

DATE	BIBLE	DATE	BIBLE
19-23 Apr	Hosea Overview	24-28 May	Hosea 6:1-8:14
26-30 Apr	Hosea 1:1	31 May – 4 Jun	Hosea 9:1-10:15
3-7 May	Hosea 2:2-23	7-11 Jun	Hosea 11:1-11
10-14 May	Hosea 1-2, Idolatry	14-18 Jun	Hosea 11:12-13:16
17-21 May	Hosea 4:1-5:15	21-25 Jun	Hosea 14:1-9



HOSEA OVERVIEW • 19-23 APR

DIRECTION: Before we launch fully into Hosea we'll do 2 overview weeks. This first week you'll look at 2 videos and a few verses from Hosea 14 to get a vibe for the book and get ready to dig into the OT.

PRAY TO START: That God will help us learn what He wants to teach us from this part of His word to us.

CONTEXT: This series we're looking at Hosea. Tell me everything you know about Hosea - go!

- How do you feel about jumping into the book of Hosea - do you expect to be changed, comforted and challenged by God from Hosea? Why, why not?
- What can make it difficult to understand and apply Old Testament books like Hosea?

READ: Hosea 14:1-4

- What big ideas and themes do you notice from these 4 verses?
- What do we learn about God's people here?
- What do we learn about God here?
- What do you think the 'dew', 'lily' and 'cedar of Lebanon' images mean?

WATCH: *it could be a good idea to watch each of these videos twice, as there's a bunch of info in them.*

- Watch Geoff's "Hosea Intro" Video – what strikes you from this video?
([Click this link](#), or in YouTube search for "Geoff Ackman" and pick "Hosea Intro" from the videos list)
- Watch "The Bible Project Hosea" Video – what strikes you from this video?
([Click this link](#), or in YouTube search for "Hosea Bible Project")

APPLY: What's 1 truth you've been struck by from what we've seen in Hosea already?

- What things can you (and we) do to get the most out of this series in Hosea?

PRAY TO END: Praise God He's merciful and full of love! Pray we'd learn heaps across this Hosea series.



RELENTLESS LOVE

Hosea

HOSEA 1:1 • 26-30 APR

DIRECTION: Hosea is connected to the people, places and events surrounding him. This week will help us get familiar with these people, places and events so we can understand Hosea well enough to see God's relentless love. We'll do it by unpacking the first verse, about the context of Hosea's ministry.

PRAY TO START: That God will show us His long-term faithfulness to His people.

LAUNCH: What's the longest you've ever worked at the same thing? E.g. 20 years in a job, 10 hours on a meal

BIBLE: **Read Hosea 1:1.** What do you notice from this verse?

Perhaps that it's from a real time and place in history, it affects the North & South parts of God's ppl in Israel, God speaks, etc.

WATCH: Watch "Hosea Background" Video. What strikes you from this video?

([Click this link](#), or in YouTube search for "Geoff Ackman" and pick "Hosea Background" from the videos list)

BIBLE: Let's meet some people from the time of Hosea – look up these Kings and answer these 4 questions:

Time Saver: *If you don't have time to read about all these kings, just do Ahaz and Hezekiah.*

Options: *you could split into pairs to look at these then share back with the whole group.*

- Uzziah, King of Judah – **Read 2 Chronicles 26:1-5, 16-21**
- Jotham, King of Judah – **Read 2 Kings 15:32-35**
- Ahaz, King of Judah – **Read 2 Kings 16:1-4**
- Hezekiah, King of Judah – **Read 2 Kings 18:1-8**
- Jeroboam, King of Israel – **Read 2 Kings 14:23-29**

- What do these verses show you about people?
- What do these verses show you about God?
- How would you summarise the state of Ancient Israel at the time of Hosea?
- What sorts of things do you expect God might say to His people through Hosea?

APPLY: God is faithful to His people across the whole bible, even though they're unfaithful to him.

- How have you seen God being faithful to you across your life?
- If God summarised your life (like these Kings' lives are summarised) what do you think He might say?

PRAY TO END: Praise God that He continues to be gracious to His people, all through their long history of rejecting Him, right up to the cross and to us! Pray that we would 'do what is right in the eyes of the Lord'.



