

GROWING IN FAITH



Hosea

Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.

- Hosea 6:1-3

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GOING DEEPER

Josh mentioned in the video that the Northern Kingdom of Israel made alliances with other nations like Assyria and Cana. These alliances brought foreign influences to Israel including foreign gods and goddesses.

In many ways our world is smaller today than ever before. We are exposed to more diverse cultures, philosophies, and religions because of technology than at any other point in our history. In what ways is this good? In what ways is this bad?

The Israelites were guilty of apostasy. They were worshipping gods other than the one true God believing it would make them more rich or fertile.

Even though we only believe there is one God as Christians, we are still sometimes guilty of prioritizing other "gods" before God. As a nation, what are some of the other gods we worship? How do we get these priorities back in line to place God first?

Hosea's theology seems to indicate that God chooses to punish us for our idolatry and that this explains the bad things that happen to us in the world.

Do you really believe that God punishes us for our bad decisions or rewards us for our good decisions? What could be another explanation for the bad things that happen in our world?

The word "repent" literally means "to turn around". When we make bad choices and prioritize other "gods" over God we need to repent and get back on the right path. If we do, there is always room for hope. Read Luke 15:11-32.

How does the prodigal son show repentance? Are you willing to share a time in your life that you repented from something? When we understand that God is ultimately a God of hope, how does that impact the way we live our lives and the way we treat others?