

Discipleship

Study provided by UMC Discipleship Ministries, adapted by Kathryn Rauhauser

Gathering Time

- Reflect and respond to the following, “What is the hardest thing you’ve ever had to do?”
- Read: Hosea 1:2-10

Discussion

- What would be your first reaction if God asked you to marry a spouse you knew would be unfaithful? Would you trust God and obey? Or pretend you didn’t hear God? Or maybe assume you didn’t hear God correctly?
- How are the people of Israel like Gomer?
 - Are we also like Gomer and Israel?
- What do the names of Hosea’s children reveal about the people of Israel?
- Why might it be important that the first child is noted as a “son” of Hosea and Gomer, while the next two children Gomer “bore” have no connection to Hosea?
- How would you feel as Hosea as you watched Gomer’s actions? What might this reveal about God?
- Thankfully, God does not call us to such raw acts as Hosea to reveal God’s character and displeasure. What *does* God call us to that might reveal God’s character?
- Consider verses 7 and 10-11. What hope do you find in these verses?
 - How have we seen these promises fulfilled?
 - What does this tell us about the character of God?

Prayer and Sending Forth

- If studying with a group, share prayer requests and praise reports as well as those on the church prayer list. If studying on your own, take time to pray for those on our church prayer list and lift up your own prayer concerns to the Lord.
- Consider praying the following prayer: God of faithfulness, you are faithful even when we are faithless. We give you thanks that you desire our freedom and forgiveness. In light of the compassion that we have received, empower us to seek to extend compassion to all those around us who are in need. Amen.