

## July 11 Questions

- 1) To the very end, Hosea kept exposing the spiritual rottenness and decay that festered in the northern kingdom. During the reign of Jeroboam II, Israel prospered: "Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit." But the richer Israel became "the more \_\_\_\_\_ he built; as his country improved, he improved his \_\_\_\_\_" (Hos 10:1). Israel took the wealth God gave them and used it to pursue other gods. Instead of sowing righteousness, they had "plowed \_\_\_\_\_." Instead of reaping a harvest of faithful love, they had "eaten the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_." What was the solution to their plight? "\_\_\_\_\_ up the fallow ground, for it is the time to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hos 10:12–13). God wanted more than anything to be able to do good to Israel. The last verse in Hosea serves as an epilogue to the entire prophecy: "Whoever is \_\_\_\_\_, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him \_\_\_\_\_ them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them" (Hos 14:9). This teaches us that God wants us to learn three things from reading Hosea. First, God's "ways," His covenant commands, are the "\_\_\_\_\_ " ways. Second, if we are wise and discerning, we will \_\_\_\_\_ in His ways and \_\_\_\_\_ His commands. Third, if we are \_\_\_\_\_, we will reject God's ways and ignore His commands. When we do this, God's commands will become a stumbling block in our path. We will trip over them and fall to our own destruction.