

## The Song of Hope in the Desert

Hosea 2:14-16

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The Book of Hosea is about the prophet Hosea and his unfaithful wife Gomer. Through the prophet's life we see the unconditional love God has for his idolatrous people of Israel. We are in the midst of a desert-like emergency state due to the coronavirus. The Word of God tells us of how God will come to the barren desert in order to restore His people.

1. V.14, "Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her." This verse tells us God is the one who brought us into the desert. What was the wilderness for the people of Israel? Have you ever experienced a time of barrenness and desert? How were you able overcome it, and what have you learned from that experience? What can we know about God in times of wilderness?
2. What is the amazing promise of God in v.15? What is the Valley of Achor in the history of Israel? (refer to Joshua 7) Why is it called "a door of hope?" As we reflect upon the situation at hand, how does this message give us comfort and hope?
3. In v.16 the Lord says, "you will call me 'My Husband,' and no longer will you call me 'My Baal.'" What is the difference between "My Husband" and "My Baal"? Many have written "Lord" but read it as "Baal." We live to worship the Lord, but what has Baal taken from us? What must we do to live with Christ being our faithful Husband?
4. Getting through the coronavirus is like passing through the desert. However, if God is with us, even the wilderness will feel like heaven. If God is not with us, every place is like hell. Share how you will get through this desert-like situation and pray over one another.

### Emphasized during the Sunday sermon

- In the lonely and desolate wilderness, when all the noise of the world subsides, we must lend our ear to the still small voice of the Lord.
- If God is with us, the wilderness will be like heaven. If He is not, every place will be like hell.