

HOW THE FAMILY WAS BROKEN

Looking Back At Last Week:

Hosea 1-3

Breaking Down Hosea:

Hosea 1-14

- ➔ 19 times the term **prostitution** is used
- ➔ 19 times the phrase **acknowledging God** is used
- ➔ 15 times the phrase **loving kindness** is used
- ➔ 96 times God calls his people **by name**

What The Bride Forgot About Marriage:

Hosea 4:1-19, 6:4-11, Exodus 19:1-6, 1 John 1:6-7, 2:3-6, 9-11, 15-17, 3:4-11, 16-18

- ❶ God defines what the **relationship** looks like, **we don't**
- ❷ Worship is about who **God is**, not what **we get**
- ❸ Faithfulness is an **all-or-nothing** commitment

What The Kids Forgot About Dad:

Hosea 11:1-12, James 1:16-18, Matthew 7:21-23, 2 Peter 3:9

- ❶ Dad provided **everything** that they had
- ❷ Dad won't be **Savior**, without being **in charge**
- ❸ Dad's **unfairness** can't be **taken for granted**

Growth Group Homework

For the week of March 4, 2012

QUICK REVIEW: Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. If you could redefine what a relationship with God looks like, what changes, if any, would you make?

2. This week, we were given a number of reminders about who Dad (a.k.a. God) is. What do you think most people tend to forget about who God is?

Can you think of anything you tend to forget about? If so, explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Our study in the book of Hosea has once again given us an amazing picture of God's enduring love for his people. It has also given us the stark contrast of those who not only miss God's guidance and care, but blatantly reject his call and love for them. At times, it can be confusing why this happens and even seem unfair that God would allow this. How do the following passages in Romans help explain all God does to reveal himself and show his love, and why some continue to reject him?

Romans 1:19-25

since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. [20] For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

[21] For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. [22] Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools [23] and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

[24] Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. [25] They exchanged the truth of God for

a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen. [NIV]

Romans 1:32

Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

Romans 2:4

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? [NIV]

Romans 5:6-8

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. [7] Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. [8] But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [NIV]

Romans 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, [NIV]

Romans 8:9

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Romans 8:31

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? [NIV]

Can you think of any examples of these verses in action?

2. Our pursuits and where we spend our time are usually strong indicators of what's important to us. We can say something is important to us, but if it's not revealed in how we live, chances are it's not really a priority. We saw this illustrated by the Israelites in the book of Hosea as they believed their religious rituals were able to counteract their hypocrisy and desire to serve themselves. How do the following verses help you check your passions and pursuits to see if they really are lining up with where you think you're headed?

Matthew 6:19-24

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

[22] "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. [23] But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

[24] "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. [NIV]

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. [NIV]

1 John 2:4-6

The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. [5] But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: [6] Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. [NIV]

1 Peter 4:8-11

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. [9] Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. [11] If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. [NIV]

Any adjustments you'd like to make?

3. Feeling like God is distant or unaware of what's really going on in our world is something most of us have experienced. Yet, as we saw this weekend, God's personal address to his people by name 96 times reinforces how he is fully aware of our world and passionate about caring for us and doing what's best for us. How does Psalm 139 reinforce God's personal knowledge of our needs and desire for our best?

Psalm 139:1-6

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

O Lord, you have searched me
and you know me.

[2] You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.

[3] You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.

[4] Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O Lord.

[5] You hem me in--behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.

[6] Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain. [NIV]

Psalm 139:7-12

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
[8] If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
[9] If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
[10] even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

[11] If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
[12] even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you. [NIV]

Psalm 139:13-16

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
[14] I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
[15] My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
[16] your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be. [NIV]

Psalm 139:17-24

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
[18] Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand.
When I awake,
I am still with you.
[19] If only you would slay the wicked, O God!
Away from me, you bloodthirsty men!
[20] They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.
[21] Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord,
and abhor those who rise up against you?
[22] I have nothing but hatred for them;
I count them my enemies.
[23] Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

[24] See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting. [NIV]

What's your response to how well God knows you?

TAKING IT HOME

1. Looking back at the last section of this week's teaching "What The Kids Forgot About Dad", which point is most important for you to remember and why?

2. Is there anything else from this week's teaching and study you'd like to ask your group to pray about?

Prayer Requests:

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