

Week 1 of October
Love That Doesn't Give Up

- **Text:** Hosea 2:19~20 (October 3)
- **Bottom line:** God loves us in spite of our sins and transgressions.

≡ **1. Praise**

(Hymn 304)

≡ **2. Prayer**

God, our family has gathered for worship. Let us let go of our busy minds and focus on You, so that we can humbly learn Your will.

≡ **3. The Word**

Read Hosea 2:19~20 together (read the verse 3 times).

* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

19 And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. 20 I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the Lord.

<NASB>

19 I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In favor and in compassion,
20 And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD.

Understanding Text

God considers Israel to be His bride. But like a wife who left her husband and went to another man, Israel abandoned God and worshipped another god. However, God did not give up on Israel and loved them to the end. Like a bridegroom getting married, he took them as his bride and promised to be with them forever.

Understanding the text for leaders

Hosea was a prophet who was active (753~723 B.C.) until just before the destruction of northern Israel (722 B.C.). God told Hosea to marry Gomer, who was known for his lewdness (1:2). Hosea married Gomer according to God's word and had children. God named His children Jezreel, Loruhamah, and Loammi. Jezreel means "God sows" and foretells judgment, Loruhamah means "one who is not shown mercy," and Loammi means "not my people." They all signify a relationship with God that is estranged from Him. Gomer married Hosea and had children, but she left home again and continued her lustful life. And yet God told Hosea to pay the price and bring Gomer back. Hosea obeyed God and brought Gomer to marry her. Through the marriage of Hosea and adulterous Gomer, God showed His relationship with the Israelites. Idolatry is fornication in the spiritual sense. God called Israel lewd because they betrayed God and the Davidic dynasty, set up kings of their own accord, and worshipped idols such as the golden calf and Baal. In spite of this, God is generous to His people and says that He will marry them as His new bride. This does not mean that the people of Israel are chaste brides worthy of marriage. God is saying that He will receive them with total love. With His boundless love and grace, God accepted sinful Israel and wanted to restore them.

4. Sharing

1) Why did God say He would marry Israel? (verses 19~20)

Upper Grades

What does God say He will do to be with Israel forever? (verse 19).

Lower Grades

Why does God want to marry Israel? (verse 19).

Question Guide

God tells His people who have left Him and are idolatrous that He still loves them. Tell them that you will be their bridegroom, even though you are not qualified to be their new bride. Because He loved His people, He wanted to be with them forever.

Comments for Leaders

Hosea took Gomer, a lewd woman, as his wife. Gomer had children with Hosea, but she left home and led a lewd life. God told Hosea to bring Gomer back and continue their marriage. Hosea paid for Gomer and brought her home. Like Gomer, God tells Israel, who have left God and constantly worshipped idols, that He will make them His riches and marry them. Even though they couldn't be brides who could keep their promise to the bridegroom, God said He would make them His brides. This is a great grace that comes from God's complete love, mercy, and lovingkindness. In spite of our transgressions and sins, God is generous to us. I hope we can realize how great the love of God is when He says that He will marry us so that He can be with us forever. Also, I hope you will remember and give thanks that Jesus is the crystallization of God's love.

2) I am a bride loved by God. What kind of attitude and appearance does God, the bridegroom, expect from me as a bride?

■ **Lower grades**

What does God, the Bridegroom, expect of me as the Bride?

■ **Infant, Infant**

What does God, the Bridegroom, expect of me as the Bride?

□ **Question Guide**

We who believe in God are God's bride. Share what kind of bride you want to be, and if you are God the Bridegroom, what kind of bride you would be pleased with.

□ **Comments for Leaders**

Israel became God's bride through the covenant, and God became their husband. God said He would take Israel as His bride despite their transgressions, mistakes, and evil deeds. God is infinitely generous and loving, but He is more pleased when He knows His heart and does His will. Share what the bride and groom's mindset should be in a marriage. In particular, from the bride's point of view, share what kind of heart and attitude we should have toward God the Bridegroom. After the family has taken on the role of bride and groom, you can tell each other what you expect from each other.

≡ **5. Be grateful**

Thank God for His endless forgiveness and love despite my shortcomings.

≡ **6. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for your unwavering love for us and for being with us. Please forgive us for our mistakes in not being faithful to You, and let us live as faithful and holy brides who love and serve only You.

- End the family worship service with the "Lord's Prayer"
