

OT Prophets - Hosea & Joel

Main Point: God sends His messengers to proclaim judgment against sin and God's great love for His people that leads Him to make a way for salvation.

Small Group Question 1 - What do we learn about God's love through the book of Hosea?

God's steadfast love is greater than our unfaithfulness. While the people of Israel repeatedly turned away from God and rejected Him, God's love for His people will not allow the story to end without redemption.

Small Group Question 2 - The marriage analogy of God to the nation of Israel is the theme of Hosea. What marriage analogy do we see repeated in the New Testament? What do we learn from it?

Read Ephesians 5:25-33. In the New Testament, Paul says that from the beginning, marriage was meant to be an analogy for Jesus' relationship with His Church. He compares the love of a husband who gives himself for his wife to the love that Christ has shown to us. This teaches us about His faithfulness, His commitment, and His overwhelming love for us.

Teaching Break

Small Group Question 3 - Despite all they have seen the Lord do through the Old Testament, why do you think the nation of Israel still struggles to follow Him?

Israel repeatedly turns to become like the world around them. Even though God has done great things for them, they see the world as an appealing alternative to God. There are times when we do the same thing. Despite all that God has done for us, sometimes we put our hope in the things of the world instead. We follow the world's opinions instead of God's commands. We are forgetful people.

Small Group Question 4 - How does knowledge of future judgment to come affect how we should live today?

For those who don't know Jesus, it should give an urgency to receive Him as Savior. God's judgment will not be held back forever. You must lean on the love of Christ for your salvation or you will face this judgment unprepared. For those who do know Jesus, we do not have to fear the condemnation of God. However, we will still stand before Him and give an account for our lives. This should provoke us to a life that is worthy of the gospel.

Answer to Remember

2 Peter 1:21

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.