



Hosea: Guarding Spiritual Affections and Experiencing Redeeming Love

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Pray Together

Use the first few minutes of your time together to lead your group in a focused prayer time.

- **Praise:** Spend time praising God for who He is.
- **Repent:** Take a few moments to silently confess any sin that is lingering in your heart.
- **Ask:** Verbalize your needs and the needs of others to God.
- **Yield:** Surrender your will to God.

Read Together

Hosea lived in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the final years of the kingdom's "Golden Age" under Jeroboam II. The political and economic prosperity of that time led to a period of moral decay amongst the people of Israel. Years earlier, Amos prophesied against Jeroboam's corrupt regime; however, the leaders ignored Amos' call to repent.

In contrast to Amos, Hosea's preaching was focused on the religious problems of Israel (2:5-8) and less on the evils of the political leadership. His message was one of judgment but also of hope. Ultimately, Hosea's message fell on deaf ears. He is known as the "death bed prophet of Israel" because he was the last of the writing prophets to address Israel before the kingdom fell to Assyria in 722 B.C.

While marriage is an important illustration in the first three chapters, Hosea is not a book about marriage. Instead the book's primary message is of God's love for His people and His broken-heartedness over their sin. If Israel does not repent, they will suffer judgment. They are promised restoration and blessing if they return to God (2:14-23; 6:1-3; 14:1-8.)

Outline

1. Hosea 1:1 – The Superscription
2. Hosea 1:2-14:9 – God's Plea for Israel to Return to Him
 - a. Hosea 1:2-3:5 – Israel's Infidelity Illustrated
 - b. Hosea 4:1-14:9 – Hosea's Prophetic Oracles
 - i. Hosea 4:1-7:16 – Israel's Indictment
 - ii. Hosea 8:1-10:15 – Israel's Punishment
 - iii. Hosea 11:1-14:8 – Israel's Restoration
3. Hosea 14:9 – Hosea's Concluding Plea for Wisdom

Discuss Together

Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion.

- As you study Hosea, identify the most significant questions you need to answer to better understand its message.



- The Triune God is always the main character of Scripture. What does Hosea teach us about God?
- Knowing what Hosea teaches us about God, what does the book teach us about humanity?
- How is the gift of God's grace proclaimed in the book of Hosea? How is the demand of God's grace proclaimed in the book of Hosea?
- How do other passages of Scripture—both Old and New Testament—complement or complete the message Hosea proclaimed?
- Throughout Scripture, Israel repeatedly sinned against God by relying on earthly rulers and powers more than Yahweh. Certainly, that is one of the key issues during Hosea's time. What types of sins are you prone to repeating? How does the Gospel overcome this sin? How might a trusted group of believers increase your accountability in this area?
- Discuss God's unconditional love in Hosea 11:1-12:1.
- How should the church and individual members of the Body of Christ respond to the message of Hosea?

Do Life Together

These questions are designed to be asked in a smaller group of 2-4 people. The smaller setting will provide better opportunity for authentic responses. In your smaller group time, take notes to help others remain accountable to their answers. Grow together!

- How is God calling you to exchange doom for everlasting hope?
- How has Jesus already provided hope in this area?
- Who do you need to share this hope with this week?

