



TITLE: "The Truth & Beauty of Boundless Love"

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Hosea 1:1, Romans 15:4, Romans 5:8

BIG IDEA: God's Boundless Love is defined and demonstrated from Genesis to Revelation.

ICE BREAKER: Who in your life has come the closest to showing you "unconditional love"? Who in your life do you come closest to loving unconditionally?

OPENING THOUGHTS: The Book of Hosea is one of the most powerful books in defining the heart of God. This collection of poems by the prophet Hosea is a poignant insight into God's boundless love. Hosea prophesied to the northern kingdom of Israel, especially under the reign of Jeroboam II. God had been good to Israel but Israel in their affluence turned their back on God and began to thank idols for their blessings. This spiritual adultery broke God's heart...but he refused to stop loving his people. BUT he also allowed them to face the consequences of their sin. In today's teaching we answer the question, Is the God of the Old Testament the same as the God of the New Testament? How do we understand the Old Testament that is often filled with violence, judgement and injustice alongside of the New Testament that is filled with love and grace? Then, do we believe and receive God's boundless love for us? What's the balanced view of his boundless love? Does God have boundaries? As we receive his boundless love do we share it freely with others?

MAIN POINTS IN TEACHING:

- Boundless Love is the whole Bible's Theme Hosea 1:1, Romans 15:4
- Boundless Love is demonstrated in Jesus. Romans 5:8 John 5:39-40 - "You study the Scriptures (Old Testament) diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life."
- Boundless Love has Boundaries. Hebrew 12:6
- Boundless Love is God's greatest personal blessing. Ephesians 3:17-19
- Boundless Love is God's highest commission to us. John 13:34

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Where did Hosea's message come from? Hosea 1:1
2. What does Romans 15:4 tell us about the Old Testament?
3. Do you read the Old Testament through the lens of God's boundless love and as pointing to Jesus?
4. Does your view and experience of God's love for you waver with how good or obedient to God you've been recently?
5. Do you believe God's boundless love includes boundaries? Do you have healthy boundaries with those you love?

### FURTHER STUDY (IF APPLICABLE)

Every Christian should read the classic book by Henry Cloud and John Townsend titled "Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No To Take Control of Your Life"

CHALLENGE: The whole Bible is a living book of truth inviting us into the beauty of receiving and giving God's boundless love. Will we believe that and practice it or will "The People-Loving Place" be an empty slogan for us?

CLOSING PRAYER: Lord Jesus, all glory and praise to you who walks through the pages of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation showing us your lavish and unconditional love for us! Lord forgive us when we don't believe your love. Forgive us when turn our backs on your unconditional love. Forgive us when we don't show your boundless love. We want to live daily in the spiritual reality of an experience of your love. We want to love like you did with boundless as we also have healthy boundaries like you did. Use us to spread your love especially to our enemies, through the power of your Spirit so that the world will taste and see that the Lord is good and loving. In the name of our true love, Jesus Christ, Amen!