



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Hosea - Unfulfilled potential and God's decisive Love

GETTING STARTED

What 'famous' person or ordinary person like you and me started out life with great potential but squandered their opportunity? In what way does this correspond with Hosea's message?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

Dave offered two lessons from Hosea.

1. God grieves unfulfilled potential, and...
2. God's love is a decision that overcomes His displeasure to restore defiant people to faith.

In what way does Hosea point us towards Christ?

In what way can we confuse "blessing", ie. "Israel is a luxuriant vine loaded with fruit", with being truly rich with God?

In what way can our pursuit for 'security and safety' outside of God become an idol in our life?

How do you respond to the impassioned picture of God's love in 11:1-3 and 11:8-9? What causes us to lose a sense of God's unfailing love and faithfulness? How ought we respond?

Why is it easy to love someone or something that is "invisible and theoretical" than what is visible and imperfect? If God's church is both invisible and visible, what would it mean for you to love the church as Christ loves the church?

What does repentance look like in your life?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Hosea 10-11]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What was at the heart of affluent Israel's religion? (10:1-8)

How severe was God's judgment against His people? (10:9-15)

Why did God hold out the possibility of repentance and blessing? (10:12)

How did God express His love for Israel? (11:1-4)

Why did the nation not deserve mercy? (11:5-7)

How did God show that He was torn between love and justice? (11:8-11)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

In what ways did Hosea show compassion and loyalty?

What lessons do you find in the prophet's message?

How have past events affected your present walk with the Lord?

When has God's discipline been a blessing in your life?

What place does the Lord have in the life, ministries, and focus of your church?

What good things happen in your life when you consistently walk in the ways of the Lord?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?