

LESSON 1 - HOSEA 1-2



Day 1 *Begin your study with time in prayer. Ask God to show you His truth.*

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 1:1-5

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

What a hard thing God has asked of Hosea! This story goes beyond just Hosea's obedience. We have to assume since God was using this marriage as an illustration of His unfailing love for His people, Hosea also developed a deep love for his wife Gomer. Through this marriage God would do a work, not only in the life of one woman but in the heart of His people. Would the people of Israel be able to see God's grace and salvation through Hosea's marriage to Gomer and relate it to their own relationship to God? Can you look at this story and relate it to your own life and relationship with Him?

1. What does the name Hosea mean?
2. Read Romans 5:8. What similarities do you see between Hosea and Jesus?
3. Why did the Lord ask Hosea to marry a wife of harlotry? (end of v2)
4. What does James 4:4 tell us?
5. What things are of the world according to 1John 2:16-17
6. What can you do to have victory over the pull of the world in your life? (Romans 12:1-2)

"When we make something in our life and heart more important than our devotion to the Lord, it hurts Him just like unfaithfulness hurts the victim of an adulterous marriage". Being friends with the world and taking on its views is like committing adultery against God. We are to be set apart, different.

Verse 4-5: God told Hosea to name his first child Jezreel. The name Jezreel has two meanings in Hebrew. One means "scattered", as if to throw away. Was God mistaken? No, in naming the child Jezreel God was revealing that He would soon scatter Israel throughout the world in fulfillment of his judgment against the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel (see 2 Kings 10:11).

Day 2 Pray for our church, Pastors and their wives.

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 1:6-2:1

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

The northern kingdom would face the end of God's mercy (v6-7); however, though a time of discipline is justified God will not completely abandon them. The same is true for you, though we face the consequences of our sin, God will not abandon us nor forget His promise of redemption through Jesus Christ. There will be a time of healing, restoration and redemption for Israel (v10-2:1) and the same is true for those who put their trust in Jesus!

Three children were born and given names by God, each symbolizing some aspect of Israel's relationship with God. Yesterday we read about Jezreel.

1. What are the names of the two children born after Jezreel and what do their names mean?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

We know God is a God of great love and a Father of compassion, mercy and pity. Hosea loved Gomer the way God loves Israel, the way God loves you. God's 'agape' love covers a multitude of sins. Of ourselves we can't love like this, it is truly the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit in us that enables us to forgive and love others.

2. What does Isaiah 59:2 say about our sin?

Take time now to privately seek the Lord. Are there sins in your life right now that you think you're getting away with? Confess and repent. Are you feeling like your walk with the Lord could be better? Ask the Lord to reveal those things that might be blocking you from having a fully committed relationship with Him. Surrender your life to Him right now, ask Him to forgive you and change you. Accept His forgiveness and begin moving forward. If you need to talk to someone, call a trusted Christian sister and find the prayer support you need; but seek the Lord first.

3. Read Romans 8:38-39 and journal your thoughts.
4. What does Peter tell us in 1 Peter 2:9-10?

Day 3 Pray for our Nation, State and City Officials.

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 2:2-5

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Day 4 Pray for Missionaries

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 2:6-13

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

God would frustrate Israel's dependence on Baal, the false god of the Canaanites, in an effort to bring Israel back to Himself. Israel had fallen into idolatry and believed Baal would provide rich productive soil which would reap a successful harvest and provide their food. God alone was their source of provision, and He is your source of provision as well.

Gomer would return to Hosea if she thought she would be better off with him. Sadly it's that way with God too, people will often come to the Lord for help when they feel they have absolutely no other options. Returning to God out of desperation is better than continuing to rebel against Him, but why wait and prolong the misery? He wants to bless you, comfort you, teach you how to live a better way. The age old sin of pride keeps far too many from turning their life over to the One who created them with a purpose; He yearns for them to realize His love and to share it with others.

1. By hedging them in, what was God revealing to them? (v6-8)

2. What kinds of 'thorns' (struggles) might someone experience in their life when they choose to stop following God to pursue other gods?

3. What truth did Gomer and Israel not realize? (v8)

4. What point was God making in verses 9-12?

Israel was enjoying great national wealth during this time, but they didn't realize or stubbornly refused to acknowledge it was God who provided everything. Gomer may have had silver and gold, but she didn't realize it was Hosea who gave her what she really needed; her adultery only brought her pain and disillusion.

Day 5 Pray for your Bible teacher and small group

Step 1 God's Word- Read the passage given below from your Bible. As you read, highlight or underline a verse that stood out to you the most and write it below.

Hosea 2:14-23

Step 2 Comprehend the Word- What does the verse mean?

Step 3 Connect It To You - What does the verse mean to me?

Step 4 Cross Thoughts- Record cross reference verse(s) or other verses that came to mind.

Step 5 Call to Action- How will I respond and what will I do differently?

Theme: _____

Digging Deeper

This portion of chapter 2 is so beautiful; it reveals the passionate heart of God not only for Israel, but His character and nature is reflected toward you as well.

In this portion of our reading, we begin with the third “therefore” within 9 verses. The first two found in verses 6 and 9 were followed by judgment; this one is followed by words that reveal the loving heart of Hosea longing to persuade his wife to come back to him, even after the pain she has brought to him. He wants her to know all is forgiven and she will be comforted, which is the true agape love of God portrayed in Hosea’s life. The words spoken here are words of courtship and marriage. The heavenly Father longs to lure His people back in the same manner, not by deception or empty promises. He longs for Israel, and us, to come back into a right relationship with Him. We, the church, are His bride. He desires for us to be as faithful and devoted to Him as He has been to us!

1. How has God provided for you in the last month? (think about health, marriage, material needs etc.)
2. Write out verse 15 and highlight what Hosea will bring to his bride.

Definition: Verse 16 in the King James Version reads like this:

"And it will come about in that day," declares the Lord, "That you will call Me Ishi And will no longer call Me Baali."

Ishi means = "my husband" and Baali means = "my master". Pastor John Brown (Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix) comments that because of Hosea’s persistent love Gomer eventually comes home to be a faithful wife and mother. She no longer saw Hosea as her "master" that she "had to serve", but as the loving husband that he was. By the way, since he had purchased her back from her slavery — he technically was her "master" in every sense of the word — but his love set her free to love him back!"²

God also longs to be your “husband”; He longs to love, provide, protect, and comfort you. No matter what you have done in the past, no matter how great you think your sin is- God is greater still. You can be secure in His love for you. God is our Lord and “master”, not because He is oppressive or that He forces us to serve Him; but because the true lover of God chooses to serve Him from a position of gratefulness. We always gladly choose to serve someone we love because it gives us pleasure.

3. Write out the wonderful promises God proclaims in verses 19 -23, realizing these promises are not only for Israel but for you too!
4. Write out the promise in Hebrews 13:5.
5. Do you have a favorite scripture promise that’s close to your heart and you rely on that you would like to share?

Hosea 4:6 6

My people are destroyed
for lack of knowledge.