

Where is God in the Metaphor: Hosea – Part 1

Discussion Questions:

What were your thoughts and ideas about the book of Hosea before this message? What new thoughts or ideas do you have because of this message?

How is the book of Hosea similar to the message of Amos? How is it similar to Jonah?

How is the book of Hosea different than the message of Amos? How is it different than Jonah?

Hosea identifies the sin of no “yada” - knowing about God and having a head knowledge, but not knowing God in the deep, intimate relationship way. What are some practical ways a person can develop their “yada” of God...their knowledge that comes from a relationship?

What are the benefits of pursuing an accurate theology (head-knowledge) of God? What are the dangers, if any, of *only* pursuing an accurate theology (head-knowledge) of God?

What are the benefits of pursuing an accurate yada-knowledge of God? What are the dangers, if any, of *only* pursuing an accurate yada-knowledge of God?

What have you found most helpful and beneficial personally in growing in your “yada” of God?

Hosea called out Israel’s hypocritical worship:

- They had religious practices (holding assemblies, offering sacrifices, etc) while ignoring justice (concrete actions to correct injustice and promote righteousness) and righteousness (equal treatment of all people, regardless of their social status).
- They were worshiping other gods in addition to the true God.
 - In what ways might we be hypocritical in our worship?
 - In what ways might we be ignoring justice and righteousness?
 - What are examples of modern-day idolatry?
 - Who or what, besides God, gets your devotion, attention, adoration, time and money, etc?

Hosea accused the Israelites of trusting in political alliances instead of trusting in God.

- What relationship, people, or establishment might you be accidentally looking to for happiness or fulfillment instead of (or in addition to) God?
- What relationship, people, or establishment might you be accidentally looking to for protection and security instead of (or in addition to) God?
- In an era of safety protocols, seatbelts and airbags, and insurance policies, how do you practically and wisely still trust in and depend on God?

If someone asked you to explain the book of Hosea to them in 1-2 sentences, how would you answer?