

Wednesday

Read: Hosea 1:6-7 *Judah, but not Israel*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *If Hosea is a symbol for Israel, what would it mean for God to just refuse to care for the house of Israel?*
2. *How do you feel about the compassion we show as a community? Would we earn a good report card?*

Prayer Focus We shouldn't expect your forgiveness or mercy, God of All. We forget your laws, all of which are meant for our good, not for evil. Look kindly on us, please, and help us remember to live in kindness as your people.

Thursday

Read: Hosea 1:8-9 *God rejects Israel*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *This seems pretty harsh! What would it mean to be abandoned by God, basically disowned?*
2. *How do you handle rejection in your life? Your work?*

Prayer Focus Assure us again that no matter what path we take, we are still yours, Gracious God. Send your Holy Spirit to show us how reconcile and reconnect with you and with those you bring into our lives.

Friday

Read: Hosea 1:10 *Hope for Israel*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Read Genesis 22:15-18. Compare God's words to Abraham's with his words to Hosea. Does this change how you respond to this passage?*
2. *What part do we play in growing the house of Israel in our community today?*

Prayer Focus Keep us close to you, Giver of all we have. We want relief from the mess we've made. We commit ourselves once more to living with hearts open to truth, to change, to healing in your name, as you will.

Out of a Mess

Pastor's message: Hosea 1:2-10; *We know we are in a mess as a church, community, and country because of choices we have made. Yet, that's where we find our true identity as diamonds and as children of the living God.*

Message Notes:

Small Group Format

Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *What is your least favorite part of summer?*

Opening Prayer

Song (optional)

Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Hosea 1:2-10**. Discuss observations about the text

- *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
- *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

Pray for each other

Refreshments (optional)



OUT OF A MESS July 24, 2022

Monday

Read: Hosea 1:1-3 *God chooses Hosea as a prophet*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think Hosea obeyed a word from God that went against the religious laws of his community?*
2. *Why would God issue such an extreme order?*

Prayer Focus Powerful God, you don't ask us to do anything like what Hosea was told to do. Yet we have trouble doing what you've asked from the start: to name you as our God and ourselves as your people, and to live in that identity. Show us again how to obey your laws.

Tuesday

Read: Hosea 1:4-5 *God names Israel's fate*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *If the people of Israel were God's chosen, why would God want to end their kingdom?*
2. *What is your response to God's promise of punishment? Does this change how you see God?*

Prayer Focus We confess that we want to do whatever we want. Yet we entered into a covenant with you, Creator. We have broken our promise, not held up our end of the covenant. We acknowledge that we want to run away rather than face our failings, or your consequences. Turn us to stand in truth before you.