HOSEA

Unfailing Love Changes Everything

JENNIFER ROTHSCILD

Viewer Guides with Answers. Hosea.
Published by LifeWay Press®. © 2015 Jennifer Rothschild.
Item 005727067. Made in the USA.
Permission is granted to reproduce this item.
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

#HoseaStudy
• 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?
Everything Gomer was leaving Hosea to get, she "already" had.

Incorrect "thinking" leads us to corrupt actions.

Colossians 3:2 tells us “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

CONVERSATION 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?

Video sessions available for purchase at www.lifeway.com/Hosea
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?