



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 7: The Unfaithful Bride
Suggested Week of Use: October 16, 2022
Core Passage: Hosea 1:2-9; 3:1-5

News Story Summary

Three cities in Texas made a unique Top 10 list recently—the ten most unfaithful cities in the United States. According to the study, Dallas topped the list. Fort Worth and Houston placed second and third place, respectively. The rest of the Top 10 included St. Louis, Nashville, Philadelphia, New York City, Knoxville, Atlanta, and Washington D.C.

Dubbed the “Infidelity Index,” a report by the website MyDatingAdvisor.com examined census data on things like marriage, divorce, and separation rates for major U.S. cities. It also looked at factors like relationship satisfaction and some forms of internet activity to compile the list.

On the other end of the spectrum, Pasadena, California, where the divorce rate is only 9%, topped the list of the most faithful cities. Torrance, California, and Roseville, California, rounded out the top three cities in terms of faithfulness in relationships.

For more about this story, search “most unfaithful cities.”

Focus Attention

Prior to the lesson, put a large sheet of paper on a focal wall. To replace the opening activity, ask: *What are some common Top 10 lists?* (Possible answers: movies or songs, sports, fugitives, colleges, and so forth). Share that a new Top 10 List was released in September listing the most unfaithful cities in the U.S. Invite the group to name cities that might be on the list. Record their answers on the paper. After a few minutes, encourage them to order their top five from their list. Read the information about the survey and talk about why those cities were on the list. Ask: *What surprises you? What doesn't?* Point out that this session is the first in a series from Hosea, a book that talks not just about marital infidelity, but also about infidelity toward God.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the closing activity under Summarize and Challenge, recall the story of the Top 10 unfaithful cities. Ask: *What factors can lead to infidelity?* (Possible answers: money problems, self-esteem issues, neglect, feeling unloved or unappreciated) *What factors lead to a person being unfaithful to God?* Record answers on the board or large sheet of paper. Direct the class to review the list and identify one or two factors that have led to their own infidelity to God. Offer a time of silence during which adults can talk with God about the things that challenge their faithfulness to Him. After a time of silence, close in prayer.