**Hosea 11**

**Lesson 26 Disappointment of a Parent**

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? Was there a particular verse or lesson in our study of Hosea this week that you found inspiring in some way?**
2. **In Chapter 1 the relationship between God and Israel is described as a marriage to an adulterous spouse. How is the relationship described in this chapter? See Hosea 11:1-4**

**Hosea 11:1-4**

When Israel was a child I loved him,  
    out of Egypt I called my son.  
**2**The more I called them,  
    the farther they went from me,  
Sacrificing to the Baals  
    and burning incense to idols.  
**3**Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,  
    who took them in my arms;  
    but they did not know that I cared for them.  
**4**I drew them with human cords,  
    with bands of love;   
I fostered them like those  
    who raise an infant to their cheeks;  
    I bent down to feed them.

1. **Can you think of other terms we use for God that are used describe *our relationship* with God? See Psalm 28, Psalm 18 and Isaiah 40 for other terms used in the Old Testament for the LORD. Do you have another metaphor that describes your personal relationship with the LORD?**

**Psalm 28:7** New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE)

**7**The Lord is my strength and my shield,  
    in whom my heart trusts.  
I am helped, so my heart rejoices;  
    with my song I praise him.

# Psalm 18:2 New International Version (NIV)

**2**The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;  
    my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
    my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

# Isaiah 40:11 New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE)

**11**Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;  
    in his arms he gathers the lambs,  
Carrying them in his bosom,  
    leading the ewes with care.

1. **The message of Hosea 11 is again focused on the unfaithfulness of Ephraim (Israel). What is the fate of Israel that is prophesied here? Is this a literal “return to Egypt”? Refer to verses 5-7.**

**Hosea 11:5-7**

He shall return to the land of Egypt,  
    Assyria shall be his king,  
    because they have refused to repent.  
**6**The sword shall rage in his cities:  
    it shall destroy his diviners,  
    and devour them because of their schemings.  
**7**My people have their mind set on apostasy;  
    though they call on God in unison,  
    he shall not raise them up.

1. **Hosea depicts the Lord as being torn between justice owed Israel and mercy or compassion**.

**Which words or phrases describe justice due Israel?**

**Which verses describe mercy and compassion? See Hosea 11:8-9**

**Hosea 11:8-9**

How could I give you up, Ephraim,  
    or deliver you up, Israel?  
How could I treat you as Admah,  
    or make you like Zeboiim?   
My heart is overwhelmed,  
    my pity is stirred.  
**9**I will not give vent to my blazing anger,  
    I will not destroy Ephraim again;  
For I am God and not a man,  
    the Holy One present among you;  
    I will not come in wrath.

1. **Is this dilemma between punishment and mercy typical for parents who have difficult children?**
2. **Check your footnotes or commentary for the significance of Admah and Zeboiim in verse 8.**
3. **Another metaphor for the LORD is used in verse 10. This is a big contrast to the earlier image of God a parent. What is the significance of calling the LORD a lion? Check footnotes if you have them. Refer to verses 10-11.**

**Hosea 11:10-11**

They shall follow the Lord, who roars like a lion;  
When he roars, his children shall come frightened from the west,  
**11**Out of Egypt they shall come trembling, like birds, like doves,

from the land of Assyria. And I will resettle them in their homes,  
    Oracle of the Lord.