

GOOD GROUND

Break up the soil

Have you ever tried to dig into ground that hasn't been worked in a long time? The soil can become so dry and compacted that even a shovel struggles to break through it. Before anything new can be planted, the ground has to be turned over. What has become hard must first be broken open.

Breaking ground can look destructive at first. A plow cuts through the soil. It turns everything over. It disrupts what has been sitting undisturbed. But the gardener isn't destroying the ground...he is preparing it.

Then comes the beautiful promise at the end of the verse: "...that he may come and rain righteousness upon you."

We break up the ground, we sow, we seek.

But God sends the rain.

This Week's Verse

I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'

Hosea 10:12 NLT

Hidden Word

B T O T F O T G G
A T W H H T W
W A N A G H
K I A B F W P

Truth to Carry This Week

*God can grow something new in the places
I am willing to let Him break open*

READ IT SLOWLY

I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'

Hosea 10:12 NLT

WRITE IT OUT

Write the verse below



WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN TO YOU RIGHT NOW?



WHAT THIS VERSE MEANS

It was Israel to whom the prophet Hosea was writing these solemn words, for they had rebelled against the Lord. Hosea was calling Israel to repent of their sins, and seek the Lord with all their heart, if they were to avoid the rapidly approaching judgement that had been prophesied by so many holy men of God.

Israel had sown the seed of sin, and they would soon reap judgement from God. God builds on the picture of sowing and reaping by telling Israel to break up the hard ground. Hard ground is stubborn and resistant to the seed. It is soil that was once capable of producing something but has been left uncultivated. It hasn't necessarily lost its potential. It simply hasn't been tended. Our hearts can become like that too.

Maybe there was once an area where you trusted God easily, but disappointment made you guarded. Maybe you've been holding onto bitterness after someone hurt you. Maybe you've become comfortable with a habit you know God has been asking you to change. Or maybe life has simply become so busy that seeking God has slowly moved further down your list.

Hardness rarely happens all at once. It can begin with a little hurt we don't deal with, a compromise we excuse, less time spent with God, or a prayer that wasn't answered the way we hoped. Little by little, the soil of our hearts can become packed down and hardened. But notice what God says to do with hard ground: plow it up. Sometimes God has to disturb what has become comfortable in us so He can grow something better. He may convict us, challenge us, expose something we've been avoiding, or ask us to surrender something we've been holding onto. That process isn't always comfortable.

But God isn't breaking the soil because He wants to leave us broken.

He's making room for something new to grow.



WEEK 2

Hide it in your heart.

VERSE

I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'

Hosea 10:12 NLT

Cover the full verse. Use only the letters.

I S P T G S O R
A Y W H A C O L
P U T H G O Y H
F N I T T T S T L
T H M C A S R U Y

REFLECTION

What hurt, habit, disappointment, or distraction may have hardened the soil?

What might God be asking me to surrender so that He can begin something new?

FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS

I said, 'Plant the _____ seeds of righteousness, and you will _____ a crop of love. Plow up the _____ ground of your hearts, for now is the time to _____ the Lord, that he may come and shower _____ upon you.'

You can do this

Each time you practice
you are hiding God's
Word deeper in your
heart

WEEK 2

Activity.

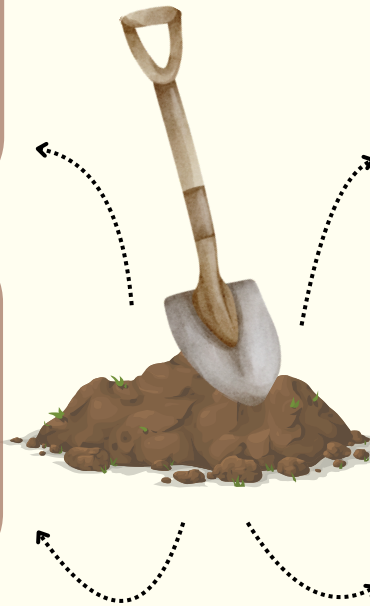
Break up the ground: what needs to be plowed?

Before new seeds can be planted, hard ground must be broken up. Think about the soil of your heart. What has been sitting there too long?

A hurt I need to release

A habit I need to change

A worry I need to surrender



A distraction I need to let go

Make room for something new

INSTEAD OF HOLDING ONTO:



I WANT TO MAKE ROOM FOR:

“Now is the time to seek the Lord”



WEEK 2

Talk to God.

A prayer to start

God,
Show me the places in my heart that have become hard or neglected. Give me the courage to let You break up the ground I have been afraid to touch. Remove what is keeping me from seeking You fully, and prepare my heart for whatever You want to plant there. I will seek You, trust You with the process, and depend on You to bring the growth.

Amen.

END OF WEEK CHECK-IN

This week I practiced the verse:

☐

1 time

☐

3 times

☐

2 times

☐

More than 3 times!

Can I say the verse using only the Hidden Word?

☐

Not yet

☐

Yes!

☐

Almost

This week, God reminded me:

MY PRAYER

God, today I feel:

God, I need help with:

God, thank You for:

MEMORY CHECK

Try to write this week's verse from memory. Don't worry if you can't get every word. God is still teaching your heart.

Use this space to slow down and reflect. Write what stood out to you, what God may be showing you, or a prayer you have.

Use this space to practice this week's Hidden Word.