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## Seek the Lord and Live!

### *Amos 5–6*

Success, wealth, power, prestige—these are eagerly sought by many today. People are willing to sacrifice their marriages, their families and even their health to obtain these goals. But in the end most discover that the rewards were not worth the cost.

GROUP DISCUSSION. Why do you think people are willing to sacrifice so much to obtain the things mentioned above?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. What do you continue to do (or not do) even though it may not be good or helpful for you?

In chapters 5 and 6 Amos tells us how to avoid this tragedy in our lives. Read *Amos 5–6*.

1. Looking throughout the passage, what does Amos urge people to seek?
2. A *lament* (5:1) was a song or poem mourning someone's death. What images of death does Amos use in this lament?
3. Do you see yourself, your church or your culture in any of the statements made in 5:7 and 5:10–12? Explain.
4. What warnings of judgment does the Lord give in this chapter, and how does the Lord plead with Israel in 5:4, 6, 14–15?

5. How were the Israelites mistaken about the day of the Lord (5:18–20)?
  
6. Amos uses scathing language in 5:21–23. How might this prepare his audience to hear the message of 5:24?
  
7. If Amos were prophesying today, how would he expect us to “hate evil” and “love good” (5:15)?
  
8. How does Amos portray the Israelites in 6:1–6?
  
9. In their complacency and security, Israel failed to grieve over the ruin of their nation (6:6). What should grieve us today about our personal lives, our church and our nation?
  
10. How does the Lord promise to repay those who are complacent and proud (6:7–14)?
  
11. What changes will you make in your lifestyle as a result of this study?

*Take time to pray about those things that cause you to grieve. Ask the Lord to help you seek his will in these areas.*

### **Now or Later**

On what issues, and how, will you challenge your church and community based on this study?