PEOPLE OF THE 2ND CHANCE



SHEPHERDCHURCH

LESSON 3:
THE PROSTITUTE (GOMER)

WELCOME

Answer one of the following two questions:
• What is your favorite brand, restaurant, or sports team, and what would it take for you to switch?
• What's a place that feels like "home" to you even though you don't live there?

WORSHIP

Together as a Life Group, find a video or audio recording of a worship song and listen to it or sing along (if you want). After the song ends, share prayer requests and choose someone to pray for them.

WORD

If you haven't already, watch the video lesson and read Hosea 1–3.

1. How do Hosea 1:2 and James 4:4–6 expose divided loyalties in our walk with God?

2. Read Hosea 2:5–7. What forgiven sin do you keep going back to, and why is it so hard to leave behind?

3. Which is harder to believe: that God forgives you, or that He still wants to be close even when you keep falling short?

4. Why did the two criminals in Luke 23:39–42 respond to Jesus so differently, and what can we learn from their responses?

5. What does Hosea 3:1–3 teach us about how grace and real change work together?

WITNESS

Have everyone share the name of someone who is far from God. As a Life Group, pray daily this week for each name. Everyone in your Life Group should plan to connect with the person over a meal, coffee, or an invitation to church. If time allows next week, update everyone on your progress.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DEEPER STUDY FOR THIS WEEK

This section is designed to help you keep growing in your faith throughout the week by reflecting on what you discussed in your Life Group and studying passages/concepts related to the lesson. As you spend time with these prompts, ask God to speak to you, apply His Word to your life, and help you take your next step with Jesus. Go at your own pace, and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time with Him.

• Review anything in the WORD section that either was not covered during your Life Group or that you want to take a deeper dive into.

• Memorize Hosea 1:10; 2:23 as quoted in Romans 9:25–26 in The Message: "I'll call nobodies and make them somebodies; I'll call the unloved and make them beloved. In the place where they yelled out 'You're nobody!' they're calling you 'God's living children.'"

• Read Hosea 2:6–13 and write down every action God takes. Then read Hosea 2:14–23; Psalm 119:67, 71; Romans 2:4; and Hebrews 12:5–11, and answer the following questions: What did Israel finally realize in Hosea 2:7, and what had to happen before she reached that point? What gifts does God take in Hosea 2:8, and what had Israel failed to recognize about those gifts? How does God's tone shift in Hosea 2:14–15, and what does that reveal about the purpose behind His discipline? According to Hebrews 12:5–11, how is God's discipline a sign of His love rather than His rejection?

• With a piece of paper and a pen, take some time to write down sins you've already confessed to God but still carry around (the list can be as long or short, as detailed or as concise as you want). Read Psalm 103:11–13 and reflect on those verses. Then tear up the paper(s) as a reminder that God has removed your sins as far as the east is from the west. If you feel comfortable, tell someone you trust about this experience and what God taught you.