

The 12: Hosea Part Two

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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Hosea is the story of how God's true love triumphs over our unfaithfulness

A spirit of prostitution can lead us away from Him.

*What are some examples of this spirit of prostitution or idolatry? How do we seek to gratify our own desires in some more 'socially acceptable' ways?

Relational hungers can only be met by relationship

When we rely on ourselves to meet desires, we get hurt.

Read and discuss Hosea 6:1-6(NIV)

"Come, let us return to the LORD;

*for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.*

² *After two days he will revive us;*

*on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.*

³ *Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;*

his appearing is as sure as the dawn;

he will come to us like the showers,

like the spring rains that water the earth."

⁴ *What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?*

What shall I do with you, O Judah?

Your love is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes away early.

⁵ *Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets,*

I have killed them by the words of my mouth,

and my judgment goes forth as the light.

⁶ *For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,*

the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings

*What do these verses say about God? About us?

*What do they show us about dealing with the spirit of prostitution in us?

*When have you seen your relationship with God thrive on attention?

*How have you seen Hosea (or the other prophets) as holding up a mirror to how we've hurt ourselves?

When we return to Him, He will heal us

Walking with God in relationship is about finding healing for our broken places.

*How do you think returning to him is about more than stopping sin?

*What part does the understanding of our identity and value play in our healing?

Our brokenness (sexual or otherwise) isn't just a behavior

Our brokenness is about a broken longing in our soul.

*What could it mean to 'press on and acknowledge God' in our broken longings?

*How do you go about finding out what the broken longing under the surface is?

*Would you be willing to sit with this question this week – What is the thing I'm actually longing for?

Visual reflection (Visio Divina) [Beneath the Surface](#) by Julie Dillon

Song for reflection [O God of Every Longing](#) by Sara Hart