



# Discussion Questions

## Hosea 14:1-9

### Sermon: A Cautionary Call to Repentance

- ❖ **God Calls His People to Return to Him (14:1-3)**
  - God desires His people to turn away from their sins and turn back to Him. (vv. 1-2a)
  - Repentance requires the renunciation of false gods. (vv. 2b-3)
  - **Question:** Are there sins and sources of trust that we still cling to? In what ways is God superior to the things we often place our trust in?
- ❖ **God Heals and Restores His People in Response to Their Repentance (14:4-9)**
  - God heals His people of their sins, and causes them to flourish. (14:4-8)
  - Wisdom beckons us to live in light of God's goodness and refuse rebellion. (14:9)
  - **Question:** Taking God at His Word, in what areas of your life would you experience restoration if you repent?
- ❖ **Bottom Line: Only God can save us, and only God can heal us from the devastation caused by sin.**

### Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.
  - **Question:** How would the original audience have understood this passage?
  - **Question:** What was God's desire for them?
2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.
  - **Question:** What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
  - **Question:** What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?
3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.
  - i. Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
  - ii. Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
  - iii. If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.
4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen Hosea...")
  - **Question:** What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
  - **Question:** How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

### Applying Scripture

5. Allow free-flowing discussion, incorporating questions focused on heart and habit transformation.
  - **Hosea 14:1** - What does it mean to "return to the Lord"? How is it more than simply saying sorry?
  - **Hosea 14:2** - How are words connected to repentance? What danger lies in not confessing sin to God and to others walking with you in fellowship?
  - **Hosea 14:2b-3** - What are some modern equivalents of "Assyria" or "horses"? Why is it easier to place trust in things such as this rather than God?
  - **Hosea 14:4-8** - What picture does Hosea give of God's healing and flourishing, and how does this encourage us to repent? Where in your life do you need healing from past sin or brokenness?
  - **Hosea 14:9** - What does it mean to "walk in the ways of the Lord"? Where in your life do you see patterns of rebellion? Who in your life can encourage you to obedience?
  - **Application** - How will you respond to Hosea's call to wisdom and/or repentance this week?