

## RETURN TO LOVE AND JUSTICE

**BIBLE BASIS:** Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10; 12:1-2, 6-14

**BIBLE TRUTH:** God exhorts the people of Israel to return to obeying and worshipping Him.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment and wait on thy God continually" (Hosea 12:6, KJV).

**LESSON AIM:** By the end of the lesson, we will: **COMPARE** prosperity as a worldly goal with

the godly virtues of love and justice; **REGRET** the occasions where have made material prosperity a key goal; and **PRACTICE** love and justice as key virtues.

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES:** Read Hosea 11-12 and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

### LESSON SCRIPTURE

**HOSEA 11:1-2, 7-10; 12:1-2, 6-14, KJV**

1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

2 As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images.

7 And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt him.

8 How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.

9 I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.

10 They shall walk after the LORD: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then the children shall tremble from the west.

12:1 Ephraim feedeth on wind, and followeth after the east wind: he daily increaseth lies and desolation; and they do make a covenant

with the Assyrians, and oil is carried into Egypt.

2 The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.

6 Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment and wait on thy God continually.

7 He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress.

8 And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: in all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin.

9 And I that am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast.

10 I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets.

11 Is there iniquity in Gilead? surely they are vanity: they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields.