



Hosea 1-3 Growth group questions¹

Personal preparation **BEFORE** the growth group meets:-

Read Hosea 1.1

From this verse we learn Hosea the prophet ministered in the northern kingdom of Israel from around 760 to 715 BC. Israel is at peace and is prosperous, but the mighty Assyria in the east is a looming threat. As we read further, we discover that the people have forgotten the Lord God and turned to Baal. God has sent Hosea to warn his people and to call on them to return to him. Return is a key theme of the book.

We'll discover in this book a startling depiction of the character of God who loves his people as passionately and as jealously as a devoted husband loves his wife. The prophet is called not only to teach this message but to live it out in the midst of the people.

Read Hosea 1.2-11

1. Try and summarise the action of this chapter in a single sentence.
2. What reason does God give for Hosea's strange choice of marriage partner?
3. What important lesson(s) do we learn about sin?
4. What do the names of Gomer's children reveal about what has happened to the relationship between God and his people?

We'll look at Hosea 2.1-23 in our group time. If you have time it will be helpful for you to read them through now. They help us to see the Lord God's scorned love and his intentions for his people. In chapter 3 the narrative concerning Hosea and Gomer resumes.

Read Hosea 3

5. What appears to have happened between the end of chapter 2 and the beginning of chapter 3?
6. Try and summarise the action of this chapter in a single sentence.
7. What more do we learn about God's relationship with his people?
8. Thinking back over all that you've read, what truths did you learn of the Lord God? Give thanks for those lessons

¹ Some of these questions have been adapted from the Pathway Bible guide, 'Return to the Lord', © James Stone 2016, Matthias Media.

WHEN the growth group meets:-

Discussion starter

Discuss what you think of the famous saying, "the opposite of love is not hate, its indifference".

A. As a group recount the events of Hosea chapters 1 and 3 and your reactions.

B. Share your answers to question 8.

Read Hosea 2.1-5

C. Who is being spoken to in these verses and what do we learn?

Read Hosea 2.6-23

...and complete the table either as a whole group or in three smaller groups that report to the whole group at the end

	<i>How will God respond to his people's unfaithfulness?</i>	<i>How is this an expression of his love?</i>
2.6-8		
2.9-14		
2.15-23		

D. What surprises you about the character of God revealed in Hosea 1 – 3?

E. Discuss together how these surprises are most fully revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray together giving thanks to the Lord God for his strong and shocking love. Confess your superficial attitude towards sin. Ask his help to know the height and depth and breadth of his love for you in Christ Jesus.