

# Group Discussion Guide for Week of 8/8/2021

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Hosea 6:1-6 (NIV)*

<sup>6</sup> “Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds.

<sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

<sup>3</sup> Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

<sup>4</sup> “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.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth—then my judgments go forth like the sun.

<sup>6</sup> For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings

## General Question Bank

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

**Know** (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

**Together** (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

## Discussion/Topic Starter (Ice Breaker)

- Mercy reaches many people in many forms: when has mercy made you thankful? Has it ever made you upset?

## Hosea 6:1-6

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

\*\*\*Another way to ask: “Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you’re intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further.” Now share it with the group

Greek New Testament	Hebrew Old Testament
<i>Eleos</i> (noun, 27 occurrences), <i>Eleeo</i> (verb, 32 occurrences): kindness or concern expressed for someone in need; of humans toward humans or of God toward humans	<i>Hanan</i> (n, 77): undeserved favor, beg or plea for mercy, acts of mercy
<i>Splanchna</i> (n, 11), <i>Splanchnizomai</i> (v, 12): love, affection, inward parts/guts	<i>Rachem</i> (v, 30), <i>Rachamim</i> (n, 39): compassion, affection, derived from <i>rechem</i> , womb
<i>Oiktirmos</i> (n, 5), <i>Oiktirmon</i> (n, 3): display of concern over another’s misfortune	<i>Hesed</i> (n, 244): loyalty, lovingkindness, covenant faithfulness, devotion, favor, approval

- O: Look at the chart of Greek and Hebrew words for mercy above. What do you find interesting about these different uses?
- O: God’s grief over the hard-heartedness of his people is clear in the cry to both Ephraim and Judah: “What shall I do with you?” (6:4). The reason for his outburst immediately follows: their love for him is pretense. How is this love described, and how does it contrast with what they’ve assumed God will do for them in 6:1–3?
- I: The sort of love God wants from his people is evidenced in *hesed* mercy and covenant faithfulness (Hos. 6:6). With what has Israel been attempting to placate God; and why, given that sacrifice was required by the covenant, did these efforts displease him? In what ways are we prone to the same thing?
- I: Israel’s covenant obligation was to keep God’s law in the spirit of mercy, not sacrifice. What is our responsibility as participants in the New Covenant of Christ’s blood, and how do we guard against that responsibility becoming a lifeless “sacrifice”?
- A: How have you experienced God’s mercy in your life?
- A: Taking up the theme of Isaiah 1:10-2:5; Jeremiah 7:1-11; Amos 5:4-27, and Micah 6:1-8, Hosea declares that if worship does not generate virtuous living and a just society, it makes a mockery of Yahweh and is nothing but self-serving piety. How can we be more intentional about living out this *hesed* mercy in our community?

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

## Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He’s in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him. Pray together, spend some time being silent (so we can listen, aka, “Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Then pray in response to the content from this letter in Revelation as well as to what the H.S. reveals to us.
- **Respond:** Spend this week responding to God’s word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week’s devotional guide.

## **An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides\*:**

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides. We believe the process for this transformation happens in community, hence the **“Together”** part of the Riverside mission as well.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”
- **“Together**, what is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on [Colossians 1:9-10](#), see below)

**Know** – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God.”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

**Be** – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

**Do** – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)*  
To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

### **Colossians 1:9-10, NIV**

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...*

---

\* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” *There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time.* This guide was created in consultation with the *BDAG Greek-English Lexicon*, *Hosea, Amos, Micah: The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Revised Edition* by M. Daniel Carroll R. and Thomas McComiskey, and *Hosea: Knowing the Bible* by Lydia Brownback.