

Week beginning 17th February 2019

Twelve dead men speak

Hosea

Welcome



Are you named after someone? If so, who? Do you have any nicknames?

15 mins 17/2

Worship



We are continuing with the theme of love. As we did in the morning services on 10th February, have someone read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. Give time for people to read it through on their own, putting their own name in place of love. Lastly read it again, replacing love with God and praise God for his love for us
Sing some songs.

20 mins 17/2

Word



Hosea proclaimed God's message to the Jewish people in the northern kingdom of Israel, also called Ephraim, in the 8th century B.C., a time of prosperity and success as well as spiritual corruption and idolatry. The people of Israel worshipped the Lord Yahweh, but mixed in the worship and practices of the Canaanite fertility cults of Baal. The word 'Baal' means 'master' (v16).

Read Hosea 2:16-3:5

How does God feel about Israel?

What does the passage reveal about how sin affects God?

What is God's vision for his people's future?

What changes did the Lord want to see his people make in response to his love?

Look back at ch1 vv4, 6,8. Gomer gives birth to children whose names were prophecies of judgement. What has now changed?

How does God's forgiveness give us hope?

What does God ask Hosea to do in chapter 3?

How do Hosea's actions mirror God's promises?

Hosea has been called 'the Gospel in the Old Testament'. Is this a good description and if so, why?

Think about, and share if you want to, a time when God called you back when you had wandered away.

10 mins 17/2

Witness



Pray for anyone on your heart who appears far away from God, that they would know he has not abandoned them.

This is the last life group before Lent, which starts on 6th March. Details of arrangements for Lent will follow. Life Groups will begin again after Easter in the week beginning 28th April.

10 mins 17/2