

Hosea 1-3



The text – Hosea 1-3

1. Read Hosea 2 and 3. Hosea 2 is the first of the poetic chapters in the book. This is typical of most of the chapters that follow. What are some of the characteristics of the language in Hosea 2? Discuss the words, images, repetitions and other features that you notice in Hosea 2.
2. Hosea 2:2-13 is all about judgement. By contrast Hosea 2:14-23 is all about restoration. Why does God forgive? Why does he restore? Why is there such a reversal in the preaching of Hosea 2?
3. What does the word “Baal” mean? Explain Hosea 2:16-17.
4. What is a covenant? The covenant agreements that God makes throughout the Scriptures are really significant in God’s dealings with creation, humanity, Israel, Jesus and the church. Discuss the characteristics of covenants.
5. Hosea 3 tells the story of Hosea buying back his wife. Describe what happens in 3:1-3. Why does the LORD command Hosea to love his wife again?
6. Discuss Hosea 3:4-5. What does God promise about the future of Israel?

The Scriptures – Hosea 1-3 as a portion of the Scriptures

7. The first use of covenant language in the Scriptures is Genesis 9:8-17. Read and discuss this passage, which follows the time of the flood and the new creation events. What do you learn about covenants from this passage?
8. Another key covenant passage in the history of Israel is found in Exodus 6:2-8. Read this passage. What new things do you learn about covenants in this passage?
9. Israel and their prophets knew that a new covenant was going to be enacted. Read the words of Jeremiah 31:31-34. What is promised here is not a brand new covenant, rather the culmination of all the covenant promises in the Scriptures up to this point. What is new about the covenant promises in Jeremiah?
10. Jesus secures the new covenant that has been promised through Jeremiah and other prophets. Read and enjoy the words of Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Hosea 1-3 as a portion of the Scriptures

11. What have you learnt about the life of Hosea through this study? How does this impact you?
12. What have you learnt about God through this study? What is your response to God?
13. How can we pray for you as you seek to serve God in your life, work and home?