

The Lion Hath Roared



Amos 3:1–8; 7:10–15 · This week: Seek the Lord, and Ye Shall Live, Amos; Obadiah; Jonah

In the manual: **Come, Follow Me lesson 48, “Seek the Lord, and Ye Shall Live,” on Gospel Library**

START

Amos was a shepherd from the little town of Tekoa when the Lord called him to be a prophet (Amos 1:1).

READ TOGETHER

The Lord sent Amos, a man of Judah, to warn the northern kingdom of Israel (Amos 7:15). Israel was rich and comfortable, and many of the rich were cheating the poor (Amos 8:4–6).

AMOS 3:7–8

⁷Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets. ⁸The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

AMOS 7:14–15

¹⁴Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit: ¹⁵And the LORD took me as I followed the flock, and the LORD said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Amos asks a string of questions in Amos 3:3–6. Does a lion roar when it has caught nothing? Does a trap snap shut with nothing in it? Every one of those things happens for a reason. Then he gives the reason a prophet speaks. “The Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?” (verse 8). The Lord speaks to his prophets first. “Surely the Lord

God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” (verse 7).

Amaziah, the priest at Beth-el, told Amos to go home and stop prophesying at the king's chapel (Amos 7:10–13). Amos answered that he had never trained to be a prophet. He was a herdsman who gathered sycomore figs, and the Lord took him “as I followed the flock” (Amos 7:14–15). The Lord chooses his prophets, often from ordinary work.

Elder Ulisses Soares taught why the Lord keeps sending prophets. “It is comforting to know that we are not alone in the world, despite the challenges we face in life. Having prophets is a sign of God's love for His children.”

Elder Ulisses Soares, “Prophets Speak by the Power of the Holy Spirit,” General conference, April 2018

TALK ABOUT IT

Amos says the Lord reveals his secret to his prophets. What has the living prophet taught recently that our family could act on this week?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Amos was a shepherd until the Lord called him. The Lord still reveals his will to prophets, because he loves us and wants us warned and taught.

Seek and Live



Amos 4:6–12; 5:4–24 · This week: Seek the Lord, and Ye Shall Live, Amos; Obadiah; Jonah

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START

Five times in Amos 4, the Lord describes a hard thing that happened to Israel and ends with the same sad line, “yet have ye not returned unto me” (Amos 4:6–11).

READ TOGETHER

Hunger, drought, blight, plague, and war came one after another. The Lord said each one was a chance to turn back to him, and each time Israel stayed away.

AMOS 5:4

⁴For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live:

AMOS 5:14–15

¹⁴Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. ¹⁵Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The Lord’s answer to all of it is short. “Seek ye me, and ye shall live” (Amos 5:4). He says it again in verse 6, “Seek the Lord, and ye shall live,” and again in verse 14, “Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live.”

Israel still kept feast days and brought offerings, and the Lord said he would not accept them

(Amos 5:21–22). He asked for goodness that keeps flowing. “Let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream” (verse 24).

Some trials come because of sin, and many come because life in this world is hard. Any of them can turn us toward the Lord. Mormon noticed that people often remember the Lord only after hard times humble them (Helaman 12:3).

“Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel” (Amos 4:12). Amulek taught the same thing centuries later. This life is the time to prepare to meet God (Alma 34:32).

TALK ABOUT IT

Amos wanted righteousness to flow like a stream that never dries up. What is one good thing our family could keep flowing every day this week?

TAKE TO CHURCH

The Lord kept calling Israel back after every trouble, and his message never changed. “Seek ye me, and ye shall live.”

A Famine of Hearing



Amos 8:1–12; 9:11–15 · This week: Seek the Lord, and Ye Shall Live, Amos; Obadiah; Jonah

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START

In a famine, people go hungry because there is no food. Amos warned of a famine where people would go hungry for something else (Amos 8:11).

READ TOGETHER

Amos saw a basket of summer fruit, ripe and about to spoil, and the Lord said Israel’s end had come (Amos 8:1–2). Israel had told its prophets to stop prophesying (Amos 2:12).

AMOS 8:11–12

¹¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: ¹² And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

AMOS 9:11

¹¹ In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old:

WHAT IT TEACHES

The famine would be “not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord” (Amos 8:11). A people who silenced the prophets would someday look for the word of the Lord and be unable to find it. They would “run to and fro,” searching (verse 12).

After the Savior’s apostles died, the world passed through a famine like that. Priesthood authority

was taken from the earth. Many plain and precious things were taken out of the Bible too (1 Nephi 13:26–29). People still loved the Bible, and many searched for more.

Joseph Smith was one of those searchers. At fourteen he read the Bible, went into the woods on a spring morning, and prayed. Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ appeared to him (his account). The famine began to end that morning.

Amos 9:11 ends the book with hope. “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen.” At a council in Jerusalem, James, a leader of the Church, quoted these words to show that the gospel was meant for every nation (Acts 15:13–17).

TALK ABOUT IT

**What would our family miss most if we could not find the word of the Lord?
What helps you feel spiritually fed?**

TAKE TO CHURCH

Amos warned of a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. That famine has ended, because the Lord has spoken again through prophets and restored scripture.

The Voice of Thanksgiving



Jonah 1–2 · This week: Seek the Lord, and Ye Shall Live, Amos; Obadiah; Jonah

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In the United States, today is Thanksgiving. Jonah’s prayer from inside the fish ends with thanks.

START

The Lord told Jonah to go east to Nineveh. Jonah paid for a ship sailing the other way, to Tarshish (Jonah 1:2–3).

READ TOGETHER

Jonah was a prophet in Israel in the days of King Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:25). Nineveh was a great city of Assyria, Israel’s cruel enemy.

