



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

INTRODUCTION

02/28/2016

The story of Hosea presents an incredible and unparalleled image of love, both in its dysfunction and determination. Hosea's wife leaves him, but in his passion and determination, Hosea pursues her endlessly. Despite her unfaithfulness she remains worthy of the greatest pursuit.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Read Hosea chapters 1 and 2. What in these two chapters was most surprising or shocking? How did you experience the chapter—amused, disturbed, comforted, confused, etc?
2. Identify the two main characters. How are they portrayed? Who do these two characters represent?
3. The description of Gomer has been translated variously as “a promiscuous woman”, “wife of whoredom”, “adulterous wife”, and “prostitute”. How does this impact your understanding of the command given to Hosea? How do these descriptors apply to Israel's relationship with God?
4. Where in these two chapters can you identify passages or verses about love and pursuit for Gomer/Israel? What is the goal of this pursuit?

5. Divine faithfulness and love continually surface in this book, even in the face of disloyalty and despite God's discipline. How do these chapters present the character of God?

6. Regarding God's love and pursuit of humanity, where does Jesus fit into this picture? How does his life, death and resurrection demonstrate this love? (consider 1 John 4:7-16)

7. As it pertains to our relationship with God, how does the metaphorical concept of "prostitution" and "whoredom" look or apply in our contemporary context?

8. Read Romans 5:6-10 and Ephesians 2:1-10. How do these passages compare to the narrative of Hosea 1-2?

9. Gomer, and Israel, seem to ignore the love and pursuit of God. How easily does this occur in your life? Can you identify in your life where these two elements have been present?

10. Hosea 2:14-16 paints a beautiful picture of the relationship God longs to restore with Israel. Given this narrative and the New Testament description of God's love, would you respond positively, negatively or neutrally? How would that response impact your understanding of and commitment to God?

MOVING FORWARD

Pastor John challenged Grace to pick up the book *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers. This book places the story of Hosea and Gomer in a powerful light that will transform your understanding of God's character. Whether you choose to read and discuss this book, make it a point this week to consider the lengths to which God has gone to reveal himself to creation and extend his love to humanity.