

Rockford Reformed Church
Hosea 14:1-9 - "Coming Home"
10/21/18 – Pastor Tim Meendering

Questions for family/small group discussions:

The book of Hosea reveals God as a husband who jealously guards his bride—or his people. There is a great struggle because the bride (his people) have been found "in bed with" and loving and depending on many other things. And yet no matter how stubborn and unfaithful, God pursues and invites us to come home. How does this portrayal impact the way that you think about your relationship with God?

Three ways that we stray away from God, our husband:

1. _____-reliance.

a. Read Hosea 10:13 and 8:14. How were the Israelites depending on themselves? What are some of the ways that you might depend on self or find security/safety in substitutes rather than God?

b. What does your prayer life reflect as a measure of your dependence on God? In what ways could you pray differently to shift your dependence to God? What are some other ways that you could shift your dependence from self to God?

2. Loving _____.

a. Read Hosea 13:6. What happened when the Israelites settled into comfort? How do you pursue comfort and how does it impact your relationship with God? What are some times in your life when resistance and struggles have wonderfully worked toward finding your joy and comfort in Jesus?

b. Recall some ways that Jesus' life and teachings make it clear that the way of obedience and true joy and comfort involves rocks, steep hills, and painful detours?

c. Read Isaiah 58:10-11. What is the way to true flourishing and joy?

3. _____ the map that leads home.

a. Read Hosea 4:6. What is the great danger/offense of ignoring God's Word? What are the factors in our culture and in your own life that prevent you from making God's Word the map to your greatest treasure?

How do we return home?

a. Read Hosea 14:2-3 and Zeph. 3:14-17. What are some key words/elements to express when coming with confession before God? What do you most need to believe and be reminded of in order to confidently and regularly come to God with repentance and confession? How will this change your heart and life?

b. Read Hosea 14:4-8. How does God respond for us when we come with confession and confidence in his love and forgiveness? How have you experienced some of the benefits listed in these verses?

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