

*Home Group Notes 3*  
Hosea 3:1-5 Love is... try again

**Introduction**

Although Greek has different words meaning love, it seems Hebrew has one word which means different things, like in English. Verse 1 shows the irony of this.

1. How easily do you give up?
2. **Read 3v.1** How hard will it be to love his wife again considering her continuing unfaithfulness? How is this love like Jesus' love for humankind?
3. [ ] husband loves wife [ ] adulteress loved by client [ ] God loves his people [ ] they love the raisin cakes. How are these meanings of love similar / different?
4. For those of Hosea's time, there was a pagan idea of offering sex as an act of worship to certain gods, and eating special food as a kind of act of worship. Are food and/or sex worshipped at all like this today? How is indulgence of certain appetites confused with sacred worship today?
5. Loving the unfaithful again and again is often very costly. In what ways might it be costly for you to love like this?
6. For Hosea this included a financial cost. **Read v.2.** We don't know why he had to pay. But we can imagine several scenarios including paying off debts or paying off a pimp. How easy do you find standing by others when it involves public shame? Have you any examples of such faithfulness?
7. How attractive would Hosea's offer have been to Gomer? i.e. pay for her freedom then demand abstinence from sexual intercourse, not only with other men/clients but also with him.
8. **Read v.4** Why did the Lord ask this of Hosea to ask this of Gomer? When was this fulfilled in the history of God's Old Testament people?

9. Would the generation of God's people who for 50 years 'had never had it so good' be ready to hear this message from Hosea from God?
10. Why would God take them away from the complacency and spiritual decadence of Jerusalem? Would they have sought to put right the relationship with God without leaving the city? How easy is it to stop being unfaithful in a comfortable place?
11. **Read v.5** What is the future hope for God's people? What would it mean to seek David their king, given that David had died a few generations before? How does this point to Jesus and to unity?
12. What is the faithful approach which God is looking for in order to re-establish his marriage? And when would it come to pass?

***Prayer Points***

*Thank God he loves us his people with a love like that*

*Pray for us to love God and others with a love like that*

*Pray that we will not become complacent and/or decadent and so lose a right relationship with Christ*

*Pray for us and others to respond faithfully and humbly to God's offer of covenant love, freedom in Christ, and a place in the kingdom of David's son*