



Leading People into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: Relentless Obsession

Sermon Series: OBSESSION – God’s Pursuit of YOU

Dates: April 1-2, 2017

Start the Conversation

Describe an example of faithfulness that means something personal to you—maybe a person comes to mind, or perhaps a loyal pet means a lot to you.

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Despite the unfaithfulness of God’s people, God continued to call their hearts back to Him—both for His joy and theirs.

The Lord gave this message to Hosea son of Beeri during the years when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah were kings of Judah, and Jeroboam son of Jehoash was king of Israel. When the Lord first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, “Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the Lord and worshiping other gods.” Hosea 1:1-2 (NLT)

Two major reasons God was upset:

1. They were not taking care of the poor.
2. They were worshipping false gods.

Truths the Bible teaches about discipline:

1. A child needs discipline.

Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them. **Proverbs 13:24 (NLT)**

“Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces; now he will heal us. He has injured us; now he will bandage our wounds. **Hosea 6:1 (NLT)**

2. A child doesn’t always understand discipline.

“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and I called my son out of Egypt. But the more I called to him, the farther he moved from me, offering sacrifices to the images of Baal and burning incense to idols. I myself taught Israel how to walk, leading him along by the hand. But he doesn’t know or even care that it was I who took care of him. I led Israel along with my ropes of kindness and love. I lifted the yoke from his neck, and I myself stooped to feed him. Hosea 11:1-4 (NLT)

3. Discipline is almost always painful to the child.

And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child." No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Hebrews 12:5-6, 11 (NLT)

A prophecy about Jesus: All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. **Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)**

4. If discipline is lived out, it brings a child to a healthy place.

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The purpose of discipline is the alignment of our heart with God's. What attitudes do we as "disciples" need to develop in order to accept "discipline" from our loving Father?

If time permits, consider reading this Scripture in its larger context (James 4:1-10 NLT):

Do you think the Scriptures have no meaning? They say that God is passionate that the spirit he has placed within us should be faithful to him. And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." **James 4:5-6 (NLT)**

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Why is "taking care of the poor" among God's top priorities?

Many believe it is the government's responsibility to care for the poor. Why is God's plan for the church to take care of the poor (think "being a good neighbor") much more beneficial? What would change if the church were in charge of caring for the poor?

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Pastor John encouraged parents to honor God and their children by using healthy discipline to bring about the development of good character. Describe from what you've discussed:

- 1) The purpose of godly discipline
- 2) The dangers associated with neglecting godly discipline

Pray!

Are you thankful for the growth you've experienced through difficulties in your life? Thank God for proving Himself faithful and commit to following Him in faith!