

**“Prone to Wander”**  
Growth Group Discussion  
Hosea

*Begin with prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you all through God's word, and to lead your discussion.*

**Opening Question** (try to get everyone involved in discussion):

- Have you ever gotten lost, while hiking, traveling, or otherwise? Share about your experience.

**1. To get oriented to the book of Hosea, read the following passages and discuss the questions that follow.**

- Hosea 1:1-11 and 3:1-5.
  - How would you summarize God's instructions for Hosea here? What do you think of these instructions?
  - What is the significance of the names of Hosea and Gomer's children?
  - What larger picture is God painting in this scenario?
- Hosea 4:1-2.
  - In your own words, what was the nature of Israel's sin as described here?
- Hosea 6:1-10.
  - What aspects of Israel's sin are brought out in these verses?
  - What is God's desire for his people, as described here?
  - V. 6 is a famous verse, quoted by Jesus in the New Testament. What does it mean?
- Hosea 8:4-14.
  - What aspects of Israel's sin are on display here?
  - What will be the consequences of this sin?

**2. This week's focal passage is Hosea 11:1-11. Read those verses, then discuss the following.**

- What stands out to you here about the metaphor God uses for his relationship with Israel?
  - Have you experienced God relating with you in this way? Please describe that experience.
- In light of how God has cared for his people, what is shocking about their response to him?
- Pastor Josh suggested that we commit idolatry as well—not by burning incense to statues, necessarily—but by placing created things in the place in our lives that only God deserves. Are any of you willing to share what that has looked like for you in your life?
  - Why do you think it is so easy to keep running to the “idols” when we know they can't do what we expect them to do?
- What emotions do vv. 8-9 evoke for you? What aspects of God's character do you see in his response here?

**3. Read Hosea 14:1-3, to see the response that God desires from his people.**

- In your own words, what kind of response does God want? What would it look like for us to do this?
- Read v. 4. How does God “heal our waywardness?”
  - Pastor Josh suggested that only when we understand the gospel, and we see Jesus going to great lengths to rescue us from our spiritual adultery, is the power of our waywardness broken. Have you experienced Jesus and the gospel making this kind of change in your heart? Why or why not?
- **Application:** what aspect of Hosea has spoken most to you? Can you identify an action step that God might be moving you to take in response?

**Sharing/Prayer**

- As always, take some time to share areas where you need people to pray for you. Spend time praying for one another.
- Pray also for Jesus and the gospel to become so beautiful to your hearts that the powerful allure of idolatry will weaken.