



UPSTATE GROUP GUIDE

Through the Bible

July 7-13

Hosea 1-3

Things to Know

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Studying God's Word *In Community*

*Reminder. Seek to understand and apply God's word, **not** rehash the sermon.*

Sermon Recap

Sin is more than rebellion—it's adultery.

Just like Gomer betrayed her marriage covenant, our sin is a betrayal of our relationship with God. It's not just breaking rules—it's breaking His heart.

God doesn't just forgive—He pursues.

Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, and despite ours, God comes after us with redeeming love, buying us back at great cost to Himself.

Grace doesn't ignore sin—it overcomes it.

Hosea shows us a love that tells the truth about sin but refuses to let sin have the final word. In Christ, God gives mercy where judgment is deserved.

Discussion Questions

Hosea 1:2–3 – Why do you think God commanded Hosea to marry a “woman of whoredom”? What message is He sending to Israel—and to us—through this real-life parable?

Hosea 1:10–11 – Even in the midst of judgment, God promises restoration. What does this reveal about His character and His ultimate plan for His people?

Hosea 2:13–15 – God disciplines Israel for her unfaithfulness, yet He speaks tenderly and offers hope. How have you experienced both conviction and compassion from God?

Hosea 3:1–2 – Hosea redeems Gomer, even after all her betrayal. How does this act reflect the gospel and the way Christ pursues us?

Hosea 2:19–20 – God promises to “betroth” His people to Himself forever. What does this say about the permanence and covenantal nature of God's love?

Read

Read Hosea 1-3 and make observations about the text.

- What is God teaching us in the passage?
 - What does this reveal about who God is, what God has done, and how I should respond?
 - Which part of the text was most meaningful to you and why?
 - What do you need help understanding about this passage?
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Scripture

**Hosea 1: 1-11,
3:1-5**

1 The word of the Lord that came to Hosea, the son of Beerī, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

Hosea's Wife and Children

2 When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take to yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.” **3** So he went and took Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

4 And the Lord said to him, “Call his name Jezreel, for in just a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. **5** And on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.”

6 She conceived again and bore a daughter. And the Lord said to him, “Call her name No Mercy, for I will no more have mercy on the house of Israel, to forgive them at all. **7** But I will have mercy on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God. I will not save them by bow or by sword or by war or by horses or by horsemen.”

8 When she had weaned No Mercy, she conceived and bore a son. **9** And the Lord said, “Call his name Not My People, for you are not my people, and I am not your God.”

10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children[e] of the living God." **11** And the children of Judah and the children of Israel shall be gathered together, and they shall appoint for themselves one head. And they shall go up from the land, for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

Hosea Redeems His Wife

3 And the Lord said to me, "Go again, love a woman who is loved by another man and is an adulteress, even as the Lord loves the children of Israel, though they turn to other gods and love cakes of raisins." **2** So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley. **3** And I said to her, "You must dwell as mine for many days. You shall not play the whore, or belong to another man; so will I also be to you." **4** For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. **5** Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days.

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Ezekiel 31:1-14

Living on Mission In Community

Hosea's marriage to Gomer is more than a shocking story—it's a mirror held up to our own hearts. We are Gomer. We run after idols. We look for love in empty places. And yet, God sees us, pursues us, and purchases us. He doesn't wait for us to clean ourselves up. He steps into our mess, pays the price, and says, "You are mine." This is the kind of love that changes everything—not because we're worthy, but because He is good. What would change in your life if you truly believed God loves you even in your most unlovable moments?

How is God leading me to respond to His Word this week?

Optional Breakout Questions

Consider making time at the end of the group to break out into groups of 2-4 (keep them gender specific). Have them answer these three questions about their weeks:

1. How did you feed yourself?
 - *(What have you been doing to feed your spiritual life, and how is it going?)*
2. How did you feed others?
 - *(How did you share the gospel or gospel truth with someone this week?)*
3. How did you feed your flesh?
 - *(What sins did you struggle with this week? How can your friends hold you accountable?)*

Leader Resources

Small Group Curriculum Guide on Hosea 1-3

Title: *Relentless Love: The God Who Redeems the Unfaithful*

Text: Hosea 1–3

1. Session Overview

In Hosea 1–3, we are introduced to a prophet whose marriage becomes a living parable. Hosea is commanded by God to marry a woman who will be unfaithful to him, representing God’s relationship with Israel. Through Hosea’s personal story, we see three powerful truths reflected in Gomer’s journey: she is unfaithful, unworthy, and yet receives undeserved mercy. These chapters are more than ancient history—they are a mirror of our sin and a window into God’s redemptive love.

