Connection Group Questions

 Taken from the sermon on March 21, 2015

 Hosea 1:2-3; 14:9

 Ice Breaker:

 Questions for GROUP DISCUSSION- B. Choate

How is "modern" christian independence from God different from Israel's independence from God? (Is there a difference?)

 At times it can be hard to be obedient to God's instruction. Do you think Hosea struggled with God's instruction regarding his wife (harlot) and the naming of his kids?

 Kenny talked about self-inspection & believers may have a "pet sin". Why can it be a struggle to turn that sin over to God? Challenge for the week: Ask God to show you a "pet" or unconfessed sin so you may walk in deeper fellowship with HIm.

 Questions for PERSONAL GROWTH

 Monday- Hosea’s “Say…what!?” Please begin by reading Hosea 1 in several different translations (www.biblegateway.org). What directive did the Lord give Hosea, and when (v2)? What might have Hosea felt when given this command? If God asked you to do something difficult – and which made no sense to you – would you be able to comply, as Hosea did? If not, what would keep you from doing so? Prayerfully ask God to give you the faith and strength to obey Him no matter what the circumstances.

 Tuesday- A tragic love story… Today, please review Hosea 1, 2:1-13. How is Hosea’s story reflective of God’s love story and covenant with Israel? Please name the parallels that you can identify between Gomer and Israel in terms of their actions and effect on God’s heart. Have you drawn close enough to God that the thought of grieving His heart, grieves yours? Prayerfully seek God’s will and commit to three actions/changes this month that you know will be pleasing to the Lord.

 Wednesday- Parallels between God’s world, then and now… Now, please read Hosea 2:1-13, again, along with 4:1-3 and James 5:1-5. Make a list of the sins listed in these passages. How are they representative of the sins of the worldly culture today? What role does idolatry play in inviting God’s wrath? We live in a world where many are eager to identify problems but few offer solutions. What speaks to you the most from these passages and what can you do to help create a positive change?

 Thursday- When love is hard… Please go back to Hosea 2 and read it in its entirety. What is God’s primary message to His people and how is the gospel revealed in this passage? Please review the previous week’s passages, also reading Hosea 3. What, about Hosea, would be pleasing to God? What was the personal cost of obedience for Hosea? How does his behavior reflect God’s longsuffering love for us? What does this teach you about your commitment to live according to God’s will, even when it brings emotional or financial distress? Praise the Lord who remains faithful to you despite your weaknesses!

 Friday- Know, trust, and obey… Do you know and trust God enough to be obedient, even when it hurts? Please read Exodus 33:12-13; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Daniel 11:32; and 1 John 2:4. What is the importance of knowing God? What is the difference between knowing about God and truly knowing Him? How is the difference reflected in our everyday living?