

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 4: He Knows His People

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:

This discussion will focus on the reality that God continues to pursue a relationship with us. His desire is for us to know him well.

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

Share about a favorite celebrity that you know a lot about...how do you know so much?

Share about a roommate that you know a lot about...how do you know so much?

BOOK *What does scripture say about this?*

Have individuals or pairs skim over a chapter from Hosea 4-11 and jot down some of the non-God-honoring things identified. Share with the group.

Possible answers: swearing, lying, murder, greed, stubbornness, relish in wickedness, engage in prostitution

How would you feel if you were God?

How would you respond if this was your child?

Now read Hosea 11:1-4 and Hosea 13:14 to hear God's response.

Hosea 11:1-4

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. ³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. ⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

Hosea 13:14

"I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?

How does God feel about his people?

Possible answers: He loves them so much! He taught them, healed them, led them and delivered them.

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?**

***Where do we see a Jesus/gospel connection?**

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

***When is it toughest?**

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

Psalm 139:1

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

John 10:14-16

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

How are you seeking to know God more?

God knows everything about us, and still sent Jesus to rescue us!

Colossians 1:13-14

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

James 5:16

¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

1 John 1:8-10

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

TOOK *Questions for accountability*

Is there anything you need to confess, knowing there is forgiveness and that Jesus has rescued you?

How does your relationship with God reflect his pursuit of you?