

# *HOSEA*

*Unfailing Love Changes Everything*

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Viewer Guides. *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.

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### BEFORE THE VIDEO

#### *Welcome and Prayer*

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### VIDEO NOTES

#### *Four Ingredients in Hosea*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ himself

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

2. Our friend, \_\_\_\_\_

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

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

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

Four Ways to See Yourself in the Book of Hosea

1. *My* \_\_\_\_\_—covenant name
2. \_\_\_\_\_—national identity
3. \_\_\_\_\_—affectionate nickname
4. \_\_\_\_\_—influencer

The main character of the Book of Hosea is \_\_\_\_\_.

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## 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

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### BEFORE THE VIDEO *Welcome and Prayer*

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

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

Because God is \_\_\_\_\_, you have \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Three Truths of My New Identity

1. I am \_\_\_\_\_ (Col. 3:12).

2. I am \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 1:6).

3. I am \_\_\_\_\_ (Col. 2:10).

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## 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

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### BEFORE THE VIDEO

*Welcome and Prayer*

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### 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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

Sarah did not \_\_\_\_\_ herself because she did not *yada* God.

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

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

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

1. Consider from where you have \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Do the things you did at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

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## 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

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### BEFORE THE VIDEO

*Welcome and Prayer*

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### VIDEO NOTES

*Lose the Gomerisms*

Everything Gomer was leaving Hosea to get, she \_\_\_\_\_ had.

Incorrect \_\_\_\_\_ leads us to corrupt actions.

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

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

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

“Gomerisms” are

my \_\_\_\_\_.

my \_\_\_\_\_.

my \_\_\_\_\_.

Every time you think, “\_\_\_\_\_ way” you should think, “\_\_\_\_\_ way.”



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## 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

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### BEFORE THE VIDEO

*Welcome and Prayer*

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### VIDEO NOTES

*Shame Off You*

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

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

Shame makes us feel \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus gives \_\_\_\_\_ when shame wants to isolate and accuse us.

Jesus did not \_\_\_\_\_ the woman in John 8, but He also did not \_\_\_\_\_ the woman that day.

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## 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

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BEFORE THE VIDEO  
*Welcome and Prayer*

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VIDEO NOTES  
*Redeem the Idolotrinkets*

Gomer said,

“\_\_\_\_\_ desire other lovers.”

“I \_\_\_\_\_ his offer of love.”

“I disobey \_\_\_\_\_ Lord.”

“I despair of \_\_\_\_\_.”

An idol is \_\_\_\_\_ that replaces or reduces God.

Anything we go to to complete God will always \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

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

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ our actions.
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ and justify our actions.
3. We put a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ into our actions.

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

Everything we \_\_\_\_\_ we already have in God.

## Ways to Redeem Your Idols Through Prayer

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

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

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

**L**ove you Lord with all my heart, soul, and strength.  
*Deuteronomy 6:5*

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## 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

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### BEFORE THE VIDEO *Welcome and Prayer*

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### VIDEO NOTES *His Boundary of Love*

Whom God redeems, He \_\_\_\_\_.

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

God draws each of us with the cords of love of the Son of Man, \_\_\_\_\_, to Himself.

Hosea drew \_\_\_\_\_ which were an expression of \_\_\_\_\_.

The Hebrew word in Hosea 11:4 for *cords* is the same as the word for \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_ to Him so that we will be \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

Cords of Love in the Book of Hosea

The cord of \_\_\_\_\_ (Hosea 5:15)

The cord of \_\_\_\_\_ (Hosea 2:7)

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## 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?