

Hosea

Hosea is a short book about betrayal, heartbreak, a broken marriage, and the surprising grace of God. The bigger message involves our place in the story and the unexpected love of God.

Week 5: The Ways of the Lord Are Right

SERIES OVERVIEW

HOSEA

1. What God Thinks About Us
2. The Power of a Name
3. Cost of Redemption
4. He Knows His People
5. **The Ways of the Lord are Right**

DISCUSSION NOTES:

This discussion will focus on the hope of an eternity - and a life now - beyond our understanding. We can truly live, thanks to the work of Christ on the cross.

Righteousness: being in right standing or morally right. namely in the eyes of God.
To whom do you usually attribute this word? What about us?

LOOK *What do we see around us in our lives?*

When was the last time you looked up a DIY video or directions online to figure out how to do something?

What are your trusted sources of information?

BOOK *What does scripture say about this?*

Hosea 14:8-9

Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? I will answer him and care for him. I am like a flourishing juniper; your fruitfulness comes from me.”⁹ Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.

What does this say about God?

Possible answers: telling us to set aside the idols (again), he will answer & care, look to him for fruitfulness, follow his ways. He is like a juniper - an evergreen tree full of life and strength.

What does this say about God's people?

Possible answers: we still seek idols, we need to know the ways of the Lord

What does it mean to be rebellious or pursue idols? Where does this lead us?

Possible answers: turning away from what is right, chasing after something that's taking the place of God

In the last study we looked at all the things God's people were doing that didn't involve loving God well. What are the things for you that turn you away from God?

How does knowing how God feels about you and what he has done for you change you or your motivation to turn away from idols?

Hosea

Gospel Story:

- Creation
- Fall
- Redemption
- Restoration

Which is quickest for you to grasp? Toughest?

What questions come to mind with each chapter of the story?

How do you see Jesus in each of these?

What is the threat or downfall to you in each one?

What is the promise or opportunity for you in each one?

Further questions to consider:

***What truth about God is hard for you to hear or believe?**

***How can we remind you of this truth this week?**

***What gospel truths are we being pointed to this week?**

***Where do we see a Jesus/gospel connection?**

***When do you most easily believe God's faithfulness?**

***When is it tougher?**

***What reminder do you need to put into place (phone, mirror, car, etc.) to help you remember this week?**

Romans 6:14-18

¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

How does the knowledge that we've been set free through the gospel motivate us to turn to God?

Possible answers: Freedom! We can live with an understanding of freedom, grace, peace, joy, love, righteousness etc. thanks to God.

TOOK *Questions for accountability*

Where does walking in the ways of the Lord lead us? What does this look like for you?

How are you going to take a step to fight one of your idols this week? How can we help point you toward God in this?