

Sermon Notes

Authenticity
Hosea 11:12 – 14:9

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Deception: the act of intending to make someone believe something that is not true

Big Idea: God desires for us to live authentic lives before him and others

Our pursuit of temporary earthly things can encourage us to deceive one another.

Our worship becomes an act of deception when we do not fully trust in our God.

How can we respond when we recognize our deception?

1. Ask God for forgiveness
2. Resume authentic worship
3. Recognize and renounce false security
4. Accept God's compassion

Turn back to God. He wants to bless you and use you to bless others.

Authenticity is surest way to build and demonstrate trust.

Hosea's Marriage Wisdom
Knowledge
Devotion
Authenticity

Questions for Reflection/Discussion:

As always feel free to tweak, skip, or add questions to focus on areas you think most relevant to your group.

1. Who or what comes to mind when you think about authenticity?
2. Do you agree or disagree that authenticity should be valued over excellence? Why or why not?
3. What are some of the reasons we choose to lie and deceive one another?
4. What are the results of living in a culture where deception becomes natural and routine?
5. In what situations are you most tempted to use deception?
6. What are some potential positive effects of making authenticity a priority in your life and in the church?
7. Hosea calls us to return to love and justice, how are these things related to honesty and authenticity? (bonus: When is it okay to use deception to accomplish these things?)
8. What does deceptive worship look like and why would it upset God?
9. What is your current trust level with other people? With God? What has contributed to that?
10. What's one thing that has struck you during our series in Hosea? How does it change your view of God?