

- Hosea and Gomer –

In the book of Hosea, God told Hosea to marry a prostitute named Gomer. Unfortunately, Gomer cheated on Hosea and bore children with other men. God responds to Gomer's unfaithfulness… first with righteous anger, and then with unfailing love and forgiveness.

Ice-Breaker:

- In what ways does our society train people towards divorce? [think specifically about dating in our culture today]

Discussion:

1. **Read Hosea 2:5.** A common marriage misconception is thinking: **What I'm missing is better than what I have.** How have you experienced that misconception in your own life and relationships, and what were the results?

2. **Read Hosea 2:8-10 and Hosea 2:14-15.** The story of Hosea and Gomer is a picture of what spiritual adultery looks like. Israel has been unfaithful to God, and God demonstrates both righteous anger and unfailing love and forgiveness toward Israel.

    - What are some common ways that Christians are unfaithful to God in our day?
    - Do you think most Christians are aware of how deeply their sin hurts the heart of God? Why is that?

3. **Read Hosea 3:1 and Hosea 10:12.** God tells Hosea in these verses to forgive his wife and show her the same faithfulness that God shows towards us.

    - How do you tend to deal with a loved one who has wronged you in some way?
    - Describe how you can better model God's unfailing love and forgiveness in your own relationships.

Application:

Pray the following this week:

- Confess those areas of your life where you've been unfaithful to God.
- Thank God for His unfailing love and forgiveness that He's given you throughout your life.
- Ask God to help you remain faithful in all your relationships - starting with your relationship with Him.
- Ask God to help you model His unfailing love and forgiveness in all your relationships.
- Pray for someone who has wronged you. Ask God to guide you as you attempt to reconcile the relationship.