

# Connecting Church and Home

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Quarter 2, Week 8 :: **A Faithful Husband and a Faithful God**

**Treasure Story:** Hosea 1:1-3:5

Marriage in and of itself is not easy. It takes a man and a woman who are willing to allow the Lord to disciple them and make them good partners. Can you imagine, therefore, what it would be like to have to marry an unrepentant, unfaithful spouse? In our Treasure Story from Hosea 1:1-3:5, that is exactly what God wanted. God commanded the prophet Hosea to go and marry an adulterous woman so that through that union He could teach a lesson to the people of Israel and Judah. God portrayed Himself through the faithfulness, mercy, and love of Hosea, and He portrayed the people through the unfaithfulness, lewdness, and sin of Hosea's wife Gomer. God is holy, and He will go to great lengths to demonstrate His faithfulness and love.

## Connect

"...This is the covenant between God and returning sinners, that, if they will be for him to serve him, he will be for them to save them. Let them renounce and abjure all rivals with God for the throne in the heart, and devote themselves entirely to him and him only, and he will be to them a God all-sufficient."

– Matthew Henry, *Commentary on Hosea 3*

Despite God's faithful love, we, like Gomer, chase after other lovers. Apart from God's grace, we are a people who will seek love and affection in the most vile and banal ways. When the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see God's love and its all-satisfying sufficiency, then we are enabled to leave the idols of our affections and remain faithful to Him. Here are a few suggestions for teaching your children how to confront the idols of their hearts so that they find their rest in the Lord:

- **Finding Home Base:** Play a simple game of tag with your kids and add the bonus of having a home base where they are immune from getting tagged. After the game, talk with them about the importance of having a home base. God wants us to trust Him to be our home base. He wants us to go to Him as a place of refuge instead of all the lesser things we look to for comfort. We can honor God by trusting in Him instead of other things or ourselves.
- **Idol Factories:** Talk with your children about idols. Explain to them that an idol can be anything we love and cherish more than God. Help them to understand that our hearts are sinful and prone to create idols rather than trust God. Encourage them to identify idols they are trusting in now and to replace those idols with love and devotion to the Lord. He is far better than any idol our hearts can make.

## My Mission As Parent

- Where do you retreat to when life gets tough? Do you instinctively go to the Lord or seek to work it out on your own?
- What kind of idols are you harboring in your heart that cause you to be unfaithful to the Lord?
- Do you see your unfaithfulness in the light of Gomer's unfaithfulness?

## Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord to help you see the ugliness of your unfaithfulness to Him but the beauty of His faithfulness to you in Christ.
- Pray that the Lord will help you run to Him instead of away from Him in times of testing.
- Praise the Lord for welcoming and healing sinners who are unfaithful to Him.