

RISKING ALL FOR LOVE

The Only Savior Hosea 13:1—14:9

“I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.” Hosea 14:4

Day 1: Read Hosea 13:1–6.

1. Describe the change that Ephraim (Israel) undergoes in these first six verses.
2. In verse 3, what is Israel likened to? What characteristics do these images share, and what does this mean for Israel’s future?
3. Of what does verse 4 remind us (and Israel)? (See Ex. 20:2–3.)
4. What would Israel look like if she really knew God? (Deut. 6:10–25)
5. What is the difference between knowing God as Israel did and knowing God as Paul describes it in Romans 10:9–10?

Day 2: Read Hosea 13:6–8.

6. Forgetting God entails more than just a memory lapse. For Israel, what does it involve and how has it come about? (vs. 6)
7. Describe a period in your own life when self-sufficiency eroded your trust in God. What things do you pray for? Consider whether they are the very things that will make you independent of God.
8. What is God compared to in verses 7–8? What does this figurative language convey? (See Heb. 10:31.)

Day 3: Read Hosea 13:9—14:2.

9. What is ironic about God's question in Hosea 13:10? (Read Psalm 2 and consider how the power of kings compares with the power of God.)

10. In what sense was Israel's monarchy a rebellion against God? (Judges 8:22–23; 1 Sam. 8:5–8, 20)

11. Why do you think God would give his people something, e.g., a king, that has the potential to drive them away from himself?

Day 4: Read Hosea 13:12–16.

12. Hosea 13:12–16 describes the death of Ephraim using three vivid images. What are they? (vss. 13, 15, 16b)

13. What sobering fact do we learn in verse 12? Is this true only for Ephraim? (Mt. 7:21–23)

14. If in verse 12 we learn that God can't overlook sin, what words in verse 14 hint at the solution? Do you spot the ray of hope in Hosea 13:14? What is its significance for Israel? For us? (See 1 Cor. 15:55–57.)

Day 5: Read Hosea 14:1–9.

15. What should true repentance consist of? (Try to find three things in verses 1–3.)

16. How does God respond to the repentance of his people? (vs. 4)

17. What pictures does Hosea give of God's blessings to his people? (vss. 5–8; recall 2:16–23)

18. Write Hosea's closing admonition in your own words (vs. 9).

19. What has God most impressed on you during this study of Hosea?