

Questions for Further Reflection – Hosea:

1. How does the marriage metaphor help us to understand our relationship with God? Our Christian relationship with Christ? Have you ever thought about the relationship from God's perspective? Thinking about our relationship from God's perspective, what new insights and understandings do you have from the relationship?
2. What do you make of a God who suffers? Have you ever considered before how our actions might hurt God? What does it mean that we can hurt God? Thinking about the relationship we have with God, what actions have you personally taken, in particular, which may have hurt God? How might God have been hurt by your actions?
3. How do we, as Christians, want to be like everyone else? How do you, or have you, seen Christians be uncomfortable with being seen as "weird" for God? In what ways do we stray and compromise our relationship with God? (Hint: They are not much different than it was in Hosea's time, so reading Hosea might give you some answers.)
4. Are you more tempted to withdraw from the world or acquiesce to the world? Why? How might you engage with the world to be a light to the world, without compromising your Christian identity?
5. When human relationships are broken, how are they restored? How does Hosea say the relationship between us and God is restored? What does this mean for God? For us? For the relationship we have with God?