

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 & Hosea 2

Singing: 308:1-3 – 141:1 – 325:1-4 – 232:1-2 – 417:1, 3 – 30:1-3 – 242:4

THE BRIDEGROOM DECLARES HIS COMMITMENT TO YOU HIS CHOSEN BRIDE
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I. He is not committed to you because you are worthy

A. Gomer is the most lovely and unworthy spouse (Hos. 1-2)

1. Before marriage and after marriage she was *impure and unfaithful*
2. Sadly this is still true in many of God's children: 1 John 2:15; James 4:4

B. Yet the LORD God is committed to His people even when they sin

1. Gomer was ignorant of His care:
 - a. in His barriers to stop her (vs. 6)
 - b. in His care over her (vs. 8)
 - c. in His tough love to bring her back (vs. 9-13)
2. His sole goal: *to allure back* into sweet communion with Him
 - a. the 'wilderness' is a return 'time of days of her youth' (14, 15)
 - b. the door of hope in dark valley of Achor (15)
 - c. the restoring of the relationship (16-17)
3. Then what He added was even more to allure: *I will betroth thee ...*

II. He is committed to you because of His eternal & gracious covenant

A. He reminds you of the future promises: harmony and security (vs. 18, 21-23)

B. He reminds us of His abiding covenant commitment (19-20)

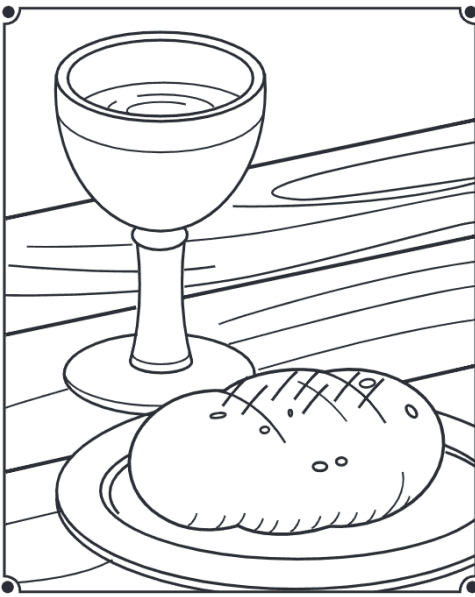
1. No *new* covenant but a *restored and deepened* covenant (Jer. 31:31-34)

C. He allures all His backsliding Gomers married to Him by repentance and faith!

1. He allures with His promise to share His comfortable words with you! (14)
2. He allures with His promise to 'betroth thee unto Him' (19)
3. He allures with the most glorious marriage vow ever spoken (19-20)

Ponder: God's sacraments are His 'signs and seals' of His covenant commitment

The Last Supper Coloring Page



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AS YOU WAIT FOR THE SERMON ...

1. What is different about today's service?
2. Why do we have the Lord's Supper? Tick the right answers.
 - ___ to picture Jesus' gift of His life
 - ___ to help His children in their faith
 - ___ to sacrifice Himself more
 - ___ to teach His children to love Him and each other more
 - ___ to help believers to believe better what Jesus did for them
3. What happened in the valley of Achor in Joshua's days? (Judges 7:26)

WHILE YOU LISTEN TO THE SERMON ...

4. How is Gomer, the unfaithful wife of Hosea, a picture of us?
5. But how was Hosea, the faithful love of Gomer, a picture of the LORD?
6. How could such a 'dark valley' become a door of hope for Israel?
7. What does the word 'betroth' mean?
8. God's covenant promise is like a ring (His covenant) with 6 diamonds (the six words describing His covenant) in vs. 19-20. What are those six words?

FOR AFTER THE SERMON

9. Your father and mother most likely have a wedding ring. Ask them what that rings means and why they wear always?
10. What did you learn about God today? How can you share that with others?