

Growth Teams

**Week Beginning
Sunday 23rd November 2014**

Going deeper

In Matthew 9:13, Jesus tells the Pharisees to 'go and learn what this means...' Then he quotes from Hosea 6:6. He wants them to go back to the Old Testament to understand more fully what Jesus is doing.

Hosea was a prophet who spoke in very personal terms about the relationship between God and his people. At that time God's people were split into the Northern Kingdom of Israel, sometimes called Ephraim, and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. In Hosea 1-3, the prophet's relationship with his adulterous wife illustrates God's relationship with Israel, whilst in chapter 11 Israel is described as God's child.

Please read Hosea 6:1-9; 7:13-17

5. What has God done to Israel? Why has he done this (6:7-9)?
What will he do if they return to Him?

6. How does Jesus fulfil verses 1-3 in Matthew 9?

7. Read 6:4-9 and 7:13-17. What is Israel being criticised for? In what ways did the Jews behave like this in Jesus's time?

8. Why aren't Israel's sacrifices and religious festivals enough?

9. What kind of religion does God really want?

Now turn over and do 'Applying it to our lives'.



**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever.**

Forgiven by Jesus

Matthew 9:1-17 (page 973)

Space to take notes on the talk

• Freedom from _____

• Freedom to _____

• Freedom to _____

Starter question

- What is the best wedding celebration you have been to?

Responding to the talk

1. If you had to 'tweet' a summary of the sermon (140 characters or less) what would you write? (If this doesn't make sense: sum up the sermon in one sentence!)
2. Read Matthew 9:1-8:
 - a. Why are Jesus's words to the Paralytic both surprising and shocking?
 - b. What is Jesus trying to prove?
 - c. Why is it important to know our sins are forgiven?
3. Read Matthew 9:9-13:
 - a. Why do the Pharisees question Jesus's behaviour?
 - b. How are Jesus's priorities different to their's?
 - c. Why is it important to know that Jesus welcomes sinners?
4. Read Matthew 9:14-17:
 - a. Why are Jesus's disciples criticised?
 - b. What is Jesus teaching about himself in these verses?
 - c. In what ways should Christian religion be different to the religion of the Pharisees?

If there is time, you may like to do the 'Going deeper' questions over the page. Otherwise please just jump to questions 10 and 11.

Applying it to our lives

10. In what ways does our 'religion' sometimes look more like that of Jesus's critics?
11. Who do we know that God might want us to spend time with in order to tell them about God's grace?