JONAH 1:17

¹⁷Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

JONAH 2:7–9

⁷When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. ⁸They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. ⁹But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

WHAT IT TEACHES

When the storm came, the sailors cried to their gods while Jonah slept below deck (Jonah 1:4–6). Once they learned he was running from the Lord, Jonah told them to throw him overboard. The sailors rowed hard to save him first (Jonah 1:12–13).

“Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah” (Jonah 1:17). The fish that swallowed Jonah was the Lord’s way of saving him. Jesus later

said that his own three days in the tomb would be the sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:40).

Inside the fish, Jonah prayed. “When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord” (Jonah 2:7). He gave thanks while he was still in the fish, “I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving” (Jonah 2:9).

Jonah also said that people who serve false gods “forsake their own mercy” (Jonah 2:8). Elder Matthew S. Holland gave a talk on that verse. “You have immediate access to divine help and healing despite your human flaws. This awe-inspiring mercy comes in and through Jesus Christ.”

Elder Matthew S. Holland, “Forsake Not Your Own Mercy,” General conference, October 2025

TALK ABOUT IT

Jonah gave thanks while he was still inside the fish. What is something we can thank the Lord for today, even in the middle of something hard?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Jonah prayed from inside the fish and gave thanks before he was rescued. “Salvation is of the Lord,” he said, and the Lord brought him out.

The Second Time



Jonah 3 · This week: Seek the Lord, and Ye Shall Live, Amos; Obadiah; Jonah

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START

“And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time” (Jonah 3:1).

READ TOGETHER

Nineveh was so large that it took three days to walk through it (Jonah 3:3). Jonah walked one day into the city and gave the Lord’s warning. In forty days, Nineveh would be overthrown (Jonah 3:4).

JONAH 3:5

⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

JONAH 3:10

¹⁰ And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

WHAT IT TEACHES

The Lord gave Jonah a second chance, with the same assignment as the first time (verse 2). The Lord’s call stays the same after we run from it. This time Jonah went.

The people of Nineveh believed God. Everyone fasted and put on sackcloth, “from the greatest of them even to the least of them” (verse 5). The king left his throne, took off his robe, and sat in ashes (verse 6).

The king’s decree asked for more than sackcloth. “Let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands” (verse 8). “And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way” (verse 10). He spared the city.

Jesus said the people of Nineveh would stand at the judgment as witnesses, because “they repented at the preaching of Jonas” (Matthew 12:41). A cruel city changed after one warning. No one is too far gone for the Lord.

TALK ABOUT IT

Jonah got a second chance, and so did Nineveh. When has someone given you a second chance? How could we give one to someone else?

TAKE TO CHURCH

The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, and Nineveh repented and was spared. The Lord keeps offering second chances, to prophets and to whole cities.

Doest Thou Well



Jonah 4 · This week: Seek the Lord, and Ye Shall Live, Amos; Obadiah; Jonah

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START

Nineveh was spared, and Jonah was furious (Jonah 4:1).

READ TOGETHER

Jonah finally explained why he had run away in the first place. He knew the Lord was merciful, and he did not want that mercy for his enemies (Jonah 4:2).

JONAH 4:2

²And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

JONAH 4:10–11

¹⁰Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: ¹¹And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

WHAT IT TEACHES

Jonah's complaint holds one of the kindest descriptions of God in the Bible. “I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness” (Jonah 4:2). He knew it was true, and he wanted it only for his own people.

The Lord answered with a question. “Doest thou well to be angry?” (verse 4). Then he made a gourd vine grow up to shade Jonah, and the next morning he sent a worm to kill it (verses 6 and 7). Jonah was angry about the plant too.

Jonah cared about a plant he had never planted, which grew up in a night and died in a night. Nineveh held more than 120,000 people who could not tell their right hand from their left, “and also much cattle.” The Lord asked whether he should not spare them (verses 10 and 11). The book ends with that question, and every reader has to answer it.

The sons of Mosiah felt the opposite of Jonah. They could not bear the thought that any soul should perish, so they went to teach their enemies, the Lamanites (Mosiah 28:1–3). The Lord wants us to want mercy for everyone, the way he does.

TALK ABOUT IT

Is there anyone you would find it hard to see forgiven? What would help you want mercy for them the way the Lord does?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Jonah's book ends with the Lord's question about Nineveh. Each of us answers it in how we treat the people we find hard to forgive.

Saviours on Mount Zion



Obadiah 1 · This week: Seek the Lord, and Ye Shall Live, Amos; Obadiah; Jonah

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START

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament, one chapter of twenty-one verses.

READ TOGETHER

The people of Edom descended from Esau, Jacob’s brother. When enemies attacked Jerusalem, Edom stood by and cheered, then helped catch those who ran (Obadiah 1:10–14).

OBADIAH 1:3–4

³The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? ⁴Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

OBADIAH 1:21

²¹And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the LORD’S.

WHAT IT TEACHES

Edom lived high in rocky cliffs and felt safe. “The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee,” the Lord said. Even if Edom built its nest among the stars, “thence will I bring thee down” (Obadiah 1:3–4). Pride tells us we are safe without God.

Obadiah ends with a promise. “And saviours shall come up on mount Zion” (Obadiah 1:21). President Gordon B. Hinckley taught that we become saviors on Mount Zion when we do temple work for people who have died. In a small way, we do for them what Jesus Christ did for all of us, something they cannot do for themselves.

President Hinckley spoke about the people we serve there. “We have no assurance that they will accept that which we offer. But we go, and in that process we attain to a state that comes of no other effort. We literally become saviors on Mount Zion.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley, “Closing Remarks,” General conference, October 2004

TALK ABOUT IT

Who in our family history would we like to know more about? What could we do to find their names or take them to the temple?

TAKE TO CHURCH

Obadiah promised saviours on Mount Zion. A family name taken to the temple this month is one way to answer that promise.