



# Discussion Questions

## Hosea 11:1-11

### Sermon: God's Unyielding Compassion

- ❖ **God Is a Loving Father (11:1-4)**
  - God loves and grieves over the rebellious children He has saved. (vv. 1-2)
  - God leads His people with tender provision. (vv. 3-4)
  - **Question:** How does this challenge your view of God as Father? Where do you need to be reminded of His tender affection toward you?
- ❖ **God Never Gives Up On His People (11:5-11)**
  - God is calling for return, not empty cries. (vv. 5-7)
  - God's own character moves Him to restore His people. (vv. 8-11)
  - **Question:** God's compassionate character is calling you to return to Him. How will you respond?
- ❖ **Bottom Line: God's heart is always for mercy over judgment.**

### 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 11:1-2:** Why do you think God describes Israel as His child? How does this metaphor impact your understanding and view of Him?
  - **Hosea 11:3-4:** What are your thoughts on the imagery of God teaching his people to walk or bending down to feed them? How has your view of God as Father been influenced by your earthly experiences of parenting or being parented?
  - **Hosea 11:5-7:** Why does God reject Israel's cries in these verses? Have there been times in your life where you felt God was rejecting your cries? Why do you think this was the case?
  - **Hosea 11:8-9:** How do these verses magnify God's mercy rather than His wrath? When you are reminded of your failures or current struggles, is it easier for you to picture God as wrathful or merciful? Why?
  - **Hosea 11:10-11:** What does it mean to you that God's roar in these verses is not of wrath or judgement, but of compassion? Are you in a season of life where you are desiring to hear His roar more clearly? How can the group pray over you with this?
  - **Application:** Whether it is through repentance, worship, or renewed obedience, what is one specific way you can respond to God's call this week?