

May 31, 2020



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

The choice to pursue holiness is a matter of life or death

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Father, I want to cooperate with You in Your work of changing me to become more like Jesus. Help me to walk in Your ways. Without Your work in me, nothing of lasting value will occur in my growth in holiness

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord*

(Heb 12:14 NKJV)

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 08, 2015)*

**New Series: Many Faces of Wisdom**

**UNIT: Wisdom in Proverbs**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Listen to God's Wisdom**  
(Prov 1:1-4, 7-8, 10, 20-22, 32-33)

## Pursue Love and Justice Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10; 12:1-2, 6-14

**Lesson Background and Introduction**

Israel was wealthy and proud of its success. Turning their backs on God, the people also found it all too easy to shift allegiance to the fictitious deity known as Baal (Hosea 2:8, 13); this went hand in hand with injustice (4:1, 2). In confronting this idolatry, God called Hosea to live out a unique and difficult parable of God's love for Israel (see chap. 1-3). Hosea's style did not involve pronouncing what we might call highly directed prophecies—those beginning with the command “Hear,” followed by named addressees—the way other prophets did (contrast Jeremiah 10:1; 22:2). Two exceptions are found in Hosea 4:1 and 5:1. Following those pronouncements, Hosea simply continued his generalized prophetic pronouncements on wayward Israel. For this reason, the organization of the book can be difficult to determine. All too frequently we feel the sneaky satisfaction of having gotten away with something. And our choices often convey to others that we are the most important people in our lives. We feel secure because of what we own or who we know; when trouble comes, we try to solve our own problems by way of people and stuff. Suddenly Israel looks as familiar as our reflection in the mirror. It's time to leave those things behind and trust in God. It's time to show through our actions that we follow God only.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Unfailing Love** - The Book of Hosea is a testament to God's love for Israel, a people bent on doing wrong and seemingly incapable of making the right choices. The heavenly Father wooed them, compelling them to come into the safety of His loving arms. God spoke through the prophet Hosea to remind Israel of how over 500 years before He went to great lengths to deliver them from Egypt. However, they eventually rejected Him, bowing down to idols instead. They maintained rituals, but with no genuine relationship. Their affections and attention were elsewhere. God longed in His heart to love and be close to them, and He is loyal to His covenants. However, as a loving Father, He is obligated to correct and chasten His children, and that is not a pleasurable experience. God takes no pleasure in disciplining His children, but He knows it's necessary.

**Unfulfilling Gods** - Hosea reminded them that worshiping idols is like feeding on the wind; it is useless, empty. And rather than trust in God, Israel often made alliances and deals with surrounding countries for protection instead. Believing in these false gods was telling themselves a lie. Hosea used Jacob as an example. In his early years, he manipulated, made double deals, and tricked people. These mischievous activities dominated his lifestyle. But in the end, Jacob surrendered to God's will, pleading for a blessing. Hosea told Israel to do the same. God is always willing to help a backslider find his or her way home. Hosea's message was difficult for people to hear because of their prosperity at the time. But God showed the people their wrongdoing would lead to internal decay and eventually they would be homeless again and enslaved.

**Loving Them Anyhow** - The entire Book of Hosea communicates God's compassion for those who are disobedient to Him. God loves all His children and wants them to stay close to Him. He will persevere in His chasing after them, but they in turn must turn to Him.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### God's Faithfulness (Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10)

#### *God's faithful love (1)*

- Faithful love because He is love (1 John 4:8)
- Faithful love because He is rich in it (Eph 2:4)
- Faithful love because He quiets us with it (Zeph 3:17)
- Faithful love because nothing can separate us from it (Rom 8:39)
- Faithful love though the sacrifice of His Son (John 3:16)
- Faithful love because of His grace (2 Thess 2:16)
- Faithful love while were still sinners (Rom 5:8)

#### *God's faithfulness in spite of Israel's hypocrisy (2, 7)*

- Hypocrisy of neglecting important things (Matt 23:23-24)
- Hypocrisy of saying one thing, but doing another (Matt 23:2-7)
- Hypocrisy of acting like one is earnest (Isa 58:2-4)
- Hypocrisy that will one day be totally exposed (Luke 12:1-3)
- Hypocrisy that shuts the kingdom of heaven from others (Matt 23:13)
- Hypocrisy that fails to see own sin (Luke 6:42)

#### *God's faithful forgiveness (8-9)*

- Forgiveness that does not remember sins any more (Heb 8:12)
- Forgiveness that sanctifies (Acts 26:17-18)
- Forgiveness that rescues from a dominion of darkness (Col 1:13-14)
- Forgiveness through Jesus' blood (Matt 26:28)
- Forgiveness that is in accordance with God's grace (Eph 1:7)

#### *God's faithfulness leading to Israel's return to God (10)*

- Returning that will result in growth in knowing God (Jer 24:7)
- Returning that could bring blessings from God (Joel 2:13-14)
- Returning that is a sign of growth in faith (Luke 17:17-19)
- Returning that brings healing of the spiritual and physical man (2 Chron 7:14)
- Returning that brings restoral (Deut 30:2-3)
- Returning that brings answered prayers and forgiveness (1 Kings 8:47-50)

### God's Resolution (Hosea 12:1-2, 6-14)

#### *God's judgment of Sin (1-2)*

- Judgment that one should be prepared for (Amos 4:12)
- Judgment for stubbornness and unrepentant hearts (Rom 2:5)
- Judgment because all must appear before the judgment seat of God (2 Cor 5:10)
- Judgment because it is destined for man to face judgment (Heb 9:27)
- Judgment of pride (Luke 20:45-47)

#### *Ephraim's repentance and observing of love and mercy (6)*

- Repentance because it is from God's kindness (Rom 2:4)
- Repentance because of godly sorrow (2 Cor 7:9-10)
- Repentance so that God will lead to the knowledge of the truth (2 Tim 2:24-26)
- Repentance because God wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9)
- Repentance that brings God's refreshing (Acts 3:19)

#### *Ephraim's ceasing of being prideful (7-8)*

- Because pride causes destruction (Prov 16:18)
- Because pride never makes sense (Isa 10:15-16)
- Because pride makes one think more highly of himself than he ought (Rom 12:3)
- Because pride is an abomination to God (Prov 16:5)
- Because pride keeps one from seeking God (Ps 10:4)
- Because pride makes one a fool (Prov 26:12)

#### *God's plan for reconciliation (9-10)*

- Reconciliation through justification (Rom 5:1-2)
- Reconciliation through Jesus' death (Rom 5:10)
- Reconciliation because Jesus became our peace (Eph 2:14-16)
- Reconciliation through Jesus' blood (Col 1:19-22)
- Reconciliation through forgiveness of sins (Heb 2:17)

#### *God's punishment of resistance to plan (11-14)*

- Resistance through ignoring God's advice and not accepting His rebuke (Prov 1:24-26)
- Resistance will cause trials and discipline to become heavier (Isa 28:22-23)
- Resistance will cause God's anger to burn (Isa 5:24-25)
- Resistance through backsliding (Jer 15:6)
- Resistance through despising God's Word (Isa 30:12-13)