

# Supplemental Questions for The Twelve

## Hosea

### What's It Like To Be God To Us? (Introduction)

- When we set God to the side in how we live our lives as Christians, things can get ugly pretty quickly. In Hosea we see God calling His wayward people to stop drifting and to return to Him. What are some words that come to mind that describe God's character towards us in His always seeking reconciliation with those who get lured away by the world?
- What are some ways as a Christian that it might be difficult to live out a life of faith in a world full of desirable things that lure us away from God? What choices might we have to make?

### Getting Right Down To It (Hosea 1:1-3)

- God's using the picture of a faithful and loving marriage to describe our relationship with Him is truly extraordinary. Why would God turn to faithful marriage as a description for what He desires for us through Jesus today? What does that say about how He views relationship with us?
- What is it like for God to be God to you sometimes? How is the "marriage"?

### Words That Wound, Words That Heal (Hosea 1:4-9)

- Words can wound. We all know about that. But words can also work towards healing. And even honest wounding words can be meant to wake us up and bring later healing. Are you OK if God's words need to wound sometimes in order to bring us back to Him to find needed healing?
- How has God used honest words in the Bible or in a conversation with someone to get your attention to get you back on track in your faith?

### **God Would Not Be Good At Poker (Hosea 1:6-7, 9-10)**

- God wants us to know Him and be known by Him. He wants us to know how much He loves us. How did God show His love for you and me by giving what we don't deserve through Jesus?
- If God has to drop the hammer, it's not because He is quick to anger. It's because we persist in things that hurt us and separate us from Him. What actions or attitudes help you hear the voice of Jesus each day so that you're less tempted to wander away from Him?

### **Beauty From Ashes (Hosea 2:1-8, 16-20)**

- In Hosea's day the culture around him had degraded into gross immorality. In chasing after money, status, lust, and power, it doesn't take long for things that may have once been good to turn ugly and even violent. But God is gracious to us to call out the harmful patterns we may have developed personally or nationally. Describe where you may have seen others forget God and rather look around at others for acceptance, credibility, and identity.
- Look back at Hosea 2:16, 19-20. What God desires is a relationship with us through Christ marked by righteousness, peace, justice, steadfast love, and mercy. God can redeem the whole household that trusts Him, even if bad decisions have made things difficult for all who are close to us. What does the word "redeemer" mean to you? How have you seen Jesus act as redeemer in your own life or in the life of someone close to you?

### **The Hard Part (Hosea 3:1-5)**

- In order to save us from ourselves, God will do what He has to do, even if it means letting our rebellion hurt us badly to teach us. Are you thankful for that or would you rather that God were less involved in daily affairs?

### **Going Backstage (Hosea 4:1-3)**

- How does "going backstage" help in reading passages in Scripture that might be unsettling at first glance?

### **Uh-huh (Hosea 6:1-4, 5-7, 8:7, 10:12-13)**

- Attempting to deceive God with outward forms of worship so that we can get back to sin as usual is not going to go over well with God. He knows where sin leads us and loves us too much to not say anything. His words are strong in Hosea. What might a prayer that God would say “uh-huh” to possibly sound like? What might a prayer filled with honesty, humility, and genuine love sound like?

### **When We Get What We Wanted And It's Awful (Hosea 11:1-4, 7-9; 12:1, 6; 13:4-6, 9-11)**

- The call of God in Hosea is for his people to come home to him. Sadly, God's people in Hosea's day sought their identity from the powerful nations around them that would later be the very ones that would destroy them. What do you think distracts us today from the call of God to return to him as his children, as a church, and as a nation?

### **The Way Out (Hosea 14:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 7)**

- The goodness and love of God in this last chapter of Hosea is a little overwhelming. He says to His people even today to “bring with you words” of deepest confession through Christ our Redeemer and find hope and healing in Him. No fake faith. God longs to pour out His blessing on His sons and daughters! You will surely find God with open arms in your honest confession and prayer. He loves you so much. Are there habits, thoughts, wounds, or actions that have been keeping you from walking in freedom that you should surrender today?

