



LOVE  
BECKONS,  
MERCY  
PURSUES

*The Book of Hosea*

I searched the world  
but it couldn't fill me

Man's empty praise and treasures  
that fade are never enough

Then You came along  
and put me back together

And every desire is now satisfied  
here in Your love

Oh there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

I'm not afraid to show You  
my weakness



My failures and flaws  
Lord, You've seen them all  
and You still call me friend

'Cause the God of the mountain  
is the God of the valley

There's not a place  
Your mercy and grace  
won't find me again

Oh there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

Oh there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

You turn mourning to dancing

You give beauty for ashes



You turn shame into glory  
You're the only one who can

You turn graves into gardens

You turn bones into armies

You turn seas into highways  
You're the only one who can

You're the only one who can  
You're the only one who can!

Oh there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing  
Nothing is better than You

Oh there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

# Lord, there's nothing Nothing is better than You

“Graves into Gardens” words and music by Brandon Lake, Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, Tiffany Hammer  
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Before I spoke a word  
You were singing over me

You have been so, so good to me

Before I took a breath  
You breathed Your life in me

You have been so, so kind to me

O the overwhelming, never-ending,  
reckless Love of God

O it chases me down,  
fights 'til I'm found,  
leaves the ninety-nine

I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it  
Still You give Yourself away



O the overwhelming, never-ending,  
reckless Love of God

When I was Your foe  
still Your love fought for me

You have been so, so good to me

When I felt no worth  
You paid it all for me

You have been so, so kind to me

O the overwhelming, never-ending,  
reckless Love of God

O it chases me down,  
fights 'til I'm found,  
leaves the ninety-nine

I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it  
Still You give Yourself away



O the overwhelming, never-ending,  
reckless Love of God

There's no shadow  
You won't light up

Mountain You won't climb up  
Coming after me

There's no wall  
You won't kick down

Lie You won't tear down  
Coming after me

There's no shadow  
You won't light up

Mountain You won't climb up  
Coming after me

There's no wall  
You won't kick down



Lie You won't tear down  
Coming after me

There's no shadow  
You won't light up

Mountain You won't climb up  
Coming after me

There's no wall  
You won't kick down

Lie You won't tear down  
Coming after me

O the overwhelming, never-ending,  
reckless Love of God

O it chases me down,  
fights 'til I'm found,  
leaves the ninety-nine

I couldn't earn it, I don't deserve it  
Still You give Yourself away



# O the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless Love of God

“Reckless Love” words and music by Caleb Culver, Cory Asbury, and Ran Jackson

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BECKONS,  
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*The Book of Hosea*



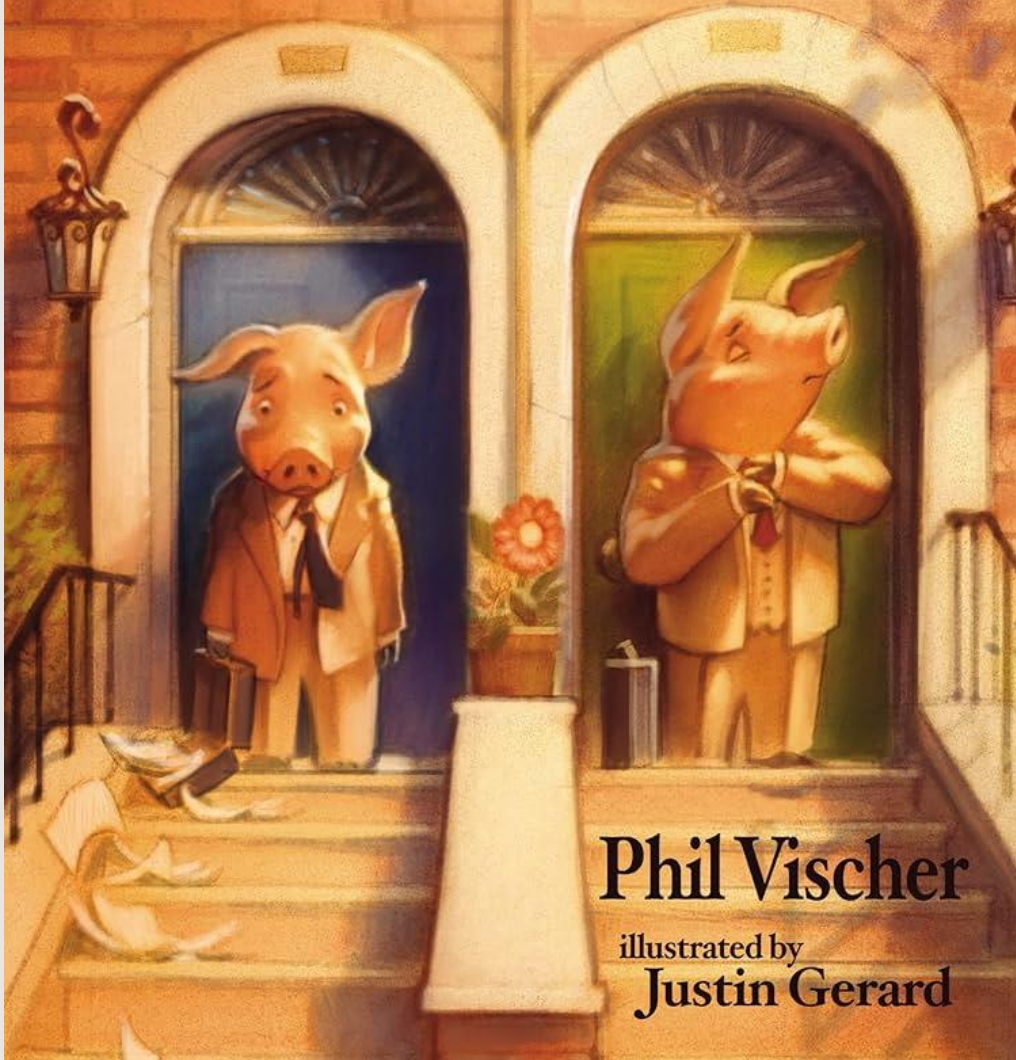
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# Sidney & Norman

