

Hosea

Hosea is a short book about betrayal, heartbreak, a broken marriage, and the surprising grace of God. The bigger message involves our place in the story and the unexpected love of God.

Week 1: What God Thinks About Us

SERIES OVERVIEW

HOSEA

1. **What God Thinks About Us**
2. The Power of a Name
3. Cost of Redemption
4. He Knows His People
5. The Ways of the Lord are Right

DISCUSSION NOTES:

What do we know about what God thinks about us? Does that change depending on our situation or circumstance or view of him?

This was a very spiritually dry time in Israel: very little knowledge of God or leadership that feared God. Just a quick glance ahead through chapter 4 and you'll see mention of cursing, lying, murder, stealing, adultery, bloodshed, idolotry, and prostitution.

LOOK *What do we see around us in our lives?*

What were your first impressions of God?

How does the world around you view God?

How do you hear or see God described?

BOOK *What does scripture say about this?*

Hosea 1:1-3

The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel: ² When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord." ³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

What is the command from God to Hosea?

What was his response?

Possible answers: to marry Gomer. So he did.

What do we know about Gomer?

Possible answers: she was promiscuous and unfaithful

Who does the relationship of Hosea and Gomer represent? Why is this important to understand?

Possible answers: Hosea represents God, Gomer represents God's people. We are the promiscuous and sinful ones!

Hosea

Gospel Story:

- Creation
- Fall
- Redemption
- Restoration

Which is quickest for you to grasp? Toughest?

What questions come to mind with each chapter of the story?

How do you see Jesus in each of these?

What is the threat or downfall to you in each one?

What is the promise or opportunity for you in each one?

Further questions to consider:

***What truth about God is hard for you to hear or believe?**

***How can we remind you of this truth this week?**

***What gospel truths are we being pointed to this week?**

***When do you most easily believe God's faithfulness?**

***When is it tougher?**

***What reminder do you need to put into place (phone, mirror, car, etc.) to help you remember this week?**

Ephesians 2:1-5

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

What does this passage remind us of our flesh and what we deserve?

Possible answers: We are sinful and give into our selfish desires, deserving of wrath.

What does this passage remind us of God and how he cares for us?

Possible answers: This is great news! He made us alive with Christ and has extended great love and mercy toward us!

Do you feel more dead in your transgressions or alive in Christ today?

TOOK *Questions for accountability*

Is there something God may be asking you to stop, start or change going forward, to better hear his voice?

How can we help you with this?