



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: The Sin Harvested
Suggested Week of Use: October 30, 2022
Core Passage: Hosea 10:5-15

News Story Summary

In mid-September, rail service between Orange County and San Diego County in California was suspended indefinitely for emergency repairs to unstable track. This stretch of track was one of two areas of concern for the line that runs alongside the Pacific coast, and the repairs were the latest in a series of overhauls intended to keep train service from being interrupted.

According to officials, erosion has compromised the land on which the tracks sit. As a result, the area has become unstable over time. Repairs will include driving large metal anchors into the slope next to the track and using large boulders to temporarily keep the land in place. Long-term plans, with a price tag of \$4 billion or more, call for moving the tracks to a safer location.

For more about this story, search “Amtrac suspends service due to coastal erosion.”

Focus Attention

To supplement Focus Attention, group adults into teams, giving each team a sheet of paper and pencil. Direct them to list examples of erosion or things that cause erosion. After several minutes, call on one group to share its list. If any other groups listed any of the items, all the groups must mark those items off their lists. Repeat the process for the other groups. Then instruct the groups to count up the words or examples left on their lists. The team with the most unique words or examples wins the game.

Point out the different kinds of erosion. Share the story of how erosion in southern California has halted train service. (*Note: You can find video clips of this news story on the internet.*) Say: *Shifting soil has caused the land to erode over time. Erosion of relationships can occur over time, too, including our relationship with God.* Share that today’s session examines how Israel experienced judgment because the people allowed their relationship with God to erode.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement Summarize and Challenge, direct the group to look at their lists from the opening activity and to write down the possible causes of erosion. (*Examples: wind, water, neglect, rust, and so forth*) Ask: *What kinds of things cause our relationship with God to erode? (Possible answers: neglect, apathy, busyness, misplaced priorities)* Allow time for adults to reflect on things that have damaged their relationship with God. After a few minutes, close in prayer, asking God to help the group stay alert to things that might erode their relationship with Him.