



## ***Fresh Fruit: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Lesson 8 (Faithfulness)***

March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Questions primarily from *Fruits of the Spirit* (Peau, Kuhatschek, Eyre, Scazzero)

### **A WILLINGNESS TO FORGIVE**

***Hosea 2: 19- 3:5***

1. Why do you think forgiveness is one of the foundations of friendship?
2. Read Hosea 2:19-3:5 – Looking back at 2:13, how would you describe the spiritual condition of Israel?
3. God describes Israel's restoration in terms of marriage because he views idolatry as spiritual adultery. Why do you think God uses such a graphic term for idolatry?
4. Hosea 3:1-5 focuses on Hosea and Gomer. Verse 1 tells how Gomer, though married to Hosea, is living with another man and worshipping other gods. God tells Hosea to reclaim his unfaithful wife. Given Hosea's situation, what do you think he would be thinking and feeling?
5. Hosea must pay a price to reclaim Gomer. (Ch. 3:2) How does Hosea's restoration of Gomer foreshadow the ministry of Jesus Christ?
6. In what areas are God's people in our time and culture tempted to be unfaithful to God? In what areas do you struggle to be unfaithful to God?
7. The damaged relationship between God and Israel is repaired because God is willing to forgive. How would you describe the overflowing benefits that come from this reconciled relationship?



8. Why can it be so difficult to forgive those who are close to us? (What overflowing benefits result when we forgive?)

**A COMMITMENT TO BE THERE**

***Read Ruth 1***

9. Consider a time when you shared a difficult experience with someone. How did it strengthen your friendship?

10. Read Ruth 1 – What do we learn about Naomi in verses 1-5?

11. What do verses 6-13 reveal about Naomi’s relationship to God?

12. When you have faced a painful experience, how has it affected your attitude toward God?

13. The famine is over, and Naomi prepares to return to Bethlehem with her daughters-in-law. What cost does Naomi face by encouraging Ruth and Oprah to stay in Moab? (Verses 8-14)

14. Read Ruth’s familiar words verses 16-17 – How would you summarize her words of dedication?

15. In what situations is it most important for us to be there for our loved ones and friends? How does Ruth’s example encourage you to be faithful in good times and bad?