

Getting To Know You

1. What is a passage, text, or story that you were surprised to read in the Bible? Explain.
2. What is something that God has called you to do, that is specific to you? How did you respond? Explain
3. C.S. Lewis said, "To ask that God's love should be content with us as we are is to ask that God should cease to be God." Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
4. Philip Yancey said, Sociologists have a theory of the looking-glass self: you become what the most important person in your life (wife, father, boss, etc.) thinks you are. How would my life change if I truly believed the Bible's astounding words about God's love for me, if I looked in the mirror and saw what God sees? Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
5. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. Who is Hosea? What is he known as? When did he live? What was the purpose of the book? When & where did Hosea prophesy? Who was his primary audience? What is about to happen to Israel (ten northern tribes)? What nation was God going to use to bring judgment upon Israel?
2. What would you do if God called you to marry a prostitute? Explain. If this was a contemporary situation, how would it be received? Explain. If Hosea was a candidate for a staff position at a church, how do you think he and Gomer would be received? Explain.
3. What are some of the texts or verses that come to mind when you think about the book of Hosea? What does God call Hosea to do? By doing this what is the example or illustration that God is making to Israel? How is Hosea a picture of God? How is Gomer a picture of Israel? When you read Hosea do you look at it from Hosea or Gomer's perspective? Why?

Who do we resemble more as the church, Hosea or Gomer? Explain. Would you have done what Hosea did? Would you be willing to reconcile after Gomer's infidelity, if you were Hosea? Explain. How are we just like Gomer when it comes to our relationship with God? How does God continue to love and pursue us despite our flaws, inadequacies, sin, disobedience, etc.?

Do we find God or does God find us? Explain. How often do we forget or neglect God? What are some ways that you/we do this? Explain.
4. How much did it cost Hosea to purchase Gomer? What was this equivalent to in Ancient Near Eastern culture? How is this symbolic of what God did for us? What did it cost God? What was the payment? How does this demonstrate the lengths God is willing to go to restore and reconcile us?

5. What are some marriage principles that can be applied from this book? How important is forgiveness in a relationship? Is love conditional or unconditional? Explain. Do unhealthy relationships change overnight? What are some ways to change an unhealthy relationship into a healthy one? Explain.
6. After Hosea marries Gomer, what does she do? Why would she return to her previous life? Does this make sense to you? Can you relate at any level? Explain.

What are some reasons for unhealthy behavior to be repeated? How is this applicable with our relationship with God? Do you ever turn to the lesser things? Do you ever struggle with certain areas? How does God love us through this?

How has God healed our brokenness? How does God view you/us? Is that something you genuinely believe and live out? Explain.

Growing Closer

1. Who is someone you shared the gospel with this week?
2. What have you been reading in your quiet times?
3. What has God been teaching you?