2. Opening (Prayer & Icebreaker)

Break into groups of 2–3 and ask:

- Is there any way we can pray for our personal walks with God this week?
- In what ways have you personally experienced the love of God even when you were running from Him?

Icebreaker Question:

What’s the most powerful love story you’ve ever read or watched? What made it memorable?

3. Scripture Reading

Read Hosea 1–3 aloud as a group or assign sections:

- Hosea 1:1–11 – Hosea’s call and marriage to Gomer
- Hosea 2:1–23 – God’s warning and promise of restoration
- Hosea 3:1–5 – Hosea redeems Gomer again

Encourage members to listen for themes of betrayal, consequence, and mercy.

4. Teaching Points

A. Gomer Is Unfaithful (Hosea 1)

- Hosea is told by God to marry “a woman of whoredom” (1:2). Gomer’s unfaithfulness becomes symbolic of Israel’s spiritual adultery.
- Just as Gomer pursues lovers, Israel has chased after other gods (idolatry).
- The names of their children reflect judgment: Jezreel (scattered), Lo-Ruhamah (no mercy), Lo-Ammi (not my people).

“Idolatry is not just one sin among many. It is the sin that leads to every other sin.” – Tim Keller

B. Gomer Is Unworthy (Hosea 2)

- God’s anger is righteous. He exposes Israel’s sin, threatening to strip her bare (2:3) and hedge her path with thorns (2:6).
- But judgment is not God’s final word. He woos her in the wilderness (2:14) and speaks tenderly to her.
- He promises restoration, even changing the names: “You are my people” (2:23).

“The love of God is not a reward for the righteous; it is a rescue for the rebellious.” – Adrian Rogers

C. Gomer Receives Undeserved Mercy (Hosea 3)

- God tells Hosea to love her again, though she’s with another man.
- Hosea redeems her for fifteen shekels and some barley—a humiliating price, like a slave.
- This becomes a living picture of God’s redeeming love. Despite betrayal, He buys us back.

“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

5. Discussion Questions

1. **Hosea 1:2–9** – Why do you think God chose to illustrate His message through Hosea’s marriage? What does this tell us about the seriousness of spiritual unfaithfulness?
2. **Hosea 2:14–20** – How do you see the balance of God’s justice and mercy in this passage? What stands out to you about His pursuit?
3. **Hosea 3:1–3** – What do you think it cost Hosea emotionally and financially to buy Gomer back? How does this reflect the cost Christ paid for us?
4. How are we like Gomer in our spiritual lives today? Where do we chase after lesser loves?
5. What does Hosea’s faithfulness to Gomer teach us about how to love people who are difficult, broken, or far from God?

6. Application Points

- **Recognize your Gomer-like tendencies.** What idols or temptations are pulling your heart away from God?
- **Rest in the love of Christ.** He didn’t wait for you to clean up your act—He pursued and purchased you at the cross.
- **Repent and return.** Like Gomer, we’re not too far gone. God calls us back with tenderness. Where is God calling you to repent?

- **Reflect His love.** Who in your life needs to experience the same kind of pursuing love that God has shown you?

Reflective Question:

Where in your life do you need to remember that God's mercy is greater than your failure?

7. Closing Reflection and Prayer

Read Hosea 2:19–20 as a closing reminder of God's covenant love:

"I will betroth you to me forever... in righteousness and justice, in steadfast love and in mercy."

Encourage the group to pray in pairs:

- Thanking God for His undeserved love
- Confessing where they have been unfaithful
- Asking for renewed intimacy with God

8. Memory Verse

Hosea 2:23b (ESV)

"And I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people'; and he shall say, 'You are my God.'"

9. Leader's Notes

- **Be prepared** for sensitive conversations. Some participants may identify deeply with betrayal, unfaithfulness, or shame.
- **Lead with vulnerability.** Your transparency will set the tone for a gospel-centered, grace-filled discussion.
- **Keep the gospel central.** The point of Hosea is not moral reform—it's the relentless mercy of God who loves even the unfaithful.
- If time permits, consider closing with a worship song like *"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"* or *"Reckless Love."*