**BCM Bible Study April 15 – 16, 2015**

**Theme 5: How Does God want us to respond to Him**

We see an overall message of Love throughout the Minor Prophets; God’s love and action towards us (including sending His son Jesus) and our response and action towards Him (our relationship with Him). Each time we study the Minor Prophets and these 5 themes we can look for three things: seeing God’s love for us, what is it saying about Jesus, and how we should be in relationship with Him.

1: Jesus was always the plan

2: Jesus is our Shepherd, Priest, and King

3: Jesus defeats sin and death

4: Jesus is Good News is for all

What does God want from us; how should we respond to Him giving us everything?

**True Love - Being the Bride**

*Read Hosea 1:2 – 3 (Gomer); 2:2, 5 (Israel)*

With whom are we meant to identify? Do you find it hard to see yourself as one who is unfaithful?

Have you allowed something else, or someone else, or anything else, to become the love of your life in the place that belongs to God alone? What promise do these things make to lure you?

*Read Hosea 3: 1- 3 (Gomer); 2: 14 – 23 (Israel), Revelation 5:9 (bought with a price)*

What do you learn about God and His love from this passage?

If God has said here you are loved, betrothed in righteousness, and his people, why do you keep condemning and distancing yourself?

How does thinking about God as your husband that wooed you and also bought you out of slavery encourage you in your faith?

Have you united to this husband or are you still playing the field, keeping your options open?

*Read Mark 12:30-31, Philippians 2:9-11*

What does God want? (Truly love Him, truly love others, and confess Jesus as Lord to His glory.)

Questions for the week: What does it mean to live like a bride (one who is in a true, lasting, trusting, peaceful, active, full, serving, faithful relationship)?