

Worship Guide

June 26, 2022



Jesus is better.

Devotion: Hosea

God chose Hosea (prophet) and Gomer (prostitute) as central figures to demonstrate His love to His people.

In Hosea 1, God asks him to marry a prostitute, but it's more than that. He is also supposed to love her - to truly love her. Hosea was a Godly man. In spite of his reputation and feelings, he obeyed. He chose to take Gomer as his wife and to love her. They have 3 kids with awful names. At least one of them is probably not even Hosea's child.

Gomer bounced between her old life and Hosea, but he worked hard to provide a great life for her anyway. She had everything she could need, but continued to go back each night to her old habits - her old sin. While she was sleeping with other men, Hosea was called to love her - to remain committed to her and to always act on her behalf.

Ch 2 - When she returned each day, Hosea had gifts waiting for her. She received his gifts, but gave them to another god. He tried putting out thorns and obstacles making the path to her sinful life more difficult, but she was willing to hurt herself in order to get back. This sin had become part of her identity. She didn't know how to be anyone else. No matter what Hosea did, nothing seemed to work.

Texas Gulf Coast Refuge for Women is a GBC supported a ministry that works with women like this. They have lived "in the life" so long that they don't know any other way. Their identity has been found in their slavery and they struggle to see a way out or even know who they are outside of their abusers. They misuse their gifts and are willing to hurt themselves in order to get back to horrific circumstances that have become "normal" for them. They have a difficult time seeing the truth or understanding true love when it is given. This ministry seeks to love them as Hosea loved Gomer - as God loves us. He loves us "while we were yet sinners." (Romans 5:8)

Ch 3 - Gomer has hit rock bottom. She has left Hosea and her children and finds herself being sold as a slave. When Hosea shows up in town, he finds her on the auction block. He pushes his way through the crowd and looks up at his bride. She's a mess, broken, battered, beaten, disgusting . . . and she chose this over the good life he provided her. She probably can't look him in the eye. She's broken his heart, abandoned their children, and been with countless other men. His anger pushes to the forefront of his mind as he thinks about all she has done - the pain both he and his children have been through. Is there a part of him that feels justice has been served as he draws closer to the auction block? Does he think she's getting what she deserves? Does He push through the crowd demanding a divorce like everyone would expect?

Devotion: Hosea (cont'd)

No!! Instead, he humbles himself. He refuses the anger and pain and chooses to love her. He puts her first and knows how to best serve her. He reached into his pocket, bore the cost, and paid the price to buy her back. She was already his, but he bought his wife back. He chose to love her in spite of his feelings, in spite of what everyone expected. He had every right to a divorce, but His understanding of God's redeeming love, compelled him to a different response. He chose to act on behalf of her eternal good in spite of . . . well, everything. He chose sacrifice and humility. He chose love. He chose to honor the call God had placed on him.

The Hosea/Gomer story is the story God gave His people to describe His love for them. It's also the story retold each day within the walls of the Refuge for Women as they demonstrate God's love to these survivors. If we're honest, the Hosea/Gomer story is also our own story. God loves us. We rebel and sin against Him, but He chooses to love us anyway. His is a redeeming love – a relentless love. Hosea bought his bride, but Jesus bought us too. The price of our sin was death, and He chose to pay that price on the cross. We have been bought.

Jesus deserves to get what He paid for. With the extreme price that He paid, there is no question that You are His.

- **Have you placed your life on His doorstep so He can use you?**
- **Are there old patterns or sinful habits that you tend to crawl back to?**
- **What behaviors do you continue that ultimately hurt you?**

PS - If you'd like to volunteer or know more about the Refuge for Women, you can find out more information here: www.refugeforwomen.org/texasgulfcoast/

Order of Service

How Great Thou Art

Artist: Paul Baloche

Passing the Peace*

Call to Worship

Psalm 95:6-7

God Undefeatable

Artist: Austin Stone Worship

Corporate Confession*

The Valley of Vision

Jesus Paid it All

Artist: Passion Band

It is Finished

Artist: Matt Papa

Sermon

The Book of Joel | Greg Baker

Before the Throne

Artist: Shane & Shane

Communion

Hallelujah for the Cross

Artist: Newsboys

Prayers of the People

Doxology

How Great Thou Art

*Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed*

***Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art***

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin
**Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art***

*When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art*

***Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
How great Thou art, how great Thou art***

*The Lord is great and is highly praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.*

Psalms 145:3 (CSB)

Passing the Peace

“Christian worship is filled with profound actions: heads bowed in prayer, arms raised in praise, standing in reverence during a Scripture reading, coming forward to give an offering. One ancient and significant gesture in worship is the passing of the peace.

Passing the peace is a tradition rooted in Scripture that embodies our identity as peacemakers (Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:20) and trains our hearts, hands, and tongues in the ways of peace.

The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity (Col. 1:20-21).

