



Devotional

June 28 - Oct. 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Week One.....3
Week Two.....9
Week Three.....13
Week Four.....18
Week Five.....23
Week Six.....28
Week Seven.....33
Week Eight.....38
Week Nine.....43
Week Ten.....50
Week Eleven.....58
Week Twelve.....63
Week Thirteen.....68
Week Fourteen.....73

not only brought him through personal trials, but his humility through his trust brought an understanding of the power of God to Kings and a nation.

WEEK SEVEN (AUGUST 9–15)

Day 222: August 9, 2020

Full Plan: Daniel 7:1–12:13

Abbreviated Plan: Daniel 6:1–28

Daniel ends with an apocalyptic vision in the style of Revelation. It is written to sound like predictions of the future, but are mostly meant to encourage us in the present: No matter what happens, we must be faithful, and God will triumph. How might these be good words for today?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 223: August 10, 2020

Full Plan: Hosea 1:1–5:15

Abbreviated Plan: Hosea 1:11, 2;1–5

Hosea shows us the challenge of having to love a person or persons who are causing harm to themselves and others. But there is encouragement: Hosea 3 offers transformation that comes from tough love, which is what God sometimes has to have with us. What might tough love look like to you?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 224: August 11, 2020

Full Plan: Hosea 6:1–10:15

Abbreviated Plan: Hosea 2:6–23, 3:1–5

Hosea reminds us that religious actions alone aren't enough (9:4), nor are pious hearts. We need both. We need hearts that are true (6:6, 10:2) and actions that are faithful (8:1-3) to live life as God intends it.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 225: August 12, 2020

Full Plan: Hosea 11:1–14:9

Abbreviated Plan: Hosea 4:1–19

Hosea ends on a word of promise and hope. You may feel down and out, and wonder where God is, or if God even cares. But God will heal you. God is not angry at you, and God will bring beauty into your life (Hosea 14:4-7).

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 226: August 13, 2020

Full Plan: Joel 1:1–3:21

Abbreviated Plan: Joel 2:1–32

Joel 2 contains two lectionary passages we hear each year: Verses 12-13 (Ash Wednesday) and 28-29 (Pentecost Sunday). Repentance and receiving the Spirit's power are tied together. You can't do the first without the second, and the second fully comes through the first.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 227: August 14, 2020

Full Plan: Amos 1:1–4:13

Abbreviated Plan: Amos 1:1–15; 2:1–16

No nations were perfect in the time of Amos, but the toughest judgments were on the Israelites (2:6-8), for oppressing the poor, dehumanizing the needy, and practicing sexual promiscuity. The bottom line is this: practice compassion and fidelity with one another.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 228: August 15, 2020

Full Plan: Amos 5:1–9:15

Abbreviated Plan: Amos 3:1–15

When everything seems to be in chaos and disarray, get back to the basics. Return to what you know God wants you to do and be. Seek the Lord. Be faithful. Do justice. Making it more complicated than that may just make things worse (Amos 5:14-15, 21-24, 7:8-9, 8:11).

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

August 9–15, 2020: Weekly Devotional by Jayne Cabigas

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping and with sorrow; tear your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, very patient, full of faithful love, and ready to forgive. Joel 2:12-13 (CEB)

Reading the prophets can be a hard slog. The prophets rant about everyone going in the wrong direction and they make God sound so angry and vengeful. God, they say, will bring divine judgement, wrath, and punishment upon his people and their enemies alike. Many of us have trouble reconciling this merciless God with the God of love and forgiveness, so we avoid the prophets (until this year!)

Like the other prophets, Joel presents how we have strayed way off the path. Like a parent who is at her wits' end, God has given us rules and expectations, blessings and promises, but our response is to act like reckless teenagers leaving a wake of destruction and breaking God's heart. Joel invites us to repent--not with a big show, tearing our clothes and beating our chests--but with a torn heart.

Why a torn heart? Because when God mends a broken heart, it is stronger and more resilient. A mended heart can forgive because it has been forgiven. A mended heart can be patient because God was patient and full of faithful love toward us.

So here is God's invitation: Even now, return to me. Even now, it's not too late. Even now, God is merciful and full of love. Even now,

God is ready to forgive. So come with your whole heart, broken by all you have done, because God can mend a broken and repentant heart.

Gracious God, we test you to the limits with our reckless words and actions, cruel intentions and twisted self-righteousness. When we are called out by the prophets all around us, we get defensive and try to justify our intentions. Help us to return with a contrite spirit and broken heart, ready to accept Your mending ways. Amen.

WEEK EIGHT (AUGUST 16–22)

Day 229: August 16, 2020

Full Plan: Obadiah 1–21

Abbreviated Plan: Obadiah 1–21

Obadiah reminds us that even though Jacob and Esau had reconciled thousands of years earlier, their descendants (Israel and Edom) never fully made peace. Sins of racism and nationalism linger; they require constant repentance and reconciliation.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life: