



Legendary Leader Edition

Name of Legendary Leader

[**Author Note:** For each of our studies, we include a letter to the leaders explaining how the study works, the theme, some simple instructions, and some encouragement. Ours looked like this.]

My Dearest and Bestest Legendary Leader Extraordinaire,

Know that right now, as you are reading this, there are hundreds of people praying specifically for you—yes, you—by name!

In your Legendary Leader Edition of this study, you'll find some extras! First, you'll find some of my extra thoughts, suggestions, and maybe an extra illustration for each session.

Also, you'll have a very similar layout to what the students are seeing in their books. Student books will have blanks to fill in, but your book will already have the answers or suggested answers in **blue**. Just remember that this is much more than students simply filling in the blanks! The student book has many places with lines to fill in, but I don't give you a "one-word" or phrase to put in the lines. These lines are for their own thoughts or notes from your discussions with them about the Scriptures.

I want our students to get the main ideas from each of these four sessions, but you're not tied to the specific illustrations and approaches. Make the literature match your teaching style. Use your own stories and personal experiences to let students get to know you. Every group will be different, and you'll need to make some adjustments for your students. Do more than just read some stuff to them and have them fill in the blanks!

The theme of the weekend is "Immense." The definition of immense is "immeasurable in size, grander, beyond normal means of measuring, and extremely good." I'm praying that God will use you to help students see that God has something immense for them. God is calling students to bigger, grander, unmeasurable, and extremely good things, and I'm praying that students will grasp even more of His immense plan for their lives.

For some students, that starts with salvation. For others it will be imagining something bigger for their lives than the typical American dream of obtaining stuff for themselves. God may be calling others to vocational ministry or missions. For all of our students, though, God is calling them to something immense, and we want them to not only see that calling but to

follow it and join God on immense adventures as they follow Him.

Tips for Small Group Leaders:

1. Get students talking.

- Your job is guiding discussion, and that requires students to do some talking. This is not a time for you to lecture.
- Have them read the Scripture references out loud. This will get them used to talking and let them know it's okay for their voice to be heard.
- Be appreciative of anything they say. Even if they are dead wrong with an answer, you need to be appreciative that they shared their voice. You can guide them to the correct answer and encourage more discussion by the way you respond. Say something like, "Thanks for sharing your thoughts, but I think there may be even more that needs to be said about this question."
- Share your own stories. Be appropriately transparent with your group of students. Share, but don't share too much.
- Ask open-ended questions that can't be answered with one word. "Tell me more about why you think that." "Have you seen something similar in your life? What was it?" "Can you think of a different place in the Bible that reinforces this idea?"
- You want them to talk, but you shouldn't force them to talk or share their opinion. If one student doesn't want to share, move on to a different student.

2. Provide some rules for sharing in your group.

- Your group may get too excited about sharing their thoughts, answers, and stories. They may need some rules.
- Only one person can talk at a time.
- Stay on topic.
- Don't dominate the discussion; listen way more than you talk.
- You don't have to share if you don't want to.

3. Create a conducive environment.

- Students are easily distracted. Make this a time free from cell phones, pets, food, drinks, clicking pens, or anything else that will steal the attention from where it needs to be.
- Make sure students are comfortable, but remain in a posture that helps them pay attention.

Session One: From Shepherd to Missionary Prophet

Amos isn't necessarily the most popular book in the Bible (most students will struggle to find where it is in their Bibles), but God did **IMMENSE** things in and through Amos. In this first session, we're hopefully letting students see that God called an ordinary herdsman out of an ordinary life to do something immense. This session is meant to help students see that God is not just calling them to do what they are already doing, but also calling them to do what they are already doing for Him—not to apathetically settle for what they already have but to do something bigger!

Ice Breaker Idea:

Two main ideas of this session are that 1) God wants to use what we are already involved in, and 2) God wants to use us as the people we already are. A great way to start your session would be learning more about the things your students participate in. Ask each student to briefly tell you what the person on the left is involved in or known for. This is a great way to transition into talking about what Amos was involved in and known for, and how God used it all.

Read with your group or ask a volunteer to read:

Amos 1:1 (ESV)

"The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake."

Discussion Questions

- What does "who was among the shepherds" mean?
Amos was at least a regular shepherd, but he was probably more like an owner of sheep or breeder of sheep. This also means he had more monetary status than a regular shepherd. AND if he owned and bred sheep, he also probably traveled to sell the wool and would have known the countries of Judah and Samaria very well. Amos mentions 38 different cities and districts in his writings, which meant he spent time seeing the countryside as he moved sheep from one place to another to find pasture, and traveled selling wool.

- Why does it matter where he is from?
Tekoa is in Israel, 6 miles from Bethlehem, 12 miles from Jerusalem, and 22 miles from Bethel. He was located in a great place within easy travel distances of the places to which he was called to speak and minister.
- Why mention the kings of Israel and Judah?
Amos was from Israel but also spoke on God's behalf in Judah. This is kind of like being a missionary at home and being a missionary in other countries. He did both.
- God called Amos to use his personal experiences, knowledge, and lifestyle to be a prophet and missionary in his hometown, in his own country, and in foreign countries! Could God be calling YOU to do something similar?

Read with your group:

Amos 1:2a (ESV)

"The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem."

Teaching Points:

Amos was a shepherd.

When you list shepherds from the Bible, Amos is not usually on the list. We typically can remember the shepherds from the story of Jesus' birth and from the stories of David and Moses, but not Amos, because he wasn't known for being a shepherd—he was known for being a prophet. When God calls us to immense things, that calling will usually begin with repentance. Amos didn't need to repent of sin, but he did give the idea of repentance by turning away from his life as a herdsman and leaving it behind to follow God's new call on his life.

All of us need some kind of repentance in our lives. We need to turn from all kinds of sin, leave them clearly behind, and follow God in new and adventurous ways without that sin in our life. We need to leave sin and our old identities so far behind that we are never associated with those ways of life ever again. Let's use this space to write down either some parts of our identities or sin struggles that we need to leave behind in order to truly