

## TALK IT OVER

How did everyone's action step/s go this week? What progress did you make? (We want to shepherd our few really well. Hold people accountable to what God is calling them to but do so out of love.)

Read Hosea 14 (Passage is on 2nd page. The book of Hosea is one big object lesson. It was written approximately in 785 BCE. Hosea had a real life situation that God used to illustrate his problem with Israel. Hosea's adulterous wife had broken his heart and this is what happened to God as Israel had "cheated" on him with false gods. Hosea's wife's affairs led her into a situation where she was to be sold as a slave and Hosea bought her because he couldn't stand to be without her. This was an illustration of Israel as they were going to be conquered by Assyria and sold as slaves because they had forsaken God and his protection. Hosea prophesied about a future blessing where God would restore Israel). Once you've read the passage ask these questions:

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not know before?
- What did you learn about God? (Pastor Brad started off with Hosea 14:7 which tells of his people living and flourishing in his shadow. What does that mean? Why are his people flourishing in his shadow? What images does this passage conjure up for you? Why? What does it say about who God is?)
- What did you learn about people? (Pastor Brad said that we are all influenced by the shadows we live in. Whose shadow is most impactful in your life? **BE READY TO SHARE FIRST.** Have you ever thought about those that live in your shadow? Why/why not? Pastor Brad said that the shadow we live in is the shadow we live out. What does this mean to you? What does it mean for the ones in your shadow now? Have you found yourself projecting instead of reflecting? How so? What do you think it looks like to "dwell beneath his shadow"? )
- What will you take away from this discussion? (Are there things you have to change about the shadow you're in or the shadow you cast? What did God say to you about your shadow?)
- What will you do with what you have learned? (Pastor Brad mentioned 4 thoughts about being intentional with our shadows: **Your Shadow has Impact whether you want it to or not. Your Shadow is always Consistent with your Life. An Impactful Shadow comes from God's ongoing work in your life. Our Greatest Impact does not come from access to many but access to few.** Which of these is a strength for you? Which do you need to work on? Name one thing you can do tomorrow to make your shadow be more life giving. Write down your few's answers. Encourage them this week with that.)
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn't hit in this discussion?
- Next week make sure to read Isaiah 40:12-26. Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read. **Really encourage group to register for "What's Next" it starts next week.**

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you're doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

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my love will know no bounds,  
for my anger will be gone forever.

<sup>5</sup> I will be to Israel  
like a refreshing dew from heaven.  
Israel will blossom like the lily;  
it will send roots deep into the soil  
like the cedars in Lebanon.

<sup>6</sup> Its branches will spread out like beautiful olive trees,  
as fragrant as the cedars of Lebanon.

<sup>7</sup> My people will again live under my shade.  
They will flourish like grain and blossom like grapevines.  
They will be as fragrant as the wines of Lebanon.

<sup>8</sup> “O Israel,<sup>[a]</sup> stay away from idols!  
I am the one who answers your prayers and cares for you.  
I am like a tree that is always green;  
all your fruit comes from me.”

<sup>9</sup> Let those who are wise understand these things.  
Let those with discernment listen carefully.  
The paths of the LORD are true and right,  
and righteous people live by walking in them.  
But in those paths sinners stumble and fall.

Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Brad’s sermon.

### Healing for the Repentant

14 <sup>[a]</sup>Return, O Israel, to the  
LORD your God,  
for your sins have brought  
you down.

<sup>2</sup> Bring your confessions, and  
return to the LORD.

Say to him,  
“Forgive all our sins and  
graciously receive us,  
so that we may offer you our  
praises.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Assyria cannot save us,  
nor can our warhorses.  
Never again will we say to the  
idols we have made,  
‘You are our gods.’  
No, in you alone  
do the orphans find mercy.”

<sup>4</sup> The LORD says,  
“Then I will heal you of your  
faithlessness;