Welcome back! As you know, this year at group we’re studying three different books of the Bible: Exodus, Hosea, and Mark. We’re doing this because we believe that this is how we become transformed into the People of God. We need to let our minds soak in the stories of our Scriptures. When we do this, we begin to see things around us and inside us in a different light. We begin to see ourselves as a part of the great story that God is writing. That’s when we know our purpose. That’s what gives us a mission in the world. It’s a long, messy process to be transformed like this. But we just can’t settle for shortcuts. Thank you for journeying together with us this year.


As you read the first chapter of Hosea this week, allow yourself to feel the weirdness of this story. Be shocked by it. Question it. Wonder about it. In other words... soak in it.

God speaks to a man named Hosea, a citizen of the Northern Kingdom of Israel 700 years before Jesus was born. What does the voice of the LORD say to this man?

“Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her.”
“Name your daughter Lo-Ruhamah (which means ‘not loved’).”
“Call your son Lo-Ammi (which means ‘not my people’).”

What the hell.

(I think there’s something here for us.)

**Discussion Questions** (for individuals or small groups):

- Discuss the symbolism of Hosea 1. God tells Hosea to do certain things in his life that represent God’s relationship with the whole nation. How do you think these details about Hosea’s marriage and family relate to God and God’s people?
- When this metaphor sinks in to your spirit, you realize what a shocking judgment and condemnation this really is. The book of Hosea points a finger at us and tells us that we need to repent. How is God asking the Church to repent today? And in your own heart and mind as an individual—what is the Spirit pointing out in your own life? Listen!
- The beauty of Hosea is that judgment is always linked with blessing. Read the tenth verse in this chapter. God condemns the people and at the same time declares that they will be saved. If this is true, what is the purpose of judgment in the first place? When God judges you and me and everyone else, what is the purpose and end?
- God asks this people to walk through a period of complete rejection, despair and pain before they will be completely restored. This is a massively important point. When was the last time you truly faced the judgment, rejection, pain and fear in your life? Are you willing to stand in that place so that you can one day be healed and restored? (If you have a committed small group of friends that you feel safe with, this would be a good discussion question.)