2



-HOSEA-

THE OUTRAGEOUS, HEARTBREAKING, AND COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED LOVE OF GOD.

THE BIBLE LAB

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. Wooing your significant other takes more effort than people originally think.

2. Most marriages are a disaster in the making.

3. Many couples stay married for the sake of their kids.

4. Once you give your heart to Christ, he responds by taking care of you like a loving spouse.

5. God blesses people who don't love Him.

DIVE DEEPER

∞ What are some of the most incompatible marriages that you've seen, and why were they such a mess?

°READ Hosea 2:14-15 (NIV)
14 "Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. 15 There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

~This section begins with the word, "Therefore." Based on the first half of this chapter, why does this word NOT make sense on a human level?

» What does it say to you about God, that He would "allure" people who have chosen to be unfaithful? How have you seen this in your own life?

~Where have you heard the term "Valley of Achor" before? What is the significance of God changing it into a "door of hope"?

°READ Hosea 2:16-20 (NIV)
16 "In that day," declares the Lord, "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master.' 17 I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked. 18 In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. 19 I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. 20 I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord.

~What is the difference between "husband" and "master," and why is this important to God?

» God says that He would make a new covenant with them. Why would He do that? They've left HIM for somebody else! Then it appears that God is making a list of marriage vows that He is willing to keep, if Israel will just return to him and marry Him again. What do all of the detailed vows in this section tell you about Him?

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NOTES

°READ Hosea 2:21-23 (NIV)
21 “In that day I will respond,” declares the Lord—“I will respond to the skies, and they will respond to the earth; 22 and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. 23 I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called ‘Not my loved one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

~What do you think God is saying in regards to His response to the skies, etc.?

» It was a little challenging last session reading the names of Gomer’s children [Lo Ruhamah: Not Loved, & Lo Ammi: Not My People]. How does this section reveal God’s true nature toward faithless people?

° What does this say about God’s character?

MY PRAYER

1. How much have I allowed myself to believe that God REALLY wants to have an intimate relationship with me--despite my unfaithfulness?

2. Am I treating God more like a spouse or a master?

3. How do I see God’s character better now?



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