

5. Look at Hosea 4:2 and Amos 5:10–12 (Amos prophesied in Israel shortly before Hosea). Jot down some of the Israelites’ “deeds” (vs. 4) that demonstrate their corruption. What does God’s anger over such acts reveal about his character?
6. Read Rom. 1:21–32 to trace the downward spiral of those who refuse to “acknowledge the LORD” (vs. 4). How is it possible for the deeds of such people to prohibit them from returning to God?
7. The Israelites’ prosperity caused them to become arrogant (as they had been warned in Deut. 8:10–14). What things tempt you to become arrogant? What is the remedy for such arrogance? (Rom. 12:3; Eph. 2:1–5; Jas. 4:10)

Day 3: Read Hosea 5:5–7.

8. Verse 6 refers to the bringing of animals for sacrifice. But the Israelites are simply going through the motions—their evil deeds belie their show of religion. How does God respond to their false piety? What does he want instead of empty ritual? (Is. 1:11–17; Ps. 51:17; cf. Jas. 1:27)
9. When have you found yourself “going through the motions”? What has helped you? If this is a problem for you now, pray that God would revive your spirit. Ask someone else to pray for you, too.

Day 4: Read Hosea 5:8–14.

10. Beth Aven (“house of wickedness”) is God’s sarcastic renaming of Bethel (“house of God”). Given what has been going on in Israel, why the name change?
11. What do verses 9 and 10 say is in store for Israel and Judah?
12. To what does God compare himself as the one who executes judgment? (vss. 12, 14) What do these images convey?
13. Nations form strategic alliances all the time. Why is Israel (“Ephraim”) sinning in turning to a powerful kingdom for help (vs. 13)? (Ps. 146:3–6; Dan. 2:21; 4:17)
14. Think back to a time this past week when you needed help. What did you do? Where do you turn for help?

Day 5: Read Hosea 5:1–15.

15. What glimmer of hope is there at the end of the chapter? How will God respond? (Deut. 4:25–31)
16. How does God respond to all who “earnestly seek” him (vs. 15)? (Acts 2:21; Heb. 11:6)