

**Sunday, July 17, 2022 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

Bible Study – Amos 8:1-12

“Living in a Bitter Day”

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes)

In groups of two or three, have each participant complete the following sentence, “My favorite fruit is . . .” [Participants can designate different foods if they have no favorite fruit.]

Read Amos 8:1-12

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read Amos 8:1-12 again

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- To catch the word plays at use in this passage, read (at minimum) verses 1-3 in multiple translations. (The NLT and NIV try to note the wordplay using ‘ripe’ instead of ‘summer’ to make the Hebrew wordplay connection between the vision of the fruit and the judgment of the end.)
- How might the vision of the fruit in verses 1 and 2 give a stark contrast to the punishment and judgment that follow?
- What acts are noted as the reasons for God’s judgment?
- Have you ever been cheated on by a business or businessperson? How did it feel? What did you want to do in response?
- **(R)** Whom do you see who frequently gets the short end of the stick? What economic forces do you see that take advantage of the less wealthy? What might the church do to help those in our society from getting cheated?
- **(R)** Why does God care about inequity? [God desires all to be fruitful and experience shalom.]

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Share prayer requests and respond appropriately.

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, end by praying the following or a similar prayer:

God of Justice, give us the eyes to see the hurting and the poor among us. Give us the hands to work and voice to speak when we see where injustices are committed. May your church be a light to the nations of what righteousness and justice look like in your kingdom. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.