

# pursued

GOD'S DIVINE OBSESSION WITH YOU

## bigIdea small group discussion

It's human nature to run from God. People see Him as police officer chasing them down or a judge waiting to convict them of all their crimes. But God doesn't pursue us with judgment, He pursues us with grace.

God offers a beautiful picture of grace in the story of Hosea and Gomer. His wife is lost in a life of prostitution, owing more debts than she can ever hope to pay. God tells Hosea to not only pay the price for his lost wife, but to "go and love her," despite her failures. This is the nature of God's extravagant grace. He loves us when we are least lovable. He pays a high price for us when we are least valuable. It's time to stop running and be caught by grace.



**BIG IDEA:** God pursues us not to make us pay, but to set us free.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of the word "grace". What thoughts come to mind?
2. Growing up, did you grow up in a grace filled home? Describe.
3. Apart from seeing the crime and injustices in the world, what makes you angry? What is it that people do that really upsets you?
4. Do you tend to hold in your anger or do you lash out at others? What do you do with your anger?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Hosea 5:14.* Is God justified in his anger? How might God feel betrayed by his own people?
6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Hosea 3:1-3.* Hosea buys back his own wife. How does this story illustrate God's relationship with us?
7. Do you agree with this statement: "People don't understand the full extent of God's grace until they've reached rock bottom"?
8. In this story, Gomer undeservedly receives mercy and forgiveness. How does the story of Hosea and Gomer serve as a picture of Christ's love? What does the story of Hosea compel you to do?

### GOING DEEPER

1. Share an experience you have had when you were treated graciously by God or another person.
2. Chris says, "God stalks us. He woos us." When was the last time you were just overwhelmed at the thought that God loves you enough to seek you?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Colossians 2:13-14.* Do you struggle with shame and/or forgiveness? Share here.
4. Do you agree or disagree with this statement, "After what Jesus has done for you on the cross, the only shame you carry now is the shame you choose to carry?" Why?

## THINK ABOUT IT

The more we understand our waywardness and our need for forgiveness, the more we appreciate Christ's work on the cross. God gave us a glimpse of that reality through the story of Hosea. And by the end of the story, hopefully, we realize that we aren't objects of his anger, but examples of his grace. How does understanding God's wrath better help you appreciate God's grace?

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, find one way you can be more merciful or forgiving to someone who would normally not deserve it.

## VERSES TO GO DEEPER

Hosea 3, Colossians 1, Colossians 2

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14*

