

## October 2nd Week

### Return to God

- **Text:** Hosea 6:1~3 (October 8)
- **Bottom line:** If you know what God is like, you'll know that the way back to God is best.

#### ≡ 1. Praise

(Hymn 528) 예수가 우리를 부르는 소리

#### ≡ 2. Prayer

Thank you, God, for allowing our family to know and worship You. Please refresh our hearts as we come before you and pour out heavenly peace and joy upon us.

#### ≡ 3. The Word

Read Hosea 6:1~3 together (read the verse 3 times).

\* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

##### <ESV>

- 1 "Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.
- 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.
- 3 Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."

##### <NASB>

- 1 "Come, let's return to the Lord. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us.
- 2 He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him.
- 3 So let's learn, let's press on to know the Lord. His appearance is as sure as the dawn; And He will come to us like the rain, As the spring rain waters the earth."

## Understanding Text

God pronounced judgment on Israel, who had departed from Him and fell into sin. However, God's true intention was not for them to be judged, but for them to realize their mistakes and return to Him. The prophet Hosea said, "Let us return to the Lord." Returning to God is the only way to live.

### Understanding the text for leaders

When Hosea was active as a prophet, it was a time when Aram, which had been afflicting northern Israel, gradually declined, and northern Israel conquered Damascus, the capital of Syria, and enjoyed great abundance. Northern Israel, which enjoyed unprecedented prosperity, worshipped idols and indulged in pleasure, forgetting God. God warned the northern Israelites of judgment and foretold their destruction. Judah was no different from northern Israel. They didn't obey God's word. God also pronounced judgment on Judah. However, God's true intention was not for them to be judged and destroyed. Even though they are torn and bruised by God's chastisement, When we return to God, we can be restored. So Hosea pleaded with us to strive to know who God is and what He wants. God punishes sin, but He is more loving. Just as the dawn always comes, God comes without fail, and He comes like the early rain and the latter rain. The 'early rain' and 'late rain' in the text are the necessary climatic conditions for abundant dissipation. 'Early rain' refers to a lot of rain that falls between December~February, and it is very necessary rain when planting. The 'latter rain' is the rain that falls in March~April and makes the crops bear fruit faithfully. The early rain and the latter rain symbolize God's blessings. In this way, God always wants to bless us. Even though we are judged for our sins, if we remember the God of great love and come back, there is always hope.

## 4. Sharing

1) To a people torn and bruised by sin and judgment, Hosea said, "Let us return to the Lord." Why did he appeal? (Verses 1~3)

### Upper Grades

What happens when wounded and struggling people turn to God? (verse 1).

### Lower Grades

What happens when sick and struggling people turn to God? (verses 1~2)

### Question Guide

To a people bruised and torn by judgment, Hosea said, "Let us return to the Lord." The only way for them to live is to return to God. Let's take a look at verses 1~3 and talk about what kind of restoration those who have returned to God will enjoy, and what God's disposition is like in the text.

### Comments for Leaders

"Let us return to Jehovah." Hosea's appeal describes God's character. I am saddened by the impending judgment of the Israelites, but there is hope if God is still in their midst. God is not the one who punishes and destroys. He wanted the people to repent of their sins and return to God in the midst of discipline. God is the God who heals and binds up those who have returned from the wound, and He takes care of them and blesses them with unfailing love. Just as the dawn comes, the early rain and the late rain bring abundance, God blesses us with faithful love. The prophet Hosea gives us an emergency prescription that we must not forget in the midst of judgment.

2) Share with us what we need to start and stop doing today in order to correct the deviations in our daily lives and return to God.

■ **Upper Grades**

From the words I meditated on today, what is God's disposition that I should rely on now? Why?

■ **Lower Grades**

What kind of God is this God?

□ **Question Guide**

Examine yourself to see if you have sinned because you have fallen away from God, and share what you need to turn to God and what you need to recover. Above all, it is important to know what God is like, so share how you and your family can practice the knowledge of God.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

Sometimes we struggle because of our sins and mistakes. But remember that God's love is greater than our struggles. Remember that God forgives and restores us in any circumstance, and that returning to Him is the only way we can live again. Hosea urged us to strive to know God, saying, "Let us strive to know the Lord." The closer we know God and the closer we get to Him, the more we can keep away from sin.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Thank God for always accepting us.

≡ **6. Prayer**

God! Thank you for punishing us for our sins, but restoring us with great love. May we grow in Your knowledge, and if we fall into sin, please help us remember You who heal and bind us up, so that we can quickly turn back.

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