

## **Lectionary Bible Study**

### **For Sunday, June 11, 2023 (Pentecost 2)**

#### **Hosea 5:15 – 6:6**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. What is the missing element in the people's confession (vv. 1-3)? Why do the people feel they can get by with this approach?
2. How does God view Israel's love and worship (vv. 4-6)?
3. What does God truly desire from His people? How does that differ from what they want to offer?
4. Who are Ephraim and Judah?
5. In what ways does our country take this approach with God? Do you take a similar approach? What results should we anticipate if we take this approach?

#### **Romans 4:13-25**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. Why does Paul choose Abraham as his primary illustration in this chapter? What significance does that have for his first readers? What significance does it have for us?
2. What do you learn about faith from these verses? How would you define faith?
3. What does it mean to have faith "credited as righteousness?"
4. Was Abraham subject to the Law? Why or why not? If not, by what standard did God judge him?
5. If the Law brings wrath, why would God give it and insist on obedience to it?

#### **Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

##### **Discussion Starters**

1. What is the relationship between Matthew's call to discipleship and the two healing stories that are included in this reading?
2. Why is the call of Matthew surprising?
3. What part does faith play in the two healing stories?
4. Matthew, a woman who was bleeding and a Roman ruler would all have been considered "unclean" by the religious standards of the day? What does this tell you about the Kingdom of God?

##### **WRAP UP**

What key insight did you gain from this Bible study? How might it make a difference in how you live today?