

## **Group Discussion Guide: Dear Church | September 4, 2022**

### **Begin with prayer (10 minutes).**

Like last week, use the **Prayer of Humility** below to help center your time together on God. To do so, send the prayer out to your group (via text, email, GroupMe, etc.) so everyone has access to it. Then, give your group a few moments to pray in silence and respond to the prompts.

“Lord, I ask that You would prepare my heart for our meeting today.”

“Help me to see each member as You see them.”

*Recall the name and face of each individual in the group.  
Ask for God’s help to see each one for who they are, without judgment.*

“Help me to hear each member in truth.”

*As you think of each individual, ask God for the ability to listen intently.  
Acknowledge any personal struggles or personality conflicts with others.  
Talk these struggles or conflicts over with God.  
Ask for a way to listen without hindrance.*

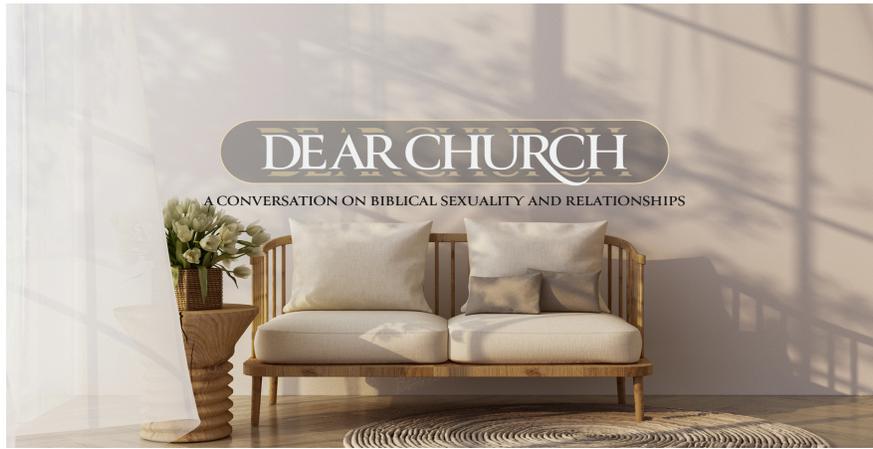
“Help me to respond in love.”

*Affirm your desire for God to guide the meeting.  
Admit your limitations to fix the problems and struggles of others.  
Acknowledge your inability to fully understand any one person’s story.  
Ask God to draw each member closer to His love through the meeting.*

Once you have finished praying, as the host, pray aloud for your group time together.

### **Read Scripture and debrief the sermon (20 minutes).**

*Select a few of these questions to help you discuss through the sermon. You may even come up with a few questions that would be good for your specific group to discuss.*



- Like last week, what is your posture like coming into this discussion of sexual brokenness? Do you sense openness in yourself? Are you feeling closed-off? Explain.
- **Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11** in three different versions (we'd suggest the NIV, ESV, and the Message).
  - Who does Paul say will *not* inherit the Kingdom of God according to these verses?
  - What is the only hope for us in our brokenness according to verse 11?
  - What does it mean to be “washed,” “sanctified,” and “justified” by Jesus?
- The sermon is about sexual brokenness, but that implies the idea of sexual wholeness. How would you define a healthy, whole, and Godly sexuality?
- When you think about sexual brokenness and characters in the Bible, who comes to mind? What happened? What was the result of their sexual brokenness on their self, their relationship to God, and their relationship to others?
- Where do you see the encompassing reach and depth of sexual brokenness in our culture?
- What would it mean for our world to experience the washing, sanctifying, and justifying work of Jesus in this area of their lives?

**Take some time to individually experience this Hosea Prayer (20 minutes).**

The book of Hosea is a critique of the nation of Israel. They have been unfaithful to God. They have not loved Him with their whole hearts. So, God calls Hosea the prophet to demonstrate Israel's unfaithfulness by marrying an unfaithful woman.

And as is so often the case, the story we read in the Bible is often the story we find in us.

