**Hosea 1-2:3**

**Marriage of Hosea and Gomer**

**Lesson 17**

1. **Was there a moment this week that made you feel close to God? *OR*, was there a particular verse or lesson from our reading of Hosea that your found inspiring?**
2. **If your Bible has an introduction to Hosea, note any interesting background information that is written there and share it with your group.**
3. **Keep in mind that what we are reading is a *translation* of the Bible from ancient Hebrew to English. Compare the translations of Hosea 1:2 below as they pertain to Hosea’s wife. What difference in meaning or perception do the translations make here?**

**Hosea 1:2 (NABRE) 2**When the Lord began to speak with Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: Go, get for yourself a woman of prostitution and children of prostitution, for the land prostitutes itself, *turning away* from the Lord.

**Hosea 1:2 (NRSV)** When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, “Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom *by forsaking* the Lord.”

**Hosea 1:2 (NKJV) 2**When the Lord began to speak by Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea: “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry, and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry *by departing* from the Lord.”

**Hosea 1:2 (NIV**) **2**When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of *unfaithfulness to the* Lord.”

**Hosea 1:2 (TLB)** The Lord said to Hosea, “Go and marry a girl who is a prostitute, so that some of her children will be born to you from other men. This will illustrate the way my people have been untrue to me, committing open adultery against me *by worshiping* other gods.”

1. **Empathy: How would a married man, at the time of Hosea, have reacted to an unfaithful wife? How would he feel emotionally?**
2. **What does the Old Testament say about adultery? Read Leviticus 20:10, Proverbs 6:32, Ezekiel 23:37, and Deuteronomy 5:18.**

**Lev 20:10 -** If a man commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death.

**Proverbs 6:32 -** But those who commit adultery have no sense; those who do it destroy themselves.

**Ezekiel 23:37 -37**For they committed adultery, and blood covers their hands. They committed adultery with their idols; even the children they bore for me they burnt as food for them.

**Deuteronomy 5:1818 -**You shall not commit adultery.

1. **What did Jesus’ teach about adultery? See Matthew 5:27 and John 8:1-11**

**Matthew 5:27 27**[[s](#fen-NABRE-27581s)]“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ **28**But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

**John 8:1-11 -** Then each went to his own house, **1**while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. **2**But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. **3**Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. **4**They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. **5**Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?”**6**They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. **7**But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” **8**Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. **9**And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. **10**Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” **11**She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin anymore.”

1. **God is using the marriage of Hosea as a metaphor. He compares their marriage to the relationship between God and Israel.**

**What is it that makes a *good* marriage?**

1. **What is God saying, through Hosea, is wrong with the relationship between Israel and YHWH?**
2. **If the relationship between God and the Chosen People is not repaired, what could be the consequence? See Hos 1:4-8.**

**Hos 1:4-8 4**Then the Lord said to him: Give him the name “Jezreel,” for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the bloodshed at Jezreel and bring to an end the kingdom of the house of Israel; **5**on that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

**6**She conceived again and bore a daughter. The Lord said to him: Give her the name “Not-Pitied,” for I will no longer feel pity for the house of Israel: rather, I will utterly abhor them. **7**Yet for the house of Judah I will feel pity; I will save them by the Lord, their God; but I will not save them by bow or sword, by warfare, by horses or horsemen.

**8**After she weaned Not-Pitied, she conceived and bore a son. **9**Then the Lord said: Give him the name “Not-My-People,” for you are not my people, and I am not “I am” for you.

1. **What do you think is the most important idea, lesson or concept in this chapter?**