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Study Questions for Summer of Love: Finding the Way Home

Read Hosea 4:1-19

God’s Story

1. Hosea says that God brings a charge against Israel in Hosea 4:1-1. What is the charge?
2. Hosea 4:2-3 describes the evidence of the charge brought against Israel. What is happening as the result of the offense mentioned in Hosea 4:1?
3. The prophet discourages people from bringing charges against one another for their actions in Hosea 4:4-6. Why does Hosea say that?
4. In Hosea 4:6-9, the prophet apparently has a problem with priests. What’s the problem with the priests?
5. In a long section in 4:10-19, Hosea describes worship practices that underscore the infidelity of God’s people in Israel. What’s wrong with the people’s worship and why might Hosea interpret it in a sexual way as prostitution and adultery?

My Story

1. Hosea makes a big deal out of Israel’s lack of acknowledgement of God, saying that it leads to a lack of faithfulness and love. How might the lack of love of God in one’s life lead to lack of love and faithfulness to other people in life?
2. In Hosea 4:2-3, the prophet describes a form of spiritual lawlessness and anarchy. How do you see this lawlessness and anarchy active in the current world? How might this lawlessness be the result of the loss of a love of God and neighbor in our world?
3. America is the land of the lawsuit. Why might our active tendency to sue others hide an underlying hypocrisy at the heart of our culture?
4. In the modern era, the professional priesthood has suffered the loss of some of the sanctity and respect it once held. What are some of the reasons for this?
5. Today, many people practice an eclectic form of religion, mixing various forms borrowed from a variety of spiritual traditions to create very unique and personal spiritual practices. In the age of Christian ecumenism, some Christians mix the tradition in which they were raised with a tradition in which they married. Others explore world religions like Hinduism and Buddhism borrowing elements to form new hybrid spiritual practices. What do you think about this? What’s the potential benefit of eclectic religion? What’s its potential harm? What do you think Hosea would think of this? What would he think of your spiritual practice?

