



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 1: Listen to God

Suggested Week of Use: September 4, 2022

Core Passage: Amos 2:4-16

News Story Summary

Warnings are given for a reason. That's a lesson several people learned in August when they ignored warnings against taking "unnecessary risks" and crossed a causeway to reach St. Helen Fort near the Isle of Wright. The fort, built in the 19th century, is usually surrounded by the waters of the English Channel just off the southern coast of the United Kingdom. Once a year, though, the area's lowest tides expose a causeway that allows access to the fort. Hundreds of people take part in an unofficial walk to the fort, but these walkers often find themselves in deeper water than they expected.

Over the years, many people have had to be rescued. This year, rescuers helped a mother and her child, along with a 12-year-old girl who had been reported missing. Last year, a group of eight people had to be rescued, while another four adults and two children needed assistance when darkness fell before they could reach the mainland safely.

For more about this story, search "People walk to St. Helen Fort despite warning."

Focus Attention

To supplement the opening activity under Focus Attention, tell the story of the people who had to be rescued because they tried to walk to the St. Helen Fort despite official warnings. (If possible, access online photos of the annual walk and show them to the group.) Ask: *Why do you think the people chose to ignore the warnings against crossing the causeway to St. Helen Fort? Will choose to walk across again next year? Explain. Do you think the mom and her child who were rescued will take that walk? What would need to happen for people to stop trying to cross the causeway every year?* Transition by explaining that this is the first week in a study of the book of Amos, a prophet who warned people about God's judgment for ignoring Him.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the closing activity under Summarize and Challenge, retell the story of the people who crossed the causeway to St. Fort Helen despite the warnings against it. Ask: *How was this warning similar to the warning Amos gave the people? How was this warning different?* Encourage the group to think about ways God warns people today. Challenge them to consider warnings they might be ignoring and what consequences that could bring. Ask: *What might God be asking you to do in response to today's Bible study?* Provide a few moments of silence for the group to reflect on this question. Then close in prayer.