

-HOSEA-

THE OUTRAGEOUS, HEARTBREAKING, AND COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED LOVE OF GOD.

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. The people sitting near me have things they treat like "idols," but don't fully realize it.

2. Most of the people in this room only pray to God for help with the things they can't accomplish on their own.

3. God's love has boundaries.

4. God forgives us, even when we're not totally serious.

5. God needs us to obey, so that He can bless.

DIVE DEEPER

∞ What is the greatest act of forgiveness that you've ever witnessed?

°READ Hosea 14:1-9 (NLT)

1 Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, for your sins have brought you down. 2 Bring your confessions, and return to the Lord. Say to him, "Forgive all our sins and graciously receive us, so that we may offer you our praises. 3 Assyria cannot save us, nor can our warhorses. Never again will we say to the idols we have made, 'You are our gods.' No, in you alone do the orphans find mercy."

4 The Lord says, "Then I will heal you of your faithlessness; my love will know no bounds, for my anger will be gone forever. 5 I will be to Israel like a refreshing dew from heaven. Israel will blossom like the lily; it will send roots deep into the soil like the cedars in Lebanon. 6 Its branches will spread out like beautiful olive trees, as fragrant as the cedars of Lebanon.

7 My people will again live under my shade.
They will flourish like grain and blossom like grapevines. They will be as fragrant as the wines of Lebanon. 8 "O Israel, stay away from idols! I am the one who answers your prayers and cares for you. I am like a tree that is always green; all your fruit comes from me." 9 Let those who are wise understand these things. Let those with discernment listen carefully. The paths of the Lord are true and right, and righteous people live by walking in them. But in those paths sinners stumble and fall.

~(vs. 3) the orphans [יָתוֹם - **yatom**] - the fatherless.

° find mercy - [רָחַם - **ruham**] - to love; literally find a womb.

~Why do you think Forgiveness is so important to God? What is He really wanting?

~Verse 4: What do you think it means to have your faithlessness healed?

° The words here literally mean, "**to repair you where you've fallen.**"

» How is this different from some of the things you've heard in the past about God's dealings with unfaithfulness?

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~The people of Israel were obsessed with their enchanted idols. Are there ways in which a view of the world as 'enchanted' can still be found today?

~In verse 8, it says, **"I am the one who answers your prayers and cares for you."**

° What does it say about God that he answers and cares for us, despite not getting much in return?

~ As you look at the entire story of God's love expressed in the book of Hosea, how has this impacted your view of His character?

NOTES

MY PRAYER

1. What things in my life do I turn to instead of turning to God?

2. What areas of my life are in need of forgiveness from God?

3. How do I see God's character better now?



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