The Story 15: "God's Messengers" November 1, 2026

Hosea 1-3

Big Idea: God's faithfulness is not diminished by our unfaithfulness.

The Story

Welcome to "The Story: Advent." We've been working our way through a book called "The Story." It's a chronological presentation of the Bible that helps us understand how all these different people and events fit together into one incredible story. We've already worked our way through the first fourteen chapters. Here's chapter 15…

Israel Divided

When we concluded chapter 14 of "The Story: Nation," things weren't going well for God's people. Remember, Israel had enjoyed its greatest years under the leadership of King David and his son Solomon. But Solomon made a terrible mistake. He allowed his heart to be drawn away from God. Following Solomon's death, the nation divided.

Short-Lived Success

After centuries of God's involvement with Isreal, her greatest period of prosperity lasted less than a century. That's it! All those years. All those miracles. All those promises. Their shining moment was relatively brief. It's a common theme through The Story – The problem with humanity isn't a lack of opportunity. It's the condition of the human heart.

The Prophets – God's Messengers

During the divided kingdom, a particular group of people becomes increasingly prominent in the biblical narrative. They're called prophets. Prophets aren't new (we already met Samuel and Nathan). Prophets were God's messengers. In your Bible there are 5 Major Prophets (Isaiah – Daniel) and 12 Minor Prophets (Hosea – Malachi).

Hosea and Gomer

A prophet named Hosea is told by God to marry an unfaithful wife (Gomer). Multiple times during the marriage Gomer was unfaithful and Hosea took her back. God uses this couple to illustrate His relationship with Israel. While he remains faithful, Israel pursues other gods. And what does God do? He continues pursuing them.

Three Questions

1. **What am I pursuing that might be competing with my relationship with God?** It's not something immoral. Maybe it's simply something that's become too important. Something consuming your attention, your energy, and your affection.
2. **Have I become more interested in God's blessings than in God Himself?** Israel loved the benefits of being God's chosen people, but they didn't always love the God who provided those blessings.
3. **Is there an area of my life where I already know what God wants, but I'm resisting Him?** Sometimes our problem isn't that we don't know God's will. It's that we don't particularly want to do it.

Family Night – Read Hosea 3:1-5

- **Elementary School –** Ask, "What would you do if God told you to get married? How do you know that God loves you? What did God tell Hosea to do about Gomer? How do we know that God's love for us will never end?"
- **Middle/ High School –** Ask, "What impresses you most about Hosea and his obedience to God? Why is humanity so prone to walking away from God? How does God demonstrate His faithfulness to us?"

Prayer: "Father, thank You that our unfaithfulness does not diminish Your faithfulness. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)
Velocity: This Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30.
Gravity: Gravity today in both services.

Today's Songs
It Really is Amazing Grace …….Phil Wickham
Hymn of Heaven…….Phil Wickham
Great Things……..Phil Wickham

Family Gift Giving
If you know of a family that needs help this Christmas, let a staff member know and we will give the church an opportunity to fulfill their wish list.

Poinsettia Sale
You can purchase a poinsettia for $20 in memory or honor of a loved one. We will display them on stage during the holidays and you can take yours home on Christmas Eve. Please pay when you order.

Impact Prayer Cards
Choose one person or organization, write their name on a prayer card, and commit to praying for them intentionally, trusting God to make an impact through your prayers.

Read Story 16 for Next Sunday.