

Introduction:

Our God is a God of comebacks: second chances, redemption, and restoration are his specialties. God created each of us for relationship with him and even though we often find ways to lose sight of that, God never does. In fact, when it comes time for you to need a comeback in your spiritual life, not only will God make that comeback possible, *he* will actually be the one pursuing *you*. This week, we get to see this aspect of God's character lived out in the story of Hosea & Gomer.

Scripture:

Hosea 3:1 - "Then the Lord said to me, "Go and love your wife again, even though she commits adultery with another lover. This will illustrate that the Lord still loves Israel, even though the people have turned to other gods and love to worship them."

Philippians 1:6 - "And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns."

For More, Read & Discuss Hosea 3.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Following Jesus is not easy. Whether you are Gomer struggling with her own sin, or Hosea struggling with a calling you didn't anticipate, we all wrestle with aspects of our lives. What is it about following Jesus that seems difficult to you right now?
- 2. Gomer's past lures her back, away from what's best for her and the new life she has started with Hosea. We all have a past. As followers of Jesus, how do we avoid falling back into our old ways and instead, stay focused on the new work that God is doing in our lives?
- 3. At some point, many of us hear a voice tell us the lie that we are "too far gone." The story of Gomer shows us the truth: there is no length to which God is not willing to go, no situation that we can find ourselves in that is too complicated for him to rescue us. Where else, in your own life or in Scripture, have you seen the willingness of God to meet his people wherever they find themselves?
- 4. Just as Hosea doesn't give up on Gomer, Jesus does not give up on us. The character of God is to finish what he starts.
 - How has God shaped you in the past to make you who you are right now?
 - How do you think he may continue that work in the future?

Take the Next Step:

God is a pursuer. As we take steps toward God, we become more like him. How can you be a pursuer this week?