



Small Group Notes

Sermon: 22 May 2022



Part 3

SCRIPTURE

Hosea 4-6

OVERVIEW

The first 3 chapters of Hosea were telling the story of Hosea's marriage to the adulterous Gomer, and how this marriage is an analogy for God's relationship with his idolatrous people.

The book now moves from narrative to prophetic poetry, reinforcing the message of the first 3 chapters.

In chapter 4 we see that God has some 'charges' against Israel, all of which flow out of the fact that they do not know their God.

They don't know...

...**God's good way** - The breaking of the ten commandments

...**God's jealousy** - Worshipping false gods

...**God as their shepherd** - Israel is stubborn to the care and love of God

These charges highlight the seriousness of sin. But as we read on into chapter 6, we see that the grace of God towards us is greater than the sin in us.

When we know God truly, we see how gracious He is. In chapter 6:1-6, we see the importance of knowing God's...

... **heart towards repentant sinners** - "Come, let us return to the Lord"

...**purpose in all areas of your life** - Broken to be healed

...**pursuit of you** - Pressing on to know the Lord

...**desire for you** - God wants relationship

QUESTIONS

1. In 4:16 we see that God couldn't feed Israel because they were stubborn - they didn't know that God was their good shepherd who wants the best for them. Do you ever struggle to trust in God's good shepherding in your life?
2. God's consequences to Israel highlight just how serious sin is. Do we ever become desensitised to the seriousness of sin? How can we fight against that?
3. Our key passage was 6:1-6. Read this passage again, and discuss where we can see Jesus' fulfillment bringing hope and grace.