

# **Minor Prophets** *With* **Major Messages**

*Volume 1*

A Family Devotional  
(Teen/Adult)



A Kingdom Arrows Study

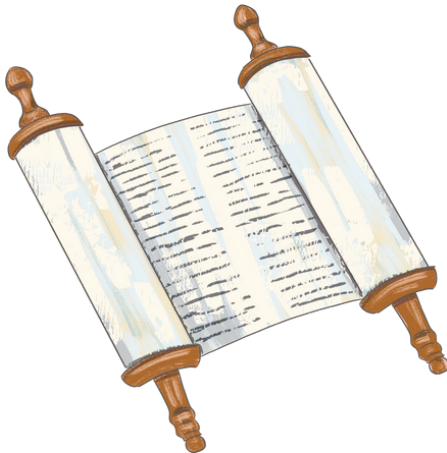
# Welcome!



Have you ever looked in your Bible and saw a group of names that are hard to pronounce and never bothered to read them? You are not alone.

Many of us are familiar with Jonah's story, but for the others we may just know a verse or two. By studying the prophets, we gain greater context for the Bible as a whole, find a renewed impact of the power of the gospel, and are challenged to live a life in obedience to God.

Gather up those Bibles, grab the closest notebook, set those phones aside, and settle in as a family to learn about the minor prophets.





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# Hosea

*Your rebellion is not greater  
than God's love and mercy*

## Context Point:

The book of Hosea takes place in the part of Israel called Ephraim. Written about two hundred years after Ephraim broke off of southern Judea, (which takes place in 1 Kings), it is a collection of preaching, writing, and poetry that Hosea wrote over the course of twenty-five years.

Hosea is called to speak to a horrible King, King Jeroboam II. At this point in history, the Assyrian Empire has taken over Israel (see 2 Kings 14-17), and Israel has rebelled against God. In this prophet's message we will see the overarching theme of God's love and mercy despite Israel's disobedience.



The first three chapters of the book look at Hosea's marriage to Gomer who ends up committing adultery. We are not given insight to whether she was unfaithful before the marriage as well as after. God instructs Hosea to pay off Gomer's debt and forgive her in order to bring restoration. All of this represents a prophetic message representing God's relationship to Israel.

In chapters 4-11, we see the cause and effect of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. God desires to be in relationship with His people and there is no knowledge of Him in the land. There is Baal worship and we see the ten commandments broken.

Chapters 12-14, give reminders from history about previous rebellion and previous consequences. The final chapter calls Israel to repentance, even though God knows that they will rebel again. He promises to restore them to Him (salvation prophecy). Ultimately, this book reveals God's love and character.

# Session 1

## *Hosea 1-3*



### **Read Chapters 1-3**

I know that this seems like a lot of reading, but these chapters are not terribly long and can likely be read in five to six minutes. These chapters really set the comparison of Hosea's marriage to God's redemptive plan for Israel.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Why do you think God instructed Hosea's life to parallel what God was going to do for Israel?
2. What stands out to you in the poem? What emotion or emotions are conveyed?
3. How do you think Gomer reacted after Hosea redeemed her? How might she have responded to a physical representation of God's love? Compare and contrast two reactions she might have had?

### **Prayer**

Thank God for redeeming you as he redeems Israel. Confess/repent of times that you have rebelled against Him. Ask Him to give you strength to show His redemptive love to those who have hurt you.

### **Verse Spotlight**

"Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' it shall be said to them, 'Children of the living God.'"  
~ Hosea 1:10