

## A Love Story Discussion Guide

**TEXT:** Hosea 2

**OPEN:**

1. Have you ever been engaged? How would your feelings for your betrothed have changed if they betrayed you? How do you express your anger & disappointment?

**DIG:**

1. Even though this is a real life story who does Hosea represent? Gomer?
2. How does Hosea feel about Gomer (vs. 2-13)? What will he do about that? Why does he deny their marriage?
3. Why does he want to expose and stop her adultery (vs. 3-8)? What effect would further punishment (vs. 9-13) have on her?
4. What "adultery" is she guilty of (vs. 8,13)? Who then are her "lovers" (v. 5)? Her "husband" (v. 7)? Her "children" (vs. 4,23)?
5. Though the marriage was broken by adultery, is divorce or reconciliation sought? Why do you think so?
6. How do you account for the contrast between punishment and allurements (vs. 13-14)? What "desert" experience is Hosea referring to? What effect will this have and why? (See Ex. 19:3-6 for God's instruction to Moses after wandering in the wilderness.)
7. What changes will occur "in that day" (vs. 16-19)? What would you call that?
8. How will Israel respond to the Lord's marriage proposal (vs. 19-20)? How will the skies, earth and its resources then respond (vs. 21-23)?

**REFLECT:**

1. Since we become slaves of whatever we yield ourselves to (see Rom. 6:16), what are the "baals" (or masters) in your life? In what ways might you be serving them instead of God? What promise do these masters make to lure you into their service?
2. When, if ever, have you outgrown your need for God? Have you ever felt rejected by him? What for? What "desert experience" or other trying circumstance brought you back to Him?
3. Using the marriage metaphor, how would you describe your present relationship with God: (a) Engaged couple? (b) Newlyweds, still honeymooning? (c) On the rocks or unfaithful? (d) Growing old together?
4. What "adulterous wife" or "prodigal son" are you burdened for these days? How could you be God's instrument of discipline and restoration in their lives? What impact would this have on you? On them?

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