

# A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

## A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of Hosea

1. The most striking part of the book of Hosea is the relationship between the prophet and his wife. What lessons is God attempting to communicate through Hosea, Gomer and their "off again, on again" relationship?

What life-lessons from their relationship ought we be careful to apply wholesale?

2. What constitutes spiritual adultery or unfaithfulness to the Lord? Read Hosea 4,5 or 6,7 and list the sins Hosea describes.

Next, try to define "spiritual unfaithfulness" for contemporary Christians. We do not worship idols made of wood or stone, in the traditional sense of the word. How, then, does a person exhibit unfaithfulness in his or her relationship with the Lord?

3. How does God feel about us when we are unfaithful to him? In Hosea 11, find ONE verse that expresses God's *feelings* when we are unfaithful, and ONE verse that tells us God's *attitude* toward us even when we are unfaithful.

Why did you choose the verses above? Of what use can they be in your life?

4. The comment has been made that Hosea's prophecy "most closely resembles the New Testament revelation of love". Now that you've read Hosea... and having read much of the Old Testament in this class and with your familiarity of the New Testament, evaluate the above comment:

5. Give at least ONE distinguishing characteristic for each of the Minor Prophets below:

- Joel:
- Jonah:
- Nahum:
- Amos:
- Hosea:

6. Write your memory passage below: