

# GOD'S UNSTOPPABLE LOVE

# Relentless Love

HOSEA 2:2-23

FROM THE BOOK OF HOSEA

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:38-39 – “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God.”

**Icebreaker:** Pastor Jeremy shared a few of the results of his Google search on the most powerful things on earth. What comes to mind when you think of something powerful?

1. God never gives up on those He loves. God has a jealous passion for His people that cannot be quenched. Jealousy is not normally thought of as a positive attribute, yet God calls Himself jealous (Exodus 34:14). How is God's jealousy different from the human concept of jealousy? How does God's jealousy relate to His love—His pursuit of His people?

2. Even though Gomer is an outcast and virtually destitute, Hosea looks at her and sees the wife who he loves and is willing to pay to redeem her. In the same way, God looks at His people and instead of seeing only their sin and failure, He sees a people who He loves. In Hosea 3, what had the people done to alienate themselves from God? What was the price of redemption that God paid?

*Digging Deeper:* Read Deuteronomy 7. How does God's instruction in Deuteronomy 7 relate to Israel's situation in Hosea's time? What do we learn about God's love from Deuteronomy 7:6-8, and how does it apply today?

3. God doesn't save us and then leave us on our own. In the same way, Hosea redeems Gomer and then brings her home for a period of healing. How did Hosea's treatment of Gomer compare to God's plan for Israel? God doesn't want us to get too comfortable with the world, He wants us to long for Him. How does a person develop a longing for God? How does longing for God shape our approach to life?

4. God's unstoppable love drives Him to refine His people. He is constantly leading His people to the cross and working in them. God makes it clear in Hosea 3:5 that His work is not done with judgement. What future time is God describing in Hosea 3:5? What assurance do we have that God will fulfill His promise?

*Digging Deeper:* For more prophecies of the time when God will gather His people in the latter days, read Isaiah 55:1-5, Jeremiah 30:8-11, and Ezekiel 37:15-28. How do these verses help you understand this time?

## Live It:

1. What distracts you from focusing more fully on God?
2. Where are you resisting God's work to refine you to become more like Christ?
3. How is God working your life right now? Do you need to turn back to Him? Where do you need to press in to the Lord?

## Pray It:

Pray for continued wisdom and encouragement for our elders and leaders as they move forward with planning to find a new lead pastor. Pray also for the man who God might call to step up and for the continued growth of the church. Pray for the Great Commission Collective, for God's work around the world through these churches.