



“We Must Protect This House”

Hosea 2 Small Group Plan

D’Esta Love has written:

We live in an impermanent and disposable world ... Everything is biodegradable, recyclable ... throw-away, plastic. Since nothing apparently is permanent, we seek instant satisfaction and reward. We buy instantaneous, pre-packaged ... products.... We agree to thirty or sixty-day trial periods and if not completely satisfied we ... get our money back, no questions asked. It is no wonder couples live together as a sort of trial run to see if compatibility exists before permanent marriage commitments are made, or that marriages are easily terminated, since nothing is forever in a temporary world.

Good News For Marriage (Page 41)

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Imagine God being married? What do you think it would look like?
- Imagine God fighting to preserve His marriage. What would He do?
- Imagine God leading a seminar on marriage? What would He say?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

- Tucked away in an 8th century book of prophecy is a story of God fighting for His marriage. In the Old Testament book of Hosea God is pictured as a bridegroom. His story merges with Hosea’s as they both struggle to preserve their marriages.
- From the twin pain of God and His prophet emerges three steps:

— THE PERSISTENCE —

Hosea 2:14-15

¹⁴ “Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert 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 sing as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

- Why is God taking his bride back to the desert? What does the desert mean for them?
- What is He so persistent? In view of her unfaithfulness, why does God stay with her?
- What are the lessons of persistence for our marriages today?

— THE PARTNERSHIP —

Hosea 2:16-18

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 and the birds of the air 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.

- What does God mean “you will no longer call me ‘my master’”?
- Describe the power of partnership?
- Does partnership have to battle leadership in marriage today? Explain.
- Why is God promising safety (v. 18)?
- What are the lessons of partnership for our marriages today?

— THE PROMISES —

Hosea 2:19-20

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.

- God promises His partner “righteousness” (deliverance).
What kind of deliverance can marriage partners promise today?
- God promises His partner “Justice” (fairness).
How can marriage partners provide fairness today?
- God promises His partner “faithfulness” (physical, emotional, social, psychological).
How can marriage partners provide a broad and deep faithfulness today?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Does our culture protect or attack our marriages today? Explain.
- In God’s three-point plan, what do you think is most needed today? Why?
- What touches you most deeply as you see God fight for His marriage?
- Close by asking God to give us His sense of passion, forgiveness and tenderness.