



Discussion Questions

Hosea 4

Sermon: The Indictment of God's People

- ❖ **God Accuses the People and the Priesthood (4:1-10)**
 - Faithfulness, steadfast love, and knowledge of God encapsulate the qualities of God's covenant people. (v. 1)
 - Sin breaks the peace and purpose God intended for creation (vv. 2-3).
 - Neglecting the knowledge of God leads to widespread, unchecked sin (vv. 4-10).
 - **Question:** Is unrepentant sin breaking the peace and purpose God intends for your life? In your relationship with God, which quality—faithfulness, steadfast love, or knowledge of God—do you need to fortify?
- ❖ **Forgetting God's Word Leads to Idolatry and Gross Immorality (4:11-19)**
 - Sin is alluring, but it leads us to forsake our relationship with God. (vv. 11-14)
 - Stubborn defiance and a repentant heart cannot co-exist. (vv. 15-19)
 - **Question:** Are you hiding in the shame of sin? Come to the cross and find shelter in Jesus! What do you need to confess and be healed of today?
- ❖ **Bottom Line: We have forsaken God with our sin. But God has determined to redeem us in Christ!**

Understanding Scripture

1. Read the passage aloud.
 - **Question:** How would the original audience have understood this passage?
 - **Question:** What was God's desire for them?
2. Reread key verse(s) aloud.
 - **Question:** What does this teach us about the human soul, desires, or behavior?
 - **Question:** What does this teach us about the nature, desires, or behavior of God?
3. Ask if anything is difficult to understand in the passage, or simply point it out yourself.
 - i. Back up from the confusing verse and reread the whole section slowly—highlight the author's flow of thought.
 - ii. Ask everyone, "What are some possible interpretations?" Encourage curiosity!
 - iii. If needed, provide clarification, but admit if you don't have a satisfactory explanation, and volunteer to research answers. Share your findings over text or at the next meeting.
4. Summarize the passage in 1-3 sentences to refocus the group ("Okay, so far we've seen Hosea...")
 - **Question:** What does this say about our relationship with God and/or each other?
 - **Question:** How do the teachings, actions, or person of Jesus shed light on this passage?

Applying Scripture

5. Allow free-flowing discussion, incorporating questions focused on heart and habit transformation.
 - **Hosea 4:** Why do you think God highlights faithfulness, steadfast love, and knowledge of Him as the defining marks of His covenant people? Which of these qualities is most lacking in your walk with God right now?
 - **Hosea 4:4-10:** How does neglecting God's Word lead to widespread sin in a community? Is there anyone present in your life to help you to stay grounded in Scripture?
 - **Hosea 4:11-14:** Why are sins such as drunkenness and sexual immorality especially destructive to our faith? Does taking these sins more seriously mean we should take other so-called smaller sins less seriously? What are some so-called lesser sins in your life that you are struggling to repent of?
 - **Hosea 4:15-19:** Is there any shame from past sin you are still carrying or struggling to let go of? How can the group encourage and remind one another of the forgiveness and freedom found at the cross?
 - **Application:** Do you trust God to forgive and this community to restore you if you confess unrepentant sin? Think through who you could confess to in a private and appropriate setting. Ask to be prayed over for the healing of your sins this week!