

Sermon Outline

Key verse

I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the Lord their God, will save them.

Hosea 1:7

God chooses us even when we are undeserving

1. God loves the unworthy

The Lord said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord."

Hosea 1:2

2. God disciplines those he loves

Then the Lord said to Hosea, "Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel."

Hosea 1:4

3. God restores the broken

Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," they will be called "children of the living God."

Hosea 1:10

LOVE THAT CHOOSES

OCTOBER 19
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Opening Thought

In the book of Hosea, God calls the prophet to marry Gomer, a woman who would be unfaithful. Their marriage becomes a picture of God's covenant love for Israel. Through the names of their children, God confronts Israel's sin, but he also promises restoration. This passage teaches us that God's love chooses us not because of our worthiness but because of his faithfulness.

Ice breakers

- Can you remember a time when you felt chosen for something—maybe a team, a role, or a responsibility? How did that feel?
- Have you ever seen a couple that made you think, "How did they end up together?" What does that tell us about how surprising love can be?

Dig Deeper

- Why do you think God asked Hosea to marry someone he knew would be unfaithful? What does that show us about God's love?
- How does Deuteronomy 7:7–8 help us understand why God chose Israel—and why he chooses us?
- The names of Gomer's children carried messages of judgment and distance. What do you think Israel felt hearing those names? What parallels do you see in how sin affects our relationship with God today?
- God's love sometimes confronts us through discipline (Hebrews 12:6). Have you ever experienced God's discipline in your life?
- In what ways do people today try to earn God's love? How does Hosea 1 remind us that his love is a gift, not something we can achieve?
- Hosea ends this chapter with hope: those once called "not my people" will be called "children of the living God." What does this mean for your identity in Christ?

Closing

No matter what your past has named you, God gives you a new name in Christ: *beloved child.* His love chooses you, guides you, and restores you.