RELENTLESS LOVE

Hosea

HOSEA 2:2-23 • 3-7 MAY

DIRECTION: In Hosea 1, and on Sunday at Church, we saw the ugliness of spiritual adultery: that like Israel we have betrayed God our husband in our sin. It was heavy and might have triggered all sorts of guilt and shame for people as they were struck by their past or current sins. It might also have brought up the pain of adulteries and broken promises people have experienced in their own history. So it'd be good to start this week by giving your group a chance to reflect on all of that and share their thoughts and feelings.

Help people by giving them the *opportunity* to share if they want to, though don't *pressure* them to share if they don't want to. Also don't feel like you need to have answers to people's pain. In the safety of your small group it's really loving just simply to let people share and grieve together. Though if people have questions and you or others in the group feel able to answer them, go for it.

After reflecting, move onto chapter 2 and this week's video. Disclaimer: the heavy adult themes and shocking language from Hosea 1 continues in 2, as we see more of the horror of Israel's spiritual adultery. But we'll also see the extraordinary relentless love of the God who charms and pursues His bride.

There's also a Time Saver Tip again this week – perfect for you to use if your group has more like 20-30 mins than 45-1 hour for your bible discussions.

PRAY TO START: That we'd see the relentless love of God

REFLECT ON SUNDAY: On Sunday we heard God describe sin as “spiritual adultery”, that is: as a deep personal betrayal of Him (Hosea 1:2).

- How did you feel about that description? Did it bring up pain from your own history you want to share?
- This week we'll see more of the horror of Israel's spiritual adultery, but also the relentless love of God.

READ: Hosea 2:1-23

- What's your first reaction? What stands out most to you?

Time Saver: don't read the passage before you watch the video.

WATCH: “Hosea week 3” video. ([Click this link](#), or in YouTube search for “Geoff Ackman” and pick the video from the list)

DISCUSS: With (hopefully!) a better understanding of chapter 2 now, what most strikes you?

- Do you feel like God is harsh in how he *describes* his people? Or what he threatens to do to them?
- Why will God show love again to Israel? How does that help you understand God's love to you?

PRAY TO END: Help us Lord to take this rebuke from you seriously and to be shocked at the ugliness of sin. Help us praise you for your incredible tender love and compassion, and that we can say “You are *my* God”.



RELENTLESS LOVE

Hosea

HOSEA 1-2, IDOLATRY • 10-14 MAY

DIRECTION: This week we're back-tracking in Hosea to think about idolatry. God's been accusing his people of spiritual adultery because they were loving and worshipping fake gods, the baals of the Canaanites. We're probably not tempted to love and make offerings to physical statues (although even in Australia you'll see this happening with the statues near the cash register every time you go to a Chinese or Thai restaurant). But we're just as likely to be tempted to turn to idols for satisfaction and happiness, or other saviours than God for the problems in our lives. So it'll be really helpful to see what our idols might be, and most of all to see how in the gospel we've been *"turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath."* (1 Thes 1:9-10)

LAUNCH: When you hear "idol" what do you think of / imagine / picture in your head?

CONTEXT: What has God accused Israel of being guilty of? What has he promised to do for them?

WATCH: "Hosea week 4" video. ([Click this link](#), or in YouTube search for "Geoff Ackman" and pick the video from the list)

BIBLE & DISCUSS: Read Hosea 1:2, 2:5, 2:8, 2:12-13, 2:16-17, 3:1. From these verses...

- How have Israel worshipped idols?
- Why have Israel worshipped idols?
- Why do you think God hates idolatry so much?

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10 and 1 Corinthians 10:12-14

- What has God done for us in the gospel?
- How has God done it? How does that change the way we relate to idols?

Time Saver: only read 1 Cor 10.

APPLY: Here's questions to reveal things that might be idols in your own life.

- What do I worry about most?
- What do I use to comfort myself when things go bad or get difficult?
- What preoccupies me? What do I daydream about?
- What makes me feel the most valuable? Where do I get my self-worth?
- What am I the proudest of? For what do I want to be known?
- What do I lead with in conversations? What do I post most on social media?
- Early on what do I want to make sure people know about me?
- What prayer, unanswered, would make me seriously consider turning away from God?

Time Saver: only ask 1-2 of these questions, and send the rest to your group to think about more later in the week.

PRAY TO END: Apologise for these things to God, and ask for his help to treasure him most of all.