a tale of two pigs



**Phil Vischer**  
illustrated by  
**Justin Gerard**



Let's chat!

What character do you relate  
to in this story? Why?

What character do you  
relate to in the book of  
Hosea?

Hosea, Gomer, Jezreel,  
No Mercy, Not My People

Both Gomer & the Israelites have  
chased after lovers.

Have you?

Whatever thing has your affections  
more than God (no matter how  
good it is) becomes your idol.

# 14 I Will Statements of God

1. I will allure her and bring her into the wilderness v14
2. I will give her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope v15
3. I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth v 17
4. I will make for them a covenant v18
5. I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land,
6. I will make you lie down in safety v18
7. I will betroth you to me forever v19



8. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy v19
9. I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord. v20
10. I will answer, declares the Lord v21
11. I will answer the heavens.. v21
12. I will sow her for myself in the land v23
13. I will have mercy on No Mercy v23
14. I will say to Not My People, "You are my people" v23

# Themes in Hosea 2:14-23

## GOD

- He pursues you at your worst.
- He loves you at your darkest.
- He gives hope.

## US

- Return
- Repent
- Receive  
restoration

He pursues you at your worst... Return

v14. Therefore, behold,

I will...

Why does He want her to  
return?

And whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

Jn 6:37

“We do not come to a set of doctrines.

We do not come to a church.

We do not even come to the gospel.

All of those are vital, but most truly, we come to a person, to Christ himself.” Dane Ortlund

v15 And there I will give her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time she came out of the land of Egypt.

Write a prayer to God.

# Loves you at your darkest... Repentance

v16 And in that day, declares the Lord, you will call me “My husband, and no longer will you call me “My Baal.”

v17 For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be remembered by name no more.

