

## Chapter 2

### *Maps for the Journey: Geographical, Historical, and Literary Context*

#### Called to Prayer

Return, Israel, to the Lord, your God;  
you have stumbled because of your iniquity.  
I will be like the dew for Israel:  
he will blossom like the lily;  
He will strike root like the Lebanon cedar,  
and his shoots will go forth.  
His splendor will be like the olive tree  
and his fragrance like Lebanon cedar.  
Again, they will live in his shade;  
they will raise grain,  
They will blossom like the vine,  
and his renown will be like the wine of Lebanon.

—Hosea 14:2, 6-8

- *Reflection:* How does Hosea portray returning to the Lord? Have you had a time in your life where you were far from God, but returned? How does your experience compare with Hosea?
- *Meditation:* There is often comfort in familiar places. What are the images, smells, and feelings that are being described? What familiar places, images, and feelings would be a consolation to you, drawing you back to God?

*Resolution:* Celebrate the goodness of the Lord by enjoying a small, familiar comfort.