

Sermon Discussion Questions & Follow-up Notes

May 10, 2026 // Pastor Andrew Keuer (andrew@firstprotestant.com)

Sermon Texts: Hosea 11:1-7

Series: Anchored in Hope, part 5 (Easter Season 2026)

Sermon Title: "Hope in God's Parental Care"

(a series on the prophet Hosea)

Link to Easter 6 sermon: <https://youtu.be/VplIqqwuiWM?t=1998>

Key Points & Observations of the Text

Read Hosea 11:1–7 (and Matthew 2:13–16) aloud together; then use the questions below.

Opening discussion: Pastor Andrew shared how flipping through old photo albums—especially those plastic-covered ones—can bring back powerful memories. A mother in a radio interview described how some of our most cherished family memories are “first step” moments. **Share a favorite memory from your childhood or as a parent/guardian.** What made it special? Who showed you love in that moment?

The big idea: Jesus invites us to receive parental love from Him. God tenderly remembers the earliest, most vulnerable moments with us – His loving us, calling us by name, teaching us to walk, picking us up when we fell, guiding and feeding us. Even when rejected, God's love remains fierce and motherly. Though we cannot go back and be cared for all over again by our mothers and by God's mothering love, Jesus received God's parental love and passes on that deep awareness to us.

1. God Tenderly Remembers (Hosea 11:1-4)

God recalls five key moments of intimate care: “I loved you... I called you... I taught you to walk... I took you in my arms... I guided you and fed you.” These mirror a mother at the “gates of life”—present at transitions and in daily nurture.

Discussion: When has God felt distant or absent from you? What might it mean to let Him "pick you up" again?

2. The Pain of Rejection and the Call to Return (Hosea 11:5-7)

Israel wanted to return to Egypt – their old life – despite all God had done for them. This spells deep trouble! It grieves God's heart with a uniquely mother-like pain. Psychologists tell us that nothing (not financial security, physical pleasure, public approval) can replace the role of grateful remembrance of a mother's love in our psychological make-up.

Discussion: Which idols of success or comfort are you susceptible to right now? How can you build habits to remember God's past care, so your heart stays full of love and gratitude for Him?

3. The Solution: Jesus, Our Brother (Matthew 2:13-16 – esp. v15)

We cannot go back to being infants, nor redo our spiritual growth (like Nicodemus realized in John 3). But Jesus could – and He did. He fulfilled Hosea 11:1 (“*Out of Egypt I called my son*”), going to Egypt, receiving God's perfect care, and now helping us experience that same love as His brothers / sisters. He walks us through Scripture's “photo album” and the key moments in His life and ours, reminding us we are beloved children. The truth in Matthew 2:15 isn't just that “*Jesus loves me*” (which is true!), but that **Jesus helps us feel God's love as a mother's love for her own child.**

Discussion: Do you realize your need for Jesus' work in your life—not just to love you, but to help you *feel* loved by God as His child? Share a time when Jesus' own sense of being loved by God became real to you.

Take Home Application: Look back at a meaningful “photo album moment” from your family history. Cherish it. Feel the love. Then:

- Think about a moment in Jesus' life where God's care for Him was clear.
- Write a short, one-sentence prayer thanking God for His parental love in your life.
- Add a second sentence asking Jesus to help you *feel* God's love as His child even more deeply.

