

Love Never Fails

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God's Word.

Message Summary

The New Day Church family is reading through the bible chronologically in 2017. Each week we hear a sermon based on the material we have already read for the week. We are learning that the story of Redemption is on full display from Genesis to Revelation. Both Old and New Testaments are one unified story that speaks of the beauty of God and the Redemption He has provided for us.

Over the last couple of months we have read through 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, and several other supporting books. In doing so, we have read through several hundred years of history of the people of God. During the 8th century BC Israel had experienced a time of great prosperity and peace unlike any since the time of Solomon. However, along with prosperity came a turning away from the One that gave it all to them. Morality decayed and idolatry grew. Ultimately, God moved into motion the judgment against His people that He promised if they turned away. Along with this He brought prophets who would speak against Israel's sin. While books like Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles give a narrative of the story of the people of God, the prophets give a 1st person narrative from God Himself.

Hosea was the last of the prophets who spoke on behalf of God before the Northern Kingdom fell. He was called the "death-bed prophet of Israel." Like all the other prophets, Hosea's words seemed strange. Out of place. Harsh. And even hard to understand. Hosea 14:9 ends the book and says, *"Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them."*

God called Hosea to marry a promiscuous woman. He did this to show the people of Israel in a very profound way that just as Hosea's wife repeatedly committed adultery against Hosea, so the people of Israel had committed spiritual adultery against Him. As a result, Israel would be judged and sent into exile. But judgment is not God's final word. God called Hosea to continue to pursue his wife and love her regardless of her adultery. In the same way, faithful to His promises to Abraham, God would love Israel in spite of their sin and ultimately redeem and bless them.

God never changes. His love for people today has been demonstrated in the same way through His Son, Jesus Christ. God punished His Son for our sin and redeemed us at the cost of His life, blessing us while cursing His Son. We can rejoice in this Good News and live in light of it by running after the One who saved us. He has loved us and this kind of love never fails!

Message Outline

Hosea prophesied that Israel would be:

1. Punished by God for spiritual adultery.
2. Redeemed by God at great personal cost.
3. Blessed by God through dramatic reversals.

How does this story intersect with my life?

- We are all are spiritual adulterers/adulteresses.

God's message to us:

1. God punished His Son for our spiritual adultery.
2. God redeemed us at the cost of His Son.
 - Jesus was regarded as the unfaithful wife.
3. God blessed us by cursing His Son.
 - Jesus was condemned like the harlot's children:
 - Like Jezreel, He is the place of bloodshed.
 - Like No Mercy, He was given no relief.
 - Like Not My People, He was cut off from the Father.

Therefore, in Christ let's:

1. Rejoice in the Faithful God who has pursued unfaithful people.
2. Respond to the changing power of the unchanging God.
3. Run after the imperishable while we dwell in the perishable.

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Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Hosea 1:1-11:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

• Church:

- Pray as we seek to identify additional elders to lead us into the future.
- Pray about going on a global mission trip this year.
- Pray as we seek to raise up additional leaders who will multiply our Missional Communities.
- Pray for our worship space.
- Pray for our finances.
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- _____

• Local:

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- _____
- _____
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• Global:

- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for new workers on the mission field.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.
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