

## RECAP

As you consider last week's message and practice, were you able to find time to write down your story about how God has rescued you in His relentless pursuit?

## IDEA 1

We are in the last week of our series on Hosea - God's Relentless Pursuit - and here in the final chapter - Hosea 14 - we have what in a way are the marriage vows of a God, taking back his unfaithful but repentant bride. And it is powerful...

*God, in His relentless pursuit, is ready to renew His vows with His unfaithful but repentant bride.*

Consider your wedding vows or vows you've observed in weddings. What is their significance? And what do they mean to you?

How does the analogy of God wanting *to renew His vows* with Israel inform us of his grace and character?

Has there been a season in your life you felt God wanting to "renew His vows" with you? What was your response?

## IDEA 2

To a repentant people - hear the vows of renewal - *Then I will heal you of your faithlessness; my love will know no bounds, for my anger will be gone forever.*

**I will heal - I will love - I will no longer be angry**

And in this, we are reminded of who He is - His Character - His love - His holiness. - His provision His ultimate heart is to heal and save. **His love is not fragile, it's vulnerable, persistent, and relentless.**

What does it mean that God will heal you from your faithlessness and that his love knows no bounds?

How has God healed you in the past from sin or patterns of disobedience? Was it with discipline or w/ grace?

What does it mean that God's love is not fragile but vulnerable? How has that looked liked in your life?

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

In a similar vein to Jennifer's message last week, consider the practice of inserting oneself into the narrative of scripture. We recognize that these promises historically and contextually were given to Israel, yet we also recognize God's heart and posture are the same for us who follow him. Thus, as a spiritual practice, we ask God for similar promises.

*I will be to [Insert Name ] like a refreshing dew from heaven. [Insert Name] will blossom like the lily; it will send roots deep into the soil like the cedars in Lebanon. [Insert Name] branches will spread out like beautiful olive trees, as fragrant as the cedars of Lebanon. [Insert Name] will again live under my shade. They will flourish like grain and blossom like grapevines. They will be as fragrant as the wines of Lebanon. [Insert Name], stay away from idols! I am the one who answers your prayers and cares for you. I am like a tree that is always green; all your fruit comes from me. - Hosea 14:5-8*

**What are the emotions or thoughts that stirred in you as you did this practice?**

**In what ways did these promises feel more personal?**

**How do you believe God wants this analogy to translate into your life?**

## APPLICATION

Rob defined the difference between wisdom and intelligence by saying, *"In case you've missed it - let me break it down one last time - there is a difference between being wise and being smart. What separates the two? It is intimacy.....Wisdom is more than knowledge."*

This week, as you approach your time with God's word, consider how you might be interacting with scripture for information instead of formation. Reference the table below as a helpful framework:

<b>Informational Reading</b>	<b>Formational Reading</b>
Seeks to cover as much as possible	Focuses on small portions
A linear process	An in-depth process
Seeks to master the text	Allows the text to master us
The text as an object to use	The text as a subject that shapes us
Analytical, critical, and judgmental approach	Humble, detached, willing, loving approach
Problem-solving mentality	Openness to mystery