stand up when appropriate and care for "the least of these."

**Writers: Crystal Shepherd and Steve McClain**