

The 12: Hosea Part Three

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

The book of Hosea is a way back home

Hosea had to live through betrayal to understand its devastation.

*Have you lived through something that you now understand and can share with others?

To come home, we need to see that we've left home

To wake us up, sometimes God has to shake us up.

*What are some reasons we leave home and wander away? Why do we sometimes become unfaithful when times are easy?

*When do you feel afraid to come home? Or fool yourself that you haven't left?

To come home, we have to hope in the heart of God

His heart is one of parent always waiting to welcome us home.

*When have you seen God like a good parent in your life?

*What do you know to be true about the nature of God that gives you hope to come home?

To come home, we have to choose to return

When we return, God restores us to him and to others.

Read and discuss Hosea 14:1-7(NIV)

14 Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God,
for you have stumbled because of your iniquity.

² Take words with you
and return to the Lord;
say to him,

"Take away all guilt;
accept that which is good,
and we will offer
the fruit of our lips.

³ Assyria shall not save us;
we will not ride upon horses;
we will say no more, 'Our God,'
to the work of our hands.

In you the orphan finds mercy."

⁴ I will heal their disloyalty;
I will love them freely,
for my anger has turned from them.

⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel;
he shall blossom like the lily,
he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon.

⁶ His shoots shall spread out;
his beauty shall be like the olive tree,
and his fragrance like that of Lebanon.

⁷ They shall again live beneath my shadow,
they shall flourish as a garden;
they shall blossom like the vine,
their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

*What do these verses say about God? About us? What do they show us about restoration?

*What does it mean to *choose* to return home?

*Where are you stuck, in a place you don't want to be?

*Where do sense he might be calling you home?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina) [The Forgiving Father](#) by Frank Wesley

Song for reflection [The Prodigal Song](#) by Cory Asbury