



Running Away from God Hosea 4-8

November 29, 2009

Discussion Questions

When have you forgotten something you really needed to know?
Why did you forget what you needed to know?

Hosea 4:1-3

Hear the word of the LORD, O children of Israel,
for the LORD has a controversy with the
inhabitants of the land.
There is no faithfulness or steadfast love,
and no knowledge of God in the land;
there is swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and
committing adultery;
they break all bounds and bloodshed follows
bloodshed.

Hosea 5:3-4

I know all about Ephraim;
Israel is not hidden from me.
Ephraim, you have now turned to prostitution;
Israel is corrupt.
Their deeds do not permit them
to return to their God
A spirit of prostitution is in their heart;
they do not know the LORD.

Hosea 6:4,6

What can I do with you, Ephraim?
What can I do with you, Judah?
Your love is like the morning mist,
like the early dew that disappears.
For I desire mercy, not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God rather
than burnt offerings.

What is the 'knowledge of God'?
Why was there 'no knowledge of God in the land'?
What is the result of this lack of knowledge?
Are there the same consequences today?

Why did Israel turn to other gods and other nations?
Did they find what they were looking for?
Do we face the same temptations today?

Why doesn't God believe that the people are truly repentant?
How do you understand "For I desire mercy, not sacrifice"?
What does this mean for our worship?

What is the root of all their problems according to God?
What do we do to make sure we don't make the same mistakes
as Israel?
What do we have that they didn't have to help us?