

GLOBAL HEART

31ST MAY 2015
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GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE
HOSEA 3

1. What is Hosea called to do?

What is the metaphor for Israel and for us?

Have you ever chosen "to take someone back" who has treated you badly - a family member, a wayward child, a needy friend.

What were some of the emotions involved in this for you?

2. The cost for Hosea to buy Gomer back was 15 shekels and some barley. Not a great deal.

What else may it have cost him?

Jesus was betrayed by Judas for 30 silver coins. This was the price of a slave. Exodus 21:32, Lev 27:4
Contemplate the cost to Jesus and God the Father redeeming us personally through Jesus' death on the cross. Share any thoughts.

How does it help you understand the lengths God would go, to redeem you and show you his love.

God's love for you is so great. How much of this do you understand. What stops you from sometimes understanding this and receiving His love more fully.

3. Allan took us on a journey with the disciples of follow, confession, fear, failure, faith in Jesus.

Where are you on your journey as to who Jesus is?

Romans 10:10 says that we are to believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord.

What opportunities have you had to confess your faith to others over the past few weeks.

Share any outcomes positive and negative.

What sometimes holds you back from confessing your faith (what you believe in your heart).

4. Israel loved other gods and the sacred raisin cakes.

Are there any sacred raisin cakes in your life that you pursue before God?

How can we seek to put God first before anything else?

We are called to be faithful to God because He is always loving and faithful to us.

How does knowing this help you today and in your ongoing life circumstances?

5. Verse 5 speaks of Israel returning to God and receiving His blessings.

Have you ever experienced blessings when you have returned to God after a period of waywardness, distraction, laziness or loss of faith? What were the blessings?

When and how have you seen the fruit and blessing following forgiveness and restoration in relationships?

6. Allan began with the BIG IDEA that we are called to move toward and invest in one another (as God has done with us)

Where and with whom may you need to do this?

What could be the outcome if we do this (e.g. healing, hope, salvation?)

7. Read and reflect on 1 Peter 1:18-20 and John 1: 1-18 in the group or at home as more of the same picture of God's redeeming love for you personally.

8. Allan's statement "Redeeming love –means moving toward and investing in other people" What do we need to do to demonstrate redeeming love to others ? List ways we can do this .

9. When we see people like Gomer trapped in their sins what should our response be to them and how does this impact my own life ? Discuss and tell "anonymous stories" of people you have helped.

10. Allan said " God says I know what you need but people want raisin cakes ." What did he want us to understand from this, explain?

11. Read Romans 5 :8 . Allan said " when that [verse] becomes real you do not want raisin cakes you want him ". We have been saved by faith through someone witnessing to us so what is our obligation to share the gospel with others?

12. What did Jesus generally say to the apostles when he first met them? Discuss why he did this ? How relevant is this to us witnessing today?

13. Read 1 Peter 1 :18-20 . Discuss briefly . Allan said " Christ has bought us that we might be free . Stop chasing the raisin cake". Does this mean I need to change my ways and if so why should I change my ways ?

