



Sermon Discussion Guide

May 10th, 2026 | Hosea 8:1-14 | Pastor Greg Doty

Series // Hosea: Taste and See My Grace

Summary

This powerful examination of Hosea chapter 8 confronts us with an uncomfortable truth: we can believe we're right with God while actually drifting far from Him. The prophet Hosea delivered God's warning to Israel during a time of prosperity and peace, when everything seemed fine on the surface. Yet God saw their hearts had turned away. Through vivid imagery of circling vultures and wandering donkeys, we're shown three devastating realities: we don't truly know God when we reshape Him to match our preferences, we don't seek Him when we chase security in wealth and worldly alliances, and we don't remember Him when we become consumed with building bigger lives for ourselves. The antidote God offers is beautifully simple yet profoundly challenging: remember. Walk backwards into the future by keeping our eyes fixed on His past faithfulness. This isn't merely nostalgia but a deliberate practice of recalling how God has shown Himself mighty, secure, and gracious in our lives. When we remember the cross, the gospel, and God's faithfulness throughout our stories, we find the safety and security we desperately crave, not in bank accounts or backup plans, but in the God who sings over us with delight.

Discussion Questions (Read Hosea 3):

- **Icebreaker Question:** Share a time when you forgot something important (left dishes out, forgot where you parked, missed an appointment). What distracted you or caused you to forget?

You Don't Know Me

- The sermon described Israel as thinking they were "good with God" because of their prosperity and peace. Why is it dangerous to measure our relationship with God by our circumstances?
- The pastor mentioned that we can create a "God" in our minds who never disagrees with us. How can we guard against creating a comfortable version of God rather than knowing Him as He truly is?
- What practices help you genuinely know God better (not just know about Him)?

You Don't Seek Me

- Israel sought security in political alliances with Assyria and Egypt rather than in God. Where are you most tempted to find safety and security outside of God?
- The sermon mentioned online sports betting as one modern example of seeking security in the wrong places. What are other contemporary "safety nets" people turn to instead of God?

You Don't Remember Me

- The Hebrew word for "forgotten" can mean both accidentally forgetting and intentionally neglecting. Which form of forgetting do you struggle with most? Why?
- What things in our culture most easily cause us to forget God? (The sermon mentioned bigger houses, bank accounts, reputations, online presence, followers, likes, etc.)
- The pastor shared the image of "walking backwards into the future"—keeping our eyes on God's past faithfulness as we move forward. What does this look like practically?
- What are specific ways God has been faithful to you in the past? Take time for each person to share at least one example.