



PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Lesson 4: God's Love For His People—Hosea 11; Joel 2:18-27; 3:17-21

ENCOUNTER—Community Discussion

After reading the passage, take time to journal through the questions below. Don't feel like you have to answer all these questions. Wrestle with the text, and be prepared to share with your community.

*How is this God's story?
How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?
How is this the world's story?*

PRAYER

*You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek you;
I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.*

*I have seen you in the sanctuary
and beheld your power and your glory.*

*Because your love is better than life,
my lips will glorify you.
I will praise you as long as I live,
and in your name I will lift up my hands.
I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods;
with singing lips my mouth will praise you.*

*On my bed I remember you;
I think of you through the watches of the night.
Because you are my help,
I sing in the shadow of your wings.
I cling to you;
your right hand upholds me.*

*Those who want to kill me will be destroyed;
they will go down to the depths of the earth.
They will be given over to the sword
and become food for jackals.*

*But the king will rejoice in God;
all who swear by God will glory in him,
while the mouths of liars will be silence.*

(Psalm 63)

WEEKLY PRACTICE

It can be difficult to do a lot of things without an agenda. Often we multi-task and end up giving less than our best to everything. Even with God, we can try to do so many things for Him or toward Him that we neglect to simply be with Him.

Go for a walk, simply to go for a walk. Don't plan on where you'll go, what path you'll take or what you're supposed to think about as you move. Make it destination-less from the start by blocking out enough time so you aren't rushed or constantly checking the clock. If the weather doesn't allow you to do this, try sitting somewhere indoors without doing anything else.

The point of this is to see what happens when there is no specific task or agenda. Just like a relationship includes moments simply being together, your relationship with God needs to have moments where you enjoy being in His presence.

BECOMING MY STORY

Psalm 106

Luke 15

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above Scriptures. In the context of Hosea 11 and Joel 2:18-27; 3:17-21, consider the following questions:

Who do I know who needs to hear words of affection from God?

How comfortable am I sharing words of affection on God's behalf?

Consider other passages you might know related to Hosea 11 and Joel 2:18-27; 3:17-21 and read them this week, journaling as you go.