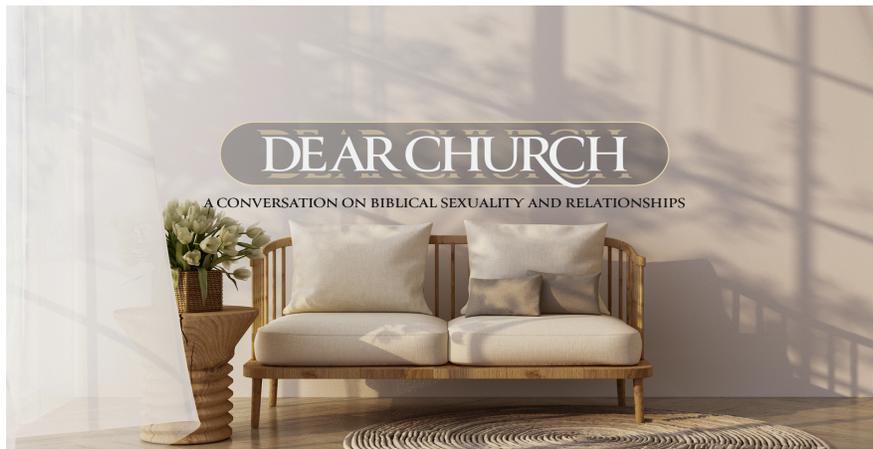
The following exercise will take you through four movements: **fall**, **judgement**, **pursuit**, and **restoration** from Hosea 2.

We **fall** and experience sexual brokenness.

That **fall** leads to **judgement**.

Despite our **fall**, God **pursues** us.

And God **pursues** us to **restore** us.



Now, take a few moments to individually work through the following sections of Hosea for prayer. Use each of these sections as a metaphor for your own brokenness and how that affects your relationship with God.

As you read through the Scriptures below, notice God's action in these verses and ours. What role does God play? What role do we play? What is God's heart for Israel? What is God's heart for *you*?

**Fall** – Hosea 2:4-8

**Judgement** – Hosea 2:9-13

**Pursuit** – Hosea 2:14-15

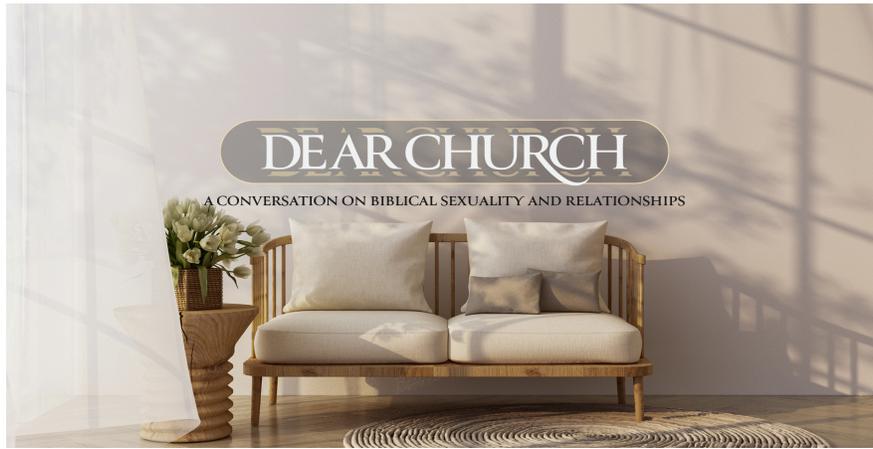
**Restoration** – Hosea 2:16-20

Once your allotted time for this section is finished, come together in accountability groups to discuss.

**Split into accountability groups (20 minutes).**

Take some time to split into gendered groups to pray and reflect together on the following questions. As people share, be sure to express to one another out-loud the phrase "You are not alone" to describe our heart as a church to walk with one another through brokenness.

- Have one person pray that each person would feel God's love and care as you begin these deeper conversations.
- What stood out to you from your Hosea Prayer time? Any lingering thoughts? Any words or phrases?
- Where have you noticed the encompassing reach of sexual brokenness in your own life?
- Where have you experienced the surprising depth of sexual brokenness in your own life?
- How are you currently struggling with sexual brokenness right now?
- In what ways do you need the overwhelming grace of God to break into your life in this area?



**Come back together as a large group. Finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What's on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.