

## Hosea Study and Discussion Questions Chapters 7-10

### Chapters 7-10

- What is the overall theme of this section? (See Hosea 10:13-15; also, 7:16; 8:4; 8:7; 9:10)
- Despite the theme of these chapters, discuss the hope found in Hosea 10:12. Why did the Israelites have trouble embracing this hope (10:2)? Where is this hope anchored? (consider discussing Hosea 8:12)
- While not all suffering comes from our sin, when we do sin, we reap the fruit of our labor, which is suffering (Hosea 8:13-14, 10:13-15). If Scripture teaches that sin can lead to suffering, why do people sin? How does God empower and equip you to overcome sin?
- What do we learn about God in understanding that He justly punishes sin by pouring out His wrath? How should we respond to this truth?
- How would you define God's holiness? Why is it good that God is committed to His own holiness, and takes His holiness seriously?
- How should we talk about God's holiness and wrath to our neighbors, friends, family, etc. who do not know the Lord? How can we faithfully make the gospel attractive?
- What can you use to 1) encourage a believer or, 2) share the gospel with an unbeliever from this passage?

For more detailed study, some discussion questions may come from the lists below.

### Chapter 7

- Why can't God heal/forgive Israel?
- How has Israel's practices affected them physically?
- What physical effect does wicked living have on people today?
- What effect does wicked living have on our children, the poor, the disenfranchised of society?

### Chapter 8

- Verses 1-6
  - Why is the judgment of God being announced by Hosea over God's people Israel (v. 1)? What should we do to make sure we are not guilty of the same thing?
  - Do we think that claiming to know God is enough? If we claim to know God but our actions go against what He tells us to do, what does this show (v. 2-3)?
  - What is the most important aspect of choosing leaders in the church (v. 4)? What is the role of a leader who is God's chosen instrument rather than the people's choice?
  - Because it is a craftsman who creates an idol, it cannot be God. Only God can reveal himself to humanity. What idols have we made in our lives that keeps us from God (v. 5-6)? What does it mean to be "incapable of innocence" (v. 5)?
  - In Exodus 32: 4, the people of Israel give their gold to Aaron who fashions it into a golden calf. Then Aaron says to the people, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When these idols are "broken into pieces" (v. 6), it shows they are weak and unable to perform as gods. How can we break down into pieces and so get rid of these needless idols in our own lives?
- Verses 7-10
  - What do you think "sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind" means (v. 7)? Give an example where this has happened in your life.
  - In verse 8, "Israel is swallowed up" – foretelling of a time when they would go into exile, be part of other nations and lose their identity. In what way does the church lose its identity, when it is swallowed up in the culture of the world?
  - When Israel turns away from Yahweh and needs help, they turn to other nations, namely Assyria (v. 9), for help. But God will use these very nations to pronounce judgement on Israel. Can you think of a time when you were in trouble and did not turn to God? What was the result?
- Verses 11-14
  - Sometimes we do things for the right purpose, to serve God, like the people of Israel (Ephraim) building multiple altars. But instead they have become altars

for sinning even more. When have you done this in your life?

- When are God's laws strange to us (v. 12)?
- When is what we do not acceptable to God (v. 13)?
- What would it mean for a person of Israel to "return to Egypt" (v. 13)?
- What does it mean for the people of Israel and Judah to "have multiplied their fortified cities" (v. 14)? How does our wealth and prosperity (living in a first world nation) test our reliance on God?

## Chapter 9

- Verses 1-9
  - What does it mean to play the whore with God (v. 1)? Do you thank God enough for the many good things you have in your life? Share at least one way you can do that more in your life.
  - For Israel (Ephraim) the result of sin is to go into captivity in Assyria. Why would the people of Israel be forced to eat unclean food when they were exiled to Assyria (v. 3)? Does sin always lead to captivity? Discuss.
  - When do you think your sacrifices to the Lord do not please Him (v. 4)? God wanted Israel to understand the difference between feeding their stomach and nourishing their soul. How do you understand this difference today?
  - What was the great sin of the people of Gibeah (v. 9 cf. Judges 19)? What is the result of sin? How does God view sin? How should we see sin? Now in this section, the speak changes dramatically to words that are tender and loving towards Israel, but packed with judgment. It tells of Israel in earlier days and how Israel has responded to God's grace and love with disobedience and idolatry. According to the Mosaic covenant, God must punish them by destruction, but He will retain a remnant.
- Verses 9:10-17
  - How did God look upon the people of Israel (v. 10)? How does God see us today? What happened to the people of Israel at Baal-peor (Numbers 25)? How can we halt sin in our own lives?
  - In verse 15 God says through Hosea, "I will love them no more". The same Hebrew word is used for one of Hosea's children. Which child is that (Hosea 1)? What do we rely on from God to be saved? How does that make you feel?
  - Why can Hosea call God, "My God" in verse 17? Who does he put himself in contrast with? Why has God rejected them (cf. Deuteronomy 28: 62)? What do we need to do in order to always be listening to God?
  - Again this section refers to Israel's early history but uses the imagery of the vine. This may have been taken from the blessing Jacob gave to his son Joseph on his death bed (Genesis 49: 22). This picture of Israel as a vine is also captured in Psalm 80: 8-11. There is a strong sense of loss due to covenant unfaithfulness. Because of this continued unfaithfulness, they must receive

God's punishment. All that they trust in, all that they build to protect themselves, all these will be destroyed. Nothing will save them; nothing can save them, except God alone.

#### Chapter 10

- What did Israel's increased fruitfulness result in them doing (v. 1-2)?
- Why do you think that prosperity caused the nation of Israel to turn to other gods (v. 1-2 cf. Matthew 19: 23-26)?
- What results when people "do not fear the Lord" (v. 3-8 cf. Isaiah 59: 7-9)?
- Again Hosea refers back to the sin at Gilbeah (see question 4). What happens when we continue in our sin (v. 9-10)?
- What is Hosea appealing for God's people to do in verse 12? In this context, what do you think it means to "break up your fallow ground" (v. 12)?
- What happens or results when "you have trusted in your own way" (v. 13)? What results when we trust in the Lord (cf. Proverbs 3: 5-8)?