



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Hosea - Love is a Decision

GETTING STARTED

When has there been a time that it has been difficult to express unconditional love towards someone? And/or when has "tough love" been offered to you? How did you respond?

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's unconditional love and consequences are aimed at our redemption
2. With God, Love is a Decision, with us, Repentance ought to be normal

In what way does Hosea point us towards Christ? Or, how does Christ fulfill Hosea's prophecy?
Are there limits to ways we can express unconditional love? If so, in what ways should we love, as Christ loved us, that are pointed at redemption?

How can we normalize repentance in our life? Why ought we?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Hosea 1-4]

(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.

Who was Hosea? (1:1)

When did the Lord speak to the prophet? (1:1)

What did the Lord instruct Hosea to do? (1:2-2:1)

What was the symbolism of Hosea's family? (1:2-2:1)

How did Hosea feel about Gomer? (2:2-13)

What did God say to Israel through Hosea's words? (2:2-13)

What did the Lord plan to do to win Israel back to himself? (2:14-15)

By what name would renewed Israel acknowledge her Lord? (2:16)

What would God prohibit? (2:17)

What would accompany Israel's return to the land? (2:18)

What would mark the new relationship between the Lord and Israel? (2:19-23)

What commands did the Lord give Hosea? (3:1)

How did Hosea respond to the Lord? (3:2-3)

What did Gomer's lengthy probation portray? (3:4)

What would happen after Israel's period of isolation? (3:5)

What charge did God bring against Israel? (4:1-2)

What would result from Israel's sin? (4:3)
How were the priests implicated in God's indictment? (4:4-11)
How had God's people sinned? (4:11-14)
What warning did God give Judah? (4:15)
What had hindered God from shepherding Israel? (4:16-19)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How do you tend to deal with a loved one who has wronged you in some way?
How is God's faithfulness and unconditional love to us an example of the way we should treat others?
How is God's consequences for Israel an example of the way we should treat others?
What are the "idols" in your life from which you should turn away?
What bruised or broken family relationship of yours needs the healing touch of the Lord?
What does this passage say to you about the consequences of sin?
How can you intervene in someone else's life to be a force of renewal?

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?