What’s more, in the midst of divisions we symbolize our unity through handshakes and hugs (Eph. 2:14-21). Likewise, when we regularly pass the peace we practice God’s call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace (Eph. 4:3).”

This Sunday, as we pass the peace we are reminded of what Jesus told his followers in Matthew 5:23-24. If you are offering a gift at the altar and remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift and go to your brother to be reconciled.

As we prepare our hearts for the Lord’s table this Sunday, use this time in our worship to reconcile with any brothers or sisters you may have sinned against.

So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Matthew 5:23-24 (ESV)

God Undefeatable

*Behold the King who conquered
And overcame our sin
Behold our glorious Victor
Whose mercy knows no end*

*He is true, He is right
Death is broken, He is alive*

***God undefeatable, kingdom unshakeable
In majesty and power You reign
Love undeniable, matchless and bountiful
To waken us to life You came
You came***

*And now our way is certain
Our souls in You secure
Through every pain and struggle
Your victory endures*

*For You are true, You are right
Death is broken, You are alive*

***God undefeatable, kingdom unshakeable
In majesty and power You reign
Love undeniable, matchless and bountiful
To waken us to life You came
You came***

*The love of God is greater than we dare to hope or dream
The love of God is greater than we dare to hope or dream
The hold of God is stronger than we dare to hope or dream
The hold of God is stronger than we dare to hope or dream*

***God undefeatable, kingdom unshakeable
In majesty and power You reign
Love undeniable, matchless and bountiful
To waken us to life You came
You came***

***For I am sure that neither death nor life...
nor anything else in all of creation, will be able to separate
us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Corporate Confession

"Our God longs for honesty and holiness within the promise-based relationship God has established with us in Christ. In a culture that avoids talk of sin and culpability, regular prayers of confession foster honesty and openness in our relationship with God. Just as a marriage cannot flourish without honest confession, so our marriage-like relationship with God cannot flourish unless we freely and honestly express all facets of our life: hopes, fears, sins, desires, thanksgiving, and praise. Blessed by God's providence, we don't offer our prayers of confession in a spiritual vacuum with a remote hope that some god or higher power will listen and forgive. We confess sin in the context of the covenant Lord's love shown to us through Jesus Christ."

Faith Alive Christian Resources; Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition . Faith Alive Christian Resources. Kindle Edition.

Corporate Confession

O LORD,
No day of my life has passed that has not
 proved me guilty in your sight.
 Prayers have been uttered from a
 prayerless heart;
Praise has been often praiseless sound;
My best services are filthy rags.
Blessed Jesus, let me find a covering in your appeasing
 wounds.
Though my sins rise to heaven, your merits soar
 above them;
Though unrighteousness weighs me down to hell,
 Your righteousness exalts me to your throne.

All things in me call for my rejection,
All things in you plead my acceptance.
I appeal from the throne of perfect justice
 to your throne of boundless grace.
Grant me to hear your voice assuring me:
 that by your stripes I am healed,
 that you were bruised for my iniquities,
 that you have been made sin for me
 that I might be righteous in thee,
 that my grievous sins, my manifold sins,
 are all forgiven,
 buried in the ocean of your concealing blood.

I am guilty, but pardoned,
lost, but saved,
wandering, but found,
sinning, but cleansed.

Give me perpetual broken-heartedness,
Keep me always clinging to your cross,
Flood me every moment with descending grace,
Open to me the springs of divine knowledge,
 sparkling like crystal,
 flowing clear and unsullied
 through my wilderness of life.

Through Christ I pray. **Amen**

Adapted from *The Valley of Vision*: "The Broken Heart"

Jesus Paid it All

*I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small;
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."*

***Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.***

*Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.*

***Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.***

*And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.*

***Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.***

***O praise the One who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead***

***But he was pierced because of our rebellion,
crushed because of our iniquities;
punishment for our peace was on him,
and we are healed by his wounds.***

Isaiah 53:5

It is Finished

*Once and for all, Once and for all
You offered up your life
For one and all, For one and all
The perfect sacrifice
Atoning blood was shed
Love conquered when You said*

***It is finished, It is done
To the world Salvation comes
Hallelujah, we're alive!
Hell was silent when you cried:
It is finished
It is finished***

*Who is this King, Who is this King
So mighty and so strong
He is the One, He is the One
The earth has waited for
God's remedy for sin with mercy for all men*

*The earth shook and trembled
The sun bowed it's head
The veil of the temple was open for men
As Jesus went down in the cold of the grave
Defeated the darkness when He overcame
The keys of the Kingdom were placed into hands
Of children and priests and of fishers of men
Through all generations His voice will be heard
Creation resounds the victorious words!*

***It is finished
It is done
Now completed, the work of Love
Hallelujah, He's alive!
Join the song of the ransomed Bride
It is finished***

He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.

Colossians 2:14-15

The Heart of the Prophets: Joel

Yesterday, we began a new series in the Minor Prophets. Each week, we will learn about the heart (that which lies at the center) of each Prophets message to Israel and what that means for us.

