WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

Series Title: TWO KINDS OF PRAYER HEDGES
Key Scripture: Job 1:8-10; Hosea 2:5-7
Recorded Sermon: https://www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/two-kinds-of-prayer-hedges
Date + Speaker: November 17, 2024 | Pastor Mark Scarr

Starter:

1. Imagine yourself surrounded by a hedge to protect you from external harm. Imagine the hedge has thorns to protect you from yourself. How does that make you feel?

Discussion:

2. Pastor Mark says the person who prays the prayer of protection must expect attacks. What aspects of our lives could be attacked? What should we do to prepare and defend against the attacks?
3. The person who prays the prayer of protection must be worshipping God and trusting, regardless (Job 13:15). Pastor Mark says we should trust God with the details of the hedge of protection. What lessons does Job's response in Job 1:20-21 teach us?
4. How does the metaphor of marital unfaithfulness in Hosea Chapters 1-3 help us understand Israel's and our relationship with God?
5. Hosea still loved Gomer even enslaved and adulterous and redeemed her despite what may be considered her unworthiness (Hosea 3:1-2). How does this reflect God's love and compassion for His people despite their unfaithfulness? What does that teach us about His character?
6. We do not often think of undesirable circumstances as God's hedge around us Hosea 2:6&7. Reflect on How God uses the hedge of thorns for transformation and renewal. How does that help us in our reaction to difficulties?
7. How does Gomer's response in Hosea 2:7 compare to the prodigal son's in Luke 15:17-20? What does that teach us about God's provisions and the enticements of the world?

8. Reflect on the children's names in Hosea 2:3-8 How do they reflect the fruits of our idolatrous and adulterous relationships with other gods?
9. Note the journey from Hosea 2:5 to Hosea 2:7. How does that compare with the trajectory of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-20? How does that compare to our path starting with straying, then the frustration of the hedges of thorns, and finally realization and finding our way back to God?

Reflection:

10. How does the hedge of thorns intended to direct us back to the right path correspond with the freewill that God gives us to make our decisions?

Reflect on the themes of redemption, repentance, reconciliation, and restoration and how God can use the most unlikely situations to bring us back on the right path. Pastor Mark says we should be more concerned with people's eternity than with their earthly comfort.