



AMOS 5:4-9

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| 02 |
| MAY 2021 |

SEEK GOD AND LIVE

Bethel is the house of God. It is the location where Jacob dreamt of seeing angels and God.

Gilgal is a place of the new beginning. Gilgal was the first place where Israel camped in the land of promise and where Passover was celebrated.

Beersheba was the place where Abraham made a treaty with Abimelech, king of the Philistines in Gerar to form an alliance. Beersheba was a place where Isaac and Jacob came into contact with God.

Bethel, Gilgal and Beersheba symbolize big and memorable events that cause people to call upon the name of God.

Through Amos, God was saying that those events and places would not be able to help or rescue them although they might have had a powerful history that verified God's power. The only one who can save and rescue us is God alone.

We do not idolize people, memorable places or big events. We seek God in person to experience a fruitful and truthful life.

Key verse:

*Amos 5:6a
Come to the
Lord and live.*

Prayer

*Dear God, remind
me always to
always seek You
in spirit and in
truth. Remind
me always about
how great and
powerful You are.
Amen.*





03

MAY
2021

AMOS 7:7-9

THE PLUMB LINE

In order to get a driving license, a person has to take an exam and ensure to pass the passing grade. If the result is below the passing grade, he fails. If the result is within or above the passing grade, he passes and will obtain the driving license.

The passing grade is the benchmark or standard of measurement. God showed Amos a plumb line to demonstrate that as God's people, we also have to live to a certain benchmark or standard. A plumb line is a line or a cord that has at one end a weight and is used to determine verticality. It is used mostly during making a wall to ensure that the wall is vertically straight by measuring the gap between the plumb line and the wall. If it is not equal all the way up, it means the wall is not yet straight and thus needs correction.

Our plumb line is God's word. God's words should be our standard of how we live. Ask the Holy Spirit to correct you each day so that you will always be in line with the word of God.

Key verse:

*Romans 12:2
Don't change yourselves to be like the people of this world, but let God change you inside with a new way of thinking.*

Prayer

Holy Spirit, guide me to be in line with Your word, as the plumb line in my daily life. Amen.





04

MAY
2021

OBADIAH 1:8-15

DON'T REJOICE OVER OTHERS' MISFORTUNE

The Edomites are the descendants of Esau, while the Israelites are the descendants of Jacob. Esau and Jacob were twins. Edom was located at a very strategic location with rugged mountainous terrain that would be easily defended if they were attacked. It was also located at a crossroads where most trading and business took place. It made them rich and so prideful.

When the Israelites were invaded by the Babylonians, the Edomites didn't try to help them. Even worse, they gloated over the misfortune of Israel and helped the Babylonians loot the city and mistreat the people!

God showed a vision about Edom to the prophet Obadiah that due to their pride, violence, bad attitude and mistreatment to the Israelites, a big calamity would fall upon them and they would be driven away from their homeland by the Nabateans.

Let us learn from the Edomites' mistakes. Let's not gloat over other people's misfortune, including the person who has hurt us before. On the other hand, when someone else rejoices over our misfortune, remember that God is watching and will defend us with His own ways.

Key verse:

*Obadiah 1:12a
You should not have laughed at your brother's trouble.*

Prayer

*Dear God,
give me a compassionate heart to always help the weak.
May my life be a blessing to others. Amen.*





JONAH 1

05

MAY
2021

YOU CAN NEVER RUN AWAY FROM GOD

God gave Jonah a task to go to Nineveh to remind the people to stop doing evil. However, Jonah was naughty. Instead of going to Nineveh, he went to Joppa which was the opposite route from Nineveh. He was running away from God. He was fleeing from God's plan.

Of course, nothing would stop God's plan. Nobody can escape God's plan. During Noah's journey, God sent a big storm that caused the people in the ship to throw Jonah into the sea! Only after he was thrown overboard did the sea stop raging. Due to this, Jonah was not able to continue his journey to Joppa.

There are things that we feel so difficult to do. Sometimes, it is indeed not easy to understand and follow God's calling. And sometimes, we might feel like running away from God's calling and following our own ways.

But always remember God loves you so much. You are His precious jewel. Obey Him and follow His calling upon your life till His glory shines through your life.

Key verse:

*Psalm 139:7
Your Spirit is everywhere I go.
I cannot escape
Your presence.*

Prayer

*Dear God, help
me to follow Your
calling faithfully.
Amen.*





06

MAY
2021

JONAH 2

RUNNING BACK TO GOD

Jonah stayed in a big fish belly for 3 days and 3 nights. At that moment, he only had two choices. To live or to die.

Jonah chose to live. In order to live, he had to ask for help. This was when he acknowledged that only God could save his life and give him hope. This was when he surrendered to God's mercy and grace. This was when he asked for God's forgiveness for his disobedience. This was the moment he was running back towards God.

Jonah's choice is what we all should do as children of God. When we have problems in life and no one seems to be able to help us, we only have two options: to keep our hope alive or to let our hope die with the problems. Always choose the first one!

Cry out to God with a humble heart and ask for His forgiveness. He always listens to our prayer. Our hope and strength will be revived when we turn to Him. Always run back to God because He always welcomes you with big hugs.

Key verse:

*Jonah 2:7
My soul gave up all hope,
but then I remembered the Lord.*

*I prayed to You
and You heard my prayers
in Your holy Temple.*

Prayer

Dear God, I won't let my problems take my heart away from You. May my problems make me run back to You. You are bigger than my problems. Amen.





JONAH 3

07

MAY
2021

A SMALL ACT OF OBEDIENCE CAN MAKE A BIG IMPACT

Finally, Jonah arrived in Nineveh! As soon as Jonah set foot in the city, he boldly preached God's word. God said that Nineveh would be destroyed in 40 days unless they were sorry and repented from their wickedness.

The king of Nineveh's response was surprising. He commanded everyone in his city to cry out to God and turn from their wickedness. He pleaded that God would turn away His punishment and show His mercy and kindness to them. Their sincere repentance melted away God's anger and God didn't punish Nineveh.

Jonah's obedience saved over 100,000 lives in Nineveh! Don't harden your heart when God asks you to do something.

You never know that your small act of obedience might mean the world to others. Your help might brighten someone's day. Your smile might cheer up someone's feeling. Your simple preach might give hope to someone. Your prayer might save someone's life. Your testimony might bless others who need to hear it.

Key verse:

*Galatians 6:2
Help each other with your troubles. When you do this, you are obeying the law of Christ.*

Prayer

*Dear God,
help me to be
a reason for
someone's smile.
Guide me to help
others to find the
incredible hope
in You. Amen.*





08

MAY
2021

JONAH 4

GOD IS COMPASSIONATE

Jonah was unhappy when God forgave the people in Nineveh. Jonah felt the people of Nineveh did not deserve forgiveness as their wickedness was way too big. He could not understand why God gave them a second chance. He simply could not forgive the wrongdoing these people had done. Jonah was angry with God for forgiving them.

Unlike Jonah, God is full of compassion. Full of compassion means full of mercy, sympathy and pity to others. God had compassion over the people of Nineveh and was willing to give them a second chance when they repented and turned back to Him.

God is sympathetic toward the suffering of His people. God sees our distress and feels our misery. His compassion is more than mere sympathy and pity! God's compassion is related to His unfailing mercy, unlimited patience, amazing grace and forgiveness.

Let us have the same compassion as God! We can start by doing simple things like volunteering in an orphanage, holding the door of the elevator for the elderly or a disabled person, giving up our seat for a pregnant lady, etc.

Key verse:

*Psalm 103:13
As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him;*

Prayer

Dear God, please fill my heart with Your love and compassion. Amen.