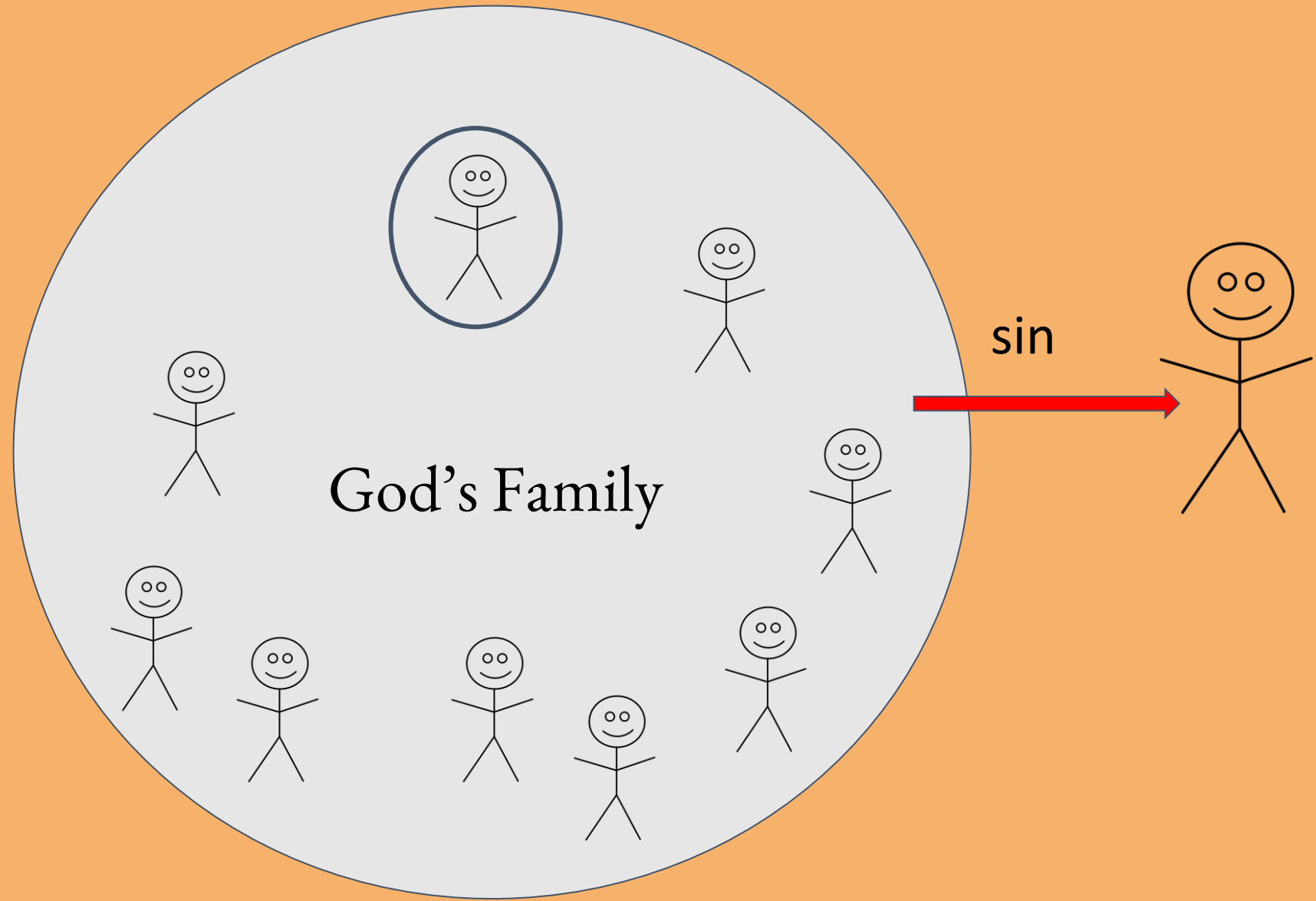


# Where's Gomer? Hosea?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Beyond the  
reach of  
God's grace

Beyond the need of  
God's grace



God's love is not based on what you do. God's love is based on who He is.

Hebrews 5:2 He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward.

“Consider what all this means. When we sin, we are encouraged to bring our mess to Jesus because he will know just how to receive us. He doesn’t handle us roughly. He doesn’t scowl and scold. He doesn’t lash out, the way many of our parent did. And all this restraint on his part is not because he has a diluted view of our sinfulness. He knows our sinfulness far more deeply than we do. His restraint simply flows from his tender heart for his people.” Dane Ortlund

v18-20 And I will make for them a covenant on that day... I will abolish the bow, the sword...and make you lie down in safety.

I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness, and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.

# He gives us hope... Restoration

v23. And I will sow her for myself in the land, And I will have mercy on No mercy, and I will say to Not My People, “You are my people; and he shall say, “You are my God.”

Can you see that Jesus has removed these labels? In their place he has written –

I will have mercy.

You are mine.

You are my beloved.

You are forgiven.

You are Cherished.

Let's Chat!

How have you seen God's promise of restoration and renewal at work in your life?

What Baals or idols have you seen God remove?



vevo



The background is a light pink color with a subtle, repeating pattern of fine, concentric lines that create a textured, wood-grain-like effect. Several thick, vibrant lines in various colors (yellow, teal, orange, blue, green, purple, and pink) are drawn across the image, some parallel and some intersecting, creating a dynamic and colorful border.

*Group Time*