

## HOSEA WEEK THREE STUDY QUESTIONS

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### What's in a Name?

1. Google your name or look it up in a baby names book/website. Share the meaning(s) of your name with your small group? Any surprises?
2. Read Hosea 1:4-11. The names of Hosea's children could signify either a blessing (life-giving) or a curse (life-diminishing) for God's people. The meanings of their names depended in part on Israel's response to the enacted parable (see Hos 2:1 and 2:23). Do God's promises to us always depend upon our response to him?
3. In the video, Paul explains Hosea's historical context (8th century BC) with regards to the Baals and the fertility cult. The word 'fertile' has specific meanings for us, usually associated with family planning or agriculture. In what areas of your life would you like to be more fruitful or productive?
4. In what ways do you seek to increase your prosperity or productiveness without including God in the conversation?
5. Hosea 11 is a beautiful poem about the heartbreak and relentless love of God for his people. Verse 9 says that God does not respond in anger because he is not mortal. Think on this for a minute. Is this surprising to you? Why or why not?
6. We sometimes think that God in the Old Testament is more fierce or angry than Jesus seems in the New Testament. How does Hosea 11 shape your understanding of God's character? In what ways is this chapter similar to the parable of the Prodigal Son in the Gospels?
7. In one sense, the entire biblical story is about God responding to human need. What needs and desires for greater fruitfulness would you like to bring before God this week?