

HOSEA

Unfailing Love Changes Everything

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Viewer Guides with Answers. *Hosea*.

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Group Session 1

Rather than a formal leader guide in the back, we've provided what we hope is a simple and functional group plan on these pages with an additional word to leaders in back. Each week will begin with a two-page group guide like this. I suggest that you divide your group time into three parts: 1. Welcome and prayer; 2. Watch the video; 3. Group discussion of the study for the past week and the video.

The session guide for this first meeting is for us to get to know each other. Then we'll each go do our homework (it will be fun, I promise). Each day, plan to spend a few minutes with that day's study. Don't worry if some days you don't get it all. This isn't a race and you can come back later. When we meet next group session, we'll have this week's study to discuss. Now let's get to know each other and I'll join you by way of video.

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

Four Ingredients in Hosea

1. Hosea himself

- Hosea was a prophet who served Israel in the eighth century, B.C.
- Hosea's name means "salvation."

2. Our friend, Gomer

- Gomer means "completion", the filling up of idolatry."
- Gomer's marriage to Hosea represents Israel's covenant relationship with God.

3. Israel

4. You and me

Find Jennifer's mint recipe at
JenniferRothschild.com/Hosea

- God chose to love us just like He chose to love Israel. And we, too, are prone to wander.

Four Ways to See Yourself in the Book of Hosea

1. My people —covenant name
2. Israel —national identity
3. Ephraim —affectionate nickname
4. Samaria —influencer

The main character of the Book of Hosea is God Himself.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Video 1 and Getting to Know Each Other

What is one thing you want your group to know about you?

What drew you to this study?

What do you think of when someone mentions the Book of Hosea?

Do you have a favorite verse or idea from Hosea? If so what?

Group Session 2

BEFORE THE VIDEO
Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES: WHEN YOU SAY “I DO” TO I AM

When you said, “I do” to the I AM, you became the beloved.

Because God is worthy, you have worth.

Three Truths of My New Identity

1. I am dearly loved (Col. 3:12).

2. I am accepted (Eph. 1:6).

3. I am complete (Col. 2:10).

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Video 2 and Week 1 Homework

DAY 1: What kinds of ideas do you think poetry can convey that prose cannot?

Discuss the idea of spiritual trifocals for understanding the Book of Hosea.

DAY 2: What adjectives come to mind to describe your first reading of the Book of Hosea?

What insights about Hosea did you pick up by reading *The History of This Story?* (p. 15) Do you see any parallels between culture today and in Hosea's day?

If Hosea's marriage to Gomer is a picture of God's relationship with Israel, what does that say about Hosea's marriage to Gomer? How do you think that relates to your marriage if you are married? (See Eph. 5:25-32.)

Why do you think Israel went after false gods and Gomer went for other lovers?

DAY 3: How do you respond to the idea that God could reach the end of His patience and actually become your enemy?

DAY 4: Why do you think God warns us so severely even though we are His beloved children?

DAY 5: What does the everlasting nature of God's love mean to you?

Group Session 3

BEFORE THE VIDEO

Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES

When You Ain't Got Yada, You Ain't Got Nada

When we wander from God, usually our problem is a lack of knowledge .

When we see the word *know* in the Book of Hosea, it is usually the Hebrew word *yada* which means “an intimate knowing.”

When we stray from God, we stray from our sense of self because we don't *yada* our source of self.

Sarah did not value herself because she did not *yada* God.

Naomi's grandson, Obed, grew up to become the father of Jesse and Jesse the father of David . And Jesus Christ came from the lineage of David.

In the Book of Hosea, “knowledge of God” is *daath Elohim* in Hebrew and shows an empathetic connection to God.

Revelation 2:5 gives us the following steps to *yada*:

1. Consider from where you have fallen .
2. Repent .
3. Do the things you did at first .

God doesn't want us to sacrifice relationship with Him for activity for Him.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Video 3 and Week 2 Homework

DAY 1: Why do you think we are so capable of such bad decisions?

What cultural equivalents do you think describe our versions of: making and worshiping idols, consulting idols or diviners' rods, mixing with foreign nations, or demanding our own king?

DAY 2: Why do you suppose something in us can make our happiness seem dependent on having what others have?

How do you think we can tell when something begins to move from an "also" to an "instead of" God?

If you had the chance, what would you warn Gomer that she may be overlooking?

DAY 3: Would you want to share any thorns God has set in your path in the past to intervene in a direction you were going?

How does Hosea 4:10 reflect the paradox of hedonism?

In what sense can you identify with David that the boundaries God has set for your life are pleasant?

DAY 4: What is, or are, the things in your life that you associate with safety, peace, and pleasure? How do you react when they are taken away?

DAY 5: What kinds of situations tempt you to feel: swallowed up? Wandering alone? Like something no one wanted?

Group Session 4

BEFORE THE VIDEO *Welcome and Prayer*

VIDEO NOTES *Lose the Gomerisms*

Everything Gomer was leaving Hosea to get, she already had.

Incorrect thinking leads us to corrupt actions.

Colossians 3:2 tells us to “set our minds on things above” just as we would write something on drying cement.

According to Colossians 3:2, to *phroneo* means “to consistently keep your affections focused on the Lord.”

To *phroneo* means you are more into the Word than you are into the world.

“Gomerisms” are

my way .

my wants .

my wisdom .

Every time you think, “My way” you should think, “Thy way.”

