

Growth Group Homework

Reading the week of April 19-23, 2021

Discussing the week of April 25th

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. As a child, parent, leader or employee, have you ever made or received an “empty promise”? How do you feel about?
2. Have you ever made bread or watched it being made? What image or feeling does the smells of baking bread bring to you?

GOING DEEPER/ Dixon First Reads Together

Hosea: *Characteristics*: Hosea’s language relies heavily upon the covenant stipulations of blessings and curses (see Lev 26; Dt 28-32) While reciting the case against Israel and the consequential curses she will face, Hosea interjects God’s promise ultimately to restore her to the land and to himself in covenant faithfulness. The question of Gomer (ch. 1-3) is intriguing. Is the story allegorical or is it meant to be taken literally? The precise nature of Gomer’s relationship to Hosea cannot be established with certainty. Yahweh’s purpose in this “enacted” prophecy is clear, however. Bound to the Lord by covenant, Israel still prostitutes herself and bears “children of harlotry.” In word or deed, Hosea says that despite Israel’s faithlessness, God remains faithful¹

Monday: Hosea 6, Israel’s Fickleness

Have you ever tried to hide from God behind an easy act of repentance?

On a scale of 1 (morning mist) to 5 (rock of Gibraltar), how would you rate the staying power of your love for the Lord?

Tuesday: Hosea 7, God’s Frustration

Like Ephraim, are there areas you have compromised (by “paying” for continued loyalty of friends) in your personal life, church life, or national life?

Consider one specific need for repentance which this chapter brings to your attention. What action steps will you take this week in response to the Lord’s desire to redeem you?

Wednesday: Hosea 8, Israel Warned, yet Wandering

Despite professions of loyalty to God, are you “rejecting what is good” (vv. 2-3) with (a) Spouse? (b) Family? (c) Business? (d) Money? (e) Leisure?

Consider the “sacred objects” in your life. Are you in danger of worshiping what inspires you (creation, spiritual gifts, etc.) rather than God himself?

Thursday: Hosea 9, From the Pinnacle...

How is your allegiance to God “supplemented” by keeping today’s cultural “fertility cults”?

Have you ever been treated badly, like Hosea, because of some radical expression of your Christian faith? Share it, if any, in the group.

Friday: Hosea 10, ...To the Pit

What is the “spirit” behind the idols that are popular in our society: Power? Material prosperity? Status? Pleasure?

Is there some area in which you are not allowing God to be Master? With this area given to God, what result can you expect?

Prayer Requests:



Growth Group Community Service Project

We ask every group to take on at least one service project a year (the ideal is two) and to have at least one social gathering (potluck) per half a year. Please consider with your group members of what community service you’d like to participate in. There is a project list made by our church that you can join in and outside the church.
