



MIND
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.
- 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.

Context

Start by asking:

- What kinds of expectations do we have of other people with whom we are in relationships?
- How often are those expectations spoken aloud?
- What happens when they are not met?
- What expectations are there in our relationship with God, whether from our side or from God's?
- What happens when those expectations aren't met, from either side?

Content

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

- When Amos uses this image, what is he saying about the people's behavior?
- What might be the measuring "standard" to which they are being compared?
- What must we do when a wall or structure is out of alignment or off-plumb?

Have someone read [Amos 2:6-8](#), [5:11-15](#), and [5:21-24](#), then continue by asking:

- What "standard" is Amos' plumb line set to measure, and in what ways do those standards continue to apply?
- What is God saying must be done to these people who have strayed so far from his expectations?
- Since Amaziah seemed to think Amos' message was too strong ("the land is not able to bear all his words,"), what might we assume the people were used to hearing... or wanted to hear?
- Since Amaziah wrongly assumed that Amos was a professional prophet, making money for his messages, how might Amos' background and calling give even more weight to his message – both then and today?

Closure

Continue by asking:

- While some Christians place a lot of emphasis on “orthodoxy” – what we believe and what we say, or how we worship - why is it so hard to put a “plumb line” against someone’s beliefs or ways of worship?
- In what ways might our behaviors toward others reveal our beliefs about God?
- How clearly are God’s expectations of our behavior toward others spelled out in the Bible and what does it mean that so many might answer such a question differently?
- Where else might we look to discover those expectations or standards of what it means to be just?
- If Amos were to come into our communities of faith today, what do you think his message would be?
- How do you think we line up when placed by the plumb line?

Close with prayer.