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Video 4 and Week 3 Homework

DAY 1: What significance do you see in the price Hosea paid to ransom Gomer?

How difficult do you find it to internalize the value 1 Peter 1:18-19 places on you?

How does the fact that Jesus allowed Himself to be sold for the price of a slave feel to you? How about that He connected His value to that of a woman?

DAY 2: How does it feel to be betrayed?

What memories would you relate as your Valley of Achor?

DAY 3: How does Joel's promise to make past damage both safe and complete add to your understanding or appreciation of Romans 8:28?

How does the promise that God will restore the losses of your past impact you?

DAY 4: How do you most often expect God to treat you, with righteousness and justice, or love and compassion?

Which of the words mean the most to you and why: *forever, righteousness, justice, love, or compassion*?

DAY 5: How do you relate to the discussion of God restoring us? What has He restored for you, or what do you desire for Him to restore?

Group Session 5

BEFORE THE VIDEO
Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES
Shame Off You

If the Enemy can't use shame to isolate you, he is going to catch you in the act of being human .

We are saved by grace, but we do our best to live perfectly by our works .

Shame makes us feel exposed .

Jesus gives grace when shame wants to isolate and accuse us.

Jesus did not accuse the woman in John 8, but He also did not excuse the woman that day.

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Video 4 and Week 3 Homework

DAY 1: What experience, if any, have you had with a “stubborn calf”? How are we like stubborn calves in our relationship with God?

DAY 2: What one trait marks false prophets? Why do you think that is so?

How do you feel about God being angry at the ones who would abuse their power or only superficially heal your wounds?

How does God’s attitude of protecting women and children impact your view of Him?

DAY 3: Why are God’s boundary lines so important for protecting human freedom?

How have shifting boundary lines led to a loss of freedom in our day?

DAY 4: How do you suppose God feels when we give someone or something else the credit for His loving acts toward us?

How can you actively choose to do to acknowledge God more fully and therefore grow in your knowledge of Him?

DAY 5: How can something take our heart away?

Group Session 6

BEFORE THE VIDEO
Welcome and Prayer

VIDEO NOTES
Redeem the Idolotrinkets

Gomer said,

“ I desire other lovers.”

“I disregard his offer of love.”

“I disobey our Lord.”

“I despair of life.”

An idol is anything that replaces or reduces God.

Anything we go to to complete God will always compete with God.

Three Symptoms of How We Can Know Something Is an “Idolotrinket”

1. We excuse our actions.
2. We explain and justify our actions.
3. We put a lot of effort into our actions.

The ultimate way to know if you have created an “idolotrinket” is that you have assigned “God qualities” to it.

Everything we need we already have in God.

Ways to Redeem Your Idols Through Prayer

Incline my heart to Your testimonies, oh, Lord, and not to selfish gain.
Psalm 119:36

Delight myself in the Lord so I can see the hope to which I am called.
Psalm 37:4

Open the eyes of my heart so I can see the hope to which I am called.
Ephesians 1:18

Love you Lord with all my heart, soul, and strength.
Deuteronomy 6:5

CONVERSION GUIDE

Video 6 and Week 5 Homework

DAY 1: Why do you think one idol leads to another (sin to sinning more and more?)

Why do you suppose the idolatry of self is so pervasive and destructive?

DAY 2: In what ways do we run to God as our crisis manager but trust the idol of self for the everyday provisions of our lives?

See activity on p. 116. How do you seek to supplement God with idolotrinkets?

What have you sacrificed to your little idols?

Share and compare your creative answers to the activity on p. 118.

DAY 3: What thing or things try to dominate you, to become your idolotrinkets?

Which of the words gets most to the heart of your idolotrinket: *desire, dwell, defend, dedicate, deny, or depend*?

DAY 4: How do you think your life would be different if every moment, every thought, and every action was coated with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit?

DAY 5: What example would you use to describe faulty-bow syndrome?

Do you tend to become too rigid or too easily bent out of shape?

Group Session 7

BEFORE THE VIDEO *Welcome and Prayer*

VIDEO NOTES *His Boundary of Love*

Whom God redeems, He restores .

God wants us to see Him as the lover of our soul .

God draws each of us with the cords of love of the Son of Man, Jesus Christ , to Himself.

Hosea drew boundaries which were an expression of love .

The Hebrew word in Hosea 11:4 for *cords* is the same as the word for boundary in Psalm 16:6.

The boundaries of love that God places in our lives are the cords of love that He uses to keep us close to Him so that we will be secure in Him.

Cords of Love in the Book of Hosea

The cord of affliction (Hosea 5:15)

The cord of inconvenience (Hosea 2:7)

CONVERSATION GUIDE

Video 7 and Week 6 Homework

DAY 1: What do you think it means for God to “give you up”? If God gave up on you, what would your life be like?

What significance do you see in Hosea 11:9?

DAY 2: What do you think seeking God with your whole heart looks like?

What items do you think go well on our “to be” list?

DAY 3: What do you think it means that God both wounds and heals us?

How has God used your greatest wounding to bring the greatest healing in your life?

How has Hosea helped you to appreciate both the mountain of fear and of joy in your relationship with God?

DAY 4: What does *propitiation* mean? How have you seen people trying to make propitiation for themselves?

How does Jesus’ resurrection on the third day make us capable of living in God’s presence?

DAY 5: What do you think it means that God doesn’t want our sacrifices or excuses, He wants our humble return and repentance?

What one thing do you value most from your study of Hosea?