

Love Stories— Healing a Wounded Marriage

**Most people don't plan to ruin their marriage.
They just don't plan not to.**

When the LORD first began speaking to Israel through Hosea, he said to him, "Go and marry a prostitute, so that some of her children will be conceived in prostitution. This will illustrate how Israel has acted like a prostitute by turning against the LORD and worshiping other gods." Hosea 1:2 NLT

**The most common marriage misconception:
What I'm missing is better than what I have.**

"... She said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.'"
Hosea 2:5 NIV

80/20 Marriage Trap

**You walk away from someone who gives you 80%
chasing the 20% you feel like you're missing.**

**But when the 80% is gone,
you realize the 20% was never worth the trade.**

Lies the Devil Tells Us

- **Love should be easy. If it's hard, it must be wrong.**
- **If you're not happy, you must be with the wrong person.**
- **If your needs aren't met, it's okay to look elsewhere.**

1. Set healthy boundaries.

“Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.” Hosea 2:6 NIV

When your marriage is full of what honors God, there’s not much room for what dishonors Him.

Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.” Hosea 3:3 NIV

2. Keep loving like God loves you.

Then the LORD said to me, “Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. ...” Hosea 3:1 NLT

Then the LORD said to me, “Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the LORD still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them.” Hosea 3:1 NLT

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 NIV

... Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13 NIV

3. Let God restore what’s broken.

“Come, let us return to the LORD. ... now he will heal us ... now he will bandage our wounds. ²In just a short time he will restore us, so that we may live in his presence. ³Oh, that we might know the LORD! Let us press on to know him. ...” Hosea 6:1-3 NLT

“Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.”

Hosea 10:12 NIV

TALK IT OVER

Read **Hosea 3:1** and **Romans 5:8**. How have you seen God’s unconditional love in your own life?

Look at the lies the devil tells us about love and relationships. Talk about any of the lies that resonate with you. What truths can you use to combat these lies?

Share about any areas of your marriage or relationship that feel broken or wounded. How can you and your partner move toward each other in love? Talk about ways your LifeGroup can support you.