



## Session #1: What we are doing here...

Fallow Ground Project

September 7 2016

### Prayer:

#### A brief introduction to this thing called Fallow Ground...

- In short it is an experience with the goal to create intentional space where we can encounter and embrace God's freeing and activating love.
- Study (reading and reflection) is involved, but it is not a study
- There are no **grades**, it is all about learning to hear God and learning how to walk in obedience, and thus the only requirement is that we faithfully take the next step...
- FGP is a lot like water skiing \*(skiing is a weird looking word, huh?) - <sup>1</sup>

What in your opinion are the 3 greatest movies of all time? And then I want you to pick a movie that best represents consensus of a greatest movie of all time as a group? (you have 5 minutes)

#### What is God saying to us?

#### The Word: Hosea 10:12,13

<sup>12</sup> Sow for yourselves righteousness,  
reap the fruit of steadfast love;  
break up your fallow ground,  
for it is the time to seek the Lord,  
that he may come and rain salvation upon you.

<sup>13</sup> You have plowed iniquity,  
you have reaped injustice,  
you have eaten the fruit of lies.  
Because you have trusted in your chariots  
and in the multitude of your warriors<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> \*and if you are typo person, you are going to have to leave that at the door during our time because I am master at making typos -- no really I am a Master, a black belt of sorts.

<sup>2</sup> *The Revised Standard Version*, Ho 10:12–13 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1971).

- A quick journey into the history of the book, especially chapters 1-3
- Hosea 10:12 -- **if the ground is the heart -- what does it mean to break it up the fallow ground?**
- **And sow righteousness and reap the fruit of unfailing love?**
- **Where does righteousness come from? What about unfailing love?**
  - They come from God not from ourselves or by trying harder
- God is in the business of remaking us: see 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
  - *<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.*
  - <sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once regarded Christ from a human point of view, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*<sup>3</sup>
- It is not okay to get all 'knowledged up' and not go to this world.
- **Knowing God, and being made into a new creation and then sharing that message of transformation/reconciliation with the world is what it means to be a disciple.**
- This time we have is about breaking up the ground and it will hurt from time to time -- but we need to have God seeds planted in us because they will grow and will last.
- Too many times we settle for trying to manage and change our actions in hopes that it will change our heart. This does not align with what is called for in Hosea 10:12...

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<sup>3</sup> *The Revised Standard Version*, 2 Co 5:14–21 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1971).

### **How is it with your heart?**

#### **Time for group reflection:**

- What is running through your minds and hearts as you hear these words from Hosea 10:12,13 and we have talked about them a bit?
  - What do you agree with?
  - What do you disagree with?
- What are other ways in which you have pictured and imagined God working with His people?
  - A great judge?
  - A puppeteer?
  - A police officer?
  - What else?
- What effect has this had on your relationship with God?

### **How is it with your mission?**

#### **Time for Personal response:**

- I am going to try to give you a few minutes each session for you to reflect personally, in the moment, what these thoughts and ideas have meant to you on a deeper level. So take some time now to reflect and make some action points for responding to God's call.

## Housekeeping business:

- Big picture:

- Each session will start with discussing a passage from the Word, then we will move into a teaching point base on that passage (**What is God saying to us?**). Then we will have a discussion about the readings and the teachings. We will towards the end I will give you a few minutes to reflect and respond to what God has been stirring in your heart - **How is it with your heart?** (if I do not stop for this, remind me to stop and pause). And then we will do housekeeping business. And then we will check out...
- All of this will lead us to answer the question - **how is it with our mission?**

For next time:

- **Read the book of Hosea:** Pay special attention to the effect of idols and God's reaction to them. Look for what God calls them to do or better yet HOW He calls them to return. (suggestion - go to [www.youversion.com](http://www.youversion.com) - here you will find a Bible you can listen to -- a great way to engage the word of God, there is also an app for smartphones)
- Pay special attention to **Hosea 5:14-6:3** -- this will be what we discuss at the beginning of our next session
- Next session we will talk about *Directional Discipleship between the Lions...* (**look for the two lions in the book of Hosea and why they are pictured doing two very different things**)
- On the way out, you will find a letter. **Please read when you have a few minutes to read, process and pray.** Do not read until you have the time to spend with God.

Check out:

I am \_\_\_\_\_. One word that describes how I am feeling right now is\_\_\_\_\_.

And I am in.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> saying your "in" just means that you are saying **Yes** to the process/journey God is taking you/us on

