

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR SUMMER OF LOVE: WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU?

Read Hosea 5:1-15

God’s Story

1. In Hosea 5:1, Hosea addresses certain key leaders among the general population of Israel. To whom is he speaking primarily?
2. Killing appears to be occurring in Mizpah and Tabor. Who is doing the killing according to Hosea 5:2. Who might these people be?
3. In Hosea 5:4-5, Hosea suggests that something stands in the way of the people’s return to God. What is the barrier to their return?
4. Hosea 5:6 says when shepherds go looking for God, they won’t find him. Why is that?
5. Hosea 5:7 speaks of the unfaithfulness of the Israelites. What is one of the signs of their unfaithfulness according to the passage?
6. There is military call to action starting in Hosea 5:8-9. What is going to happen to Ephraim and Israel according to the scripture? Read 5:11, what is the cause of the military call to action?
7. Hosea 5:12-13, God seems upset that Ephraim and Israel turned to the Assyrian king for protection instead of God. What images does God use that suggests this is a sign of a spiritual health problem?
8. Hosea 5:14 describes a clear threat to Ephraim and Judah. What animal is used to describe the danger about to face these people?
9. Hosea 5:15 is the clincher verse in this chapter. It suggests God has retired from chasing after Israel with a hope for reciprocal love. The relationship with God’s people is not ended, but God has decided upon a new strategy of reconciliation. What is God’s strategy?

My Story

1. Think about the modern world. In what ways do you see leaders leading people in the wrong direction. What are some of the consequences of that misdirection?
2. In the American context, rebelliousness is sometimes considered a socially admirable part of a person’s character. Being defiant is considered a good thing. How has this attitude led to positive change in America? How has it contributed to our national woes?
3. Consider actions that you might do that would be impossible to undo, actions that could cause you irreparable harm. How are actions of faithlessness toward God like that?
4. Has there ever been a time when you sought God’s help but felt God to be absent? What things did you have to change about yourself before you received the help you originally sought?
5. When we don’t get what we want from God, we may seek other sources for our satisfaction. What other sources do you consult when you want something, and God seems slow in giving it to you? In what ways have those other sources later caused problems for you?
6. Sometimes when bad things happen to people, they can see a direct link between their actions and the consequence of their trouble. Think of a time when you experienced an unfortunate outcome from some action that you took. Did you consult anyone else before taking that action? If you had, would you have made the same choices?
7. In what ways might spiritual sickness show up in a person’s life?
8. What animal best seems to represent your idea of God? What are the attributes of that animal that lead you to make that comparison?
9. Thinking of your relationship with God like that of a romantic relationship, why might it be a good strategy on God’s part to sometimes play hard to get with us? How does this strategy help protect us from settling for cheap grace? Read Romans 6:1-14 if you need some help answering this question.

