

RETURN TO THE LORD

I have good news. Although we struggle with faithfulness, God does not. He keeps his word, honors his covenant and never leaves or forsakes us. From now until Jesus returns, God is waiting with open arms for his children to return to Him. The book of Hosea is a beautiful, powerful testament to God's great love for an unfaithful people. The marriage of Hosea and an adulterous Gomer parallels the relationship between God and his chosen people. God continued in steadfast love, mercy and faithfulness while his people turned their backs on Him. Israel looked for salvation from earthly, wicked kings and worshipped dead, empty idols. God cared for, rescued and provided for Israel and they responded by forsaking Him and chased after worldly treasures and fleshly desires. But it's not just Israel. Even on a "good day" we fall short of God's glory. All of us! Yet there is still hope!! God loved us so much that He sent his Son to do what we couldn't.

Hosea 1-3; Matthew 16

Hosea 4-6; Psalm 58; Matthew 17

Hosea 7-10; Matthew 18

Hosea 11-13; Matthew 19

Hosea 14; 2 Chronicles 26-27; Psalm 61; Matthew 20

Every week, you'll see the same five content questions. Use them as a guide as you read the scriptures. Pray for consistency in your Bible reading.

1. Who are the main characters in this text and is there anyone you can relate to?
2. Is there anything from this text that we are to do (obey, believe, heed or follow)?
3. What do you learn about God in these chapters and how has that changed what you believe about Him?
4. What do these passages reveal about human nature, sin and our need for God?
5. What's the Good News found in this text?

Every week, you'll see five unique application questions. Use them to help live out what you're learning in scripture. Pray for life transformation.

1. When have you had to make sacrifices in order to obey God? How was your attitude throughout that time?
2. What objects/pursuits/people can become idols in your life? Do they bring you lasting joy?
3. What is the difference between repentance and feeling sorry? How do you respond to conviction over sin?
4. Do you listen to Jesus? What evidence in your life supports this?
5. Who do you say Jesus is? How does your life display this?

Jesus took the punishment for our sin so we could experience God's grace and mercy. God is faithful to the very end. That is good news!