In order to make it through all of the Minor Prophets this summer, we'll be including a written devotion in this worship guide each week to cover a book that will not be preached on.

It is our prayer that this series and the accompanying devotions will help you better understand God's Word for us and help us to live in a way that honors Him.

To help you prepare for this week's sermon in Joel, please view the video linked below for a helpful overview from our brothers and sisters at The Bible Project. (Download their app while you're at it. This is an incredible resource and gift to the Church)

Visit this URL: bibleproject.com/explore/video/joel

or Scan this QR code with your phone



The overview drawing is included below for your own reference. Feel free to print it and let your kids color it during Sunday worship or while you watch the overview video as a family.

the DAY of the LORD

PALESTINE
 PAST EVENTS WHEN GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE & CONFRONTED EVIL

FUTURE TIME WHEN GOD WILL DEFEAT EVIL & SAVE THE WORLD

ISRAEL'S SIN LED TO DISASTER

1 A VAST DAY OF THE LORD

A RECENT LOUST SWARM IN ISRAEL

REMEMBER THE PLAGUES ON EGYPT (SEE EXODUS 10)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISASTER

CALL TO REPENTANCE

ACTS OF REPENTANCE

TO YOU, O LORD, I CALL! I CALL!

2a A FUTURE DAY OF THE LORD

AN IMMINENT DISASTER FOR JERUSALEM

THE DAY OF THE LORD IS BECAUSE: "GOD CAN ENDURE IT!"

HOW: SEND YOUR HEARTS, SEND YOUR GATEWAYS - GRUING CHANGE

WHY: GOD IS GRACIOUS & COMPASSIONATE, SOAS TO ANGER, TOLL OF LOVE. -GOD'S MERCY IS MORE TOLERANT THAN HIS ANGER

QUESTIONS OF EXODUS 33:6

STAKE YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD!

JOEL

A PROPHET, AROUND 800 BCE
 IN THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH



UNIQUE THINGS ABOUT JOEL:

- 1) NOT CLEAR WHEN IT OAS WRITTEN - BUT THE PERIOD OF ZEPHARIAH
- 2) JOEL IS FAMOUS FOR HIS MANY OTHER SCAPITURAL BOOKS
- 3) JOEL DOESNT ACCUSE ISRAEL OF ANY SIN: HE ASSUMES YOUVE READ THE OTHER PROPHETS

BUT GOD'S MERCY CREATES HOPE

THE PAST BECOMES AN IMAGE OF THE FUTURE

2b GOD'S RESPONSE

IN GOD HAS BEEN WITH PASSION FOR HIS LAND AND HAD FITT ON HIS PEOPLE

DEFEAT OF THE INVADERS

RESTORATION OF THE DEVASTATED LAND

DIVINE PRESENCE AMONG GODS PEOPLE

A NEW EDEN

2c-3 THE FUTURE DAY OF THE LORD

GOD WILL CONFRONT EVIL AMONG ALL NATIONS

RENEWAL OF ALL CREATION

GODS SPIRIT WILL FILL ALL HIS PEOPLE

ISRAEL'S FUTURE

ISRAEL 35
 ZEPHARIAH 3
 EZRA 13
 EZRA 14
 EZRA 15
 EZRA 16
 EZRA 17
 EZRA 18
 EZRA 19
 EZRA 20
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 EZRA 99
 EZRA 100

Before the Throne

*Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great high priest who's name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me*

*My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in Heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart*

*When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin*

*Because a sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me*

***Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Praise the One, risen Son of God***

*Behold Him the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I am
The King of glory and of grace*

*One in Himself, I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ, my Savior and my God
With Christ, my Savior and my God*

***Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to
God through him, since he always lives to intercede for
them.***

Hebrews 7:25

Hallelujah for the Cross

*Up to the hill of Calvary
My Savior went courageously
And there He bled and died for me,
Hallelujah for the Cross!*

*And on that day the world was changed
A final perfect Lamb was slain.
Let Earth and Heaven now proclaim,
Hallelujah for the Cross!*

***Hallelujah for the war He fought,
Love has won; death has lost.
Hallelujah for the souls He bought,
Hallelujah for the Cross!***

*What good I've done could never save,
My debt too great for deeds to pay.
But God, my Savior, made a way,
Hallelujah for the Cross!*

*A slave to sin my life was bound,
But all my chains fell to the ground
When Jesus' blood came flowing down.
Hallelujah for the Cross!*

***Hallelujah for the war He fought,
Love has won; death has lost.
Hallelujah for the souls He bought,
Hallelujah for the Cross!***

*And when I've breathed my final breath
I'll have no need to fear that rest.
This hope will guide me into death.
Hallelujah for the Cross!*

***For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are
perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being
saved.***

1 Corinthians 1:18

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, & Holy Ghost
Amen*

Announcements

Pancake Breakfast



JUNE 26
10:00AM

**Donations help our students
go to camp**

NEW

Men's & Women's
Bible Studies

More info coming soon....

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