



Talking through the weekly message helps you turn information into application. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you make the next move.

### **City Group Icebreaker: Questions to Get You Talking**

C. S. Lewis once wrote, *"If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased"*

- What do you think of this C. S. Lewis quote?

### **Key Scriptures: Hosea 3:1-5**

**The Problem:** The human condition since the fall is one of wandering away from God.

**The Essential Questions:** By narrowing the focus on your work to questions such as these, you'll be able to appropriate a healthy spiritual vision for how your faith and family intersect.

- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
- This week, talk about your own raisin cakes—what are the "gods of this land" that we make sacrifices to?
- What are the idols that we prostitute ourselves to?
- Is it "success"? Is it the unhealthy way we crave affirmation from others? Is it a need to be cool or popular or superior or perfect? This is a very big question. This is exactly the question that God intends to ask us in Hosea.
- Where do you see Jesus in Hosea 3?
- How can we pray for you?

### **Move Up. Connect to Christ**

- The book of Hosea points a finger at us and tells us that we need to repent. How is God asking the Church to repent today? And in your own heart and mind as an individual—what is the Spirit pointing out in your own life? Listen!

### **Move Out. Connect to Culture.**

- God calls Hosea to love someone who is difficult to love. How does the gospel empower you to love those who seem unlovable?

### **Move In. Connect Culture to Christ.**

- What can you use to 1) encourage a believer or, 2) share the gospel with an unbeliever from this passage?

**Why This Matters:** His sovereignty is boundless, His compassion is boundless, His promises are not limited by the actions of others, and He's relentless in bringing His people back to Him.

### **What our Pastor(s) want you to:**

- **KNOW:** God's love can redeem us.
- **EXPERIENCE:** The power of God's love to both chastise us when we have been wrong and simultaneously restore us.
- **DO:** Spend time reflecting on ways you may have been unfaithful to God this week. Confess your sin, and ask God for the strength to overcome it.