

LESSON 2 - Hosea 3-4



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 3:1-5

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

Gomer is now enslaved to her own sin. Blind to her husband's love, she continued to seek the affections of other men and temporary material satisfaction. Gomer had apparently become the 'property' of another man by this time. Some commentators believe Gomer had become a slave and Hosea bought her out of slavery, while others say Hosea's payment bought her out of prostitution; in either case, it cost Hosea much, not to mention the humiliation he endured for her. Our Lord humbled Himself and faced great humiliation for our sake so we would have the opportunity to be forgiven and cleansed from our sins. He redeemed us so we could be, His pure, spotless bride. What amazing love!

1. What did the Lord tell Hosea to do and for what purpose? (v1)

Hosea chapter 3 is a beautiful picture and reminder of God's redemptive love for us. "...[G]o and love your wife again **even though** she is committing adultery. Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods"³

2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and highlight verse 11.
 - a. Read Romans 5:8; write out the verse. underline the phrase "while we were still sinners" and reflect on your own life. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for the redemption of Jesus Christ in your life.

**You don't have to share this in your small group if you choose not to.
3. What will happen to Hosea's wife when she gets home?
4. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord, what should we do in order to see change in our lives and why is it important? Read Romans 12:1-2.

God would remain faithful even though Israel had to go through a time of separation from her beloved land; she would be without a king or prince for a period of time. Certain things need to be done away with in our lives in order for us to know what is of true value.

Verse 5 [But afterward the people will return and devote themselves to the Lord their God and to David's descendant, their king. In the last days, they will tremble in awe of the Lord and of His goodness.] NLT. This verse refers to a prophecy yet to be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom, where Jesus, Who is from the line of David, will reign over Israel. How wonderful that anyone can come to His amazing grace and love today, right now, and enjoy the blessing of a restored relationship with God.

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 4:1-10

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

There was a great deal of “religion” in the land of Israel, but there was no true intimate knowledge of God. Their worship of Him may have been out of tradition or obligation. Even today, in our nation, there are churches on just about every corner and there is still a lack of knowledge of God. Going to church on Sunday is like an item on the ‘to do’ list. The knowledge of God is that many believers today have only a superficial understanding of God. God is love, God forgives, God is in control...but has that knowledge impacted and made a difference? Many don’t desire to take the time to know Him more deeply and intimately.

1. The people of Israel had been brain washed by their idolatry. What charges were brought against Israel? (v1)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

2. What sins were listed and how would it affect the nation? (vs 2 & 3)

3. Everyone is responsible for their own sin, but who did God also hold accountable and why?

4. What does James 3:1 teach us about the responsibility of those called to teach?

5. What did the prophets and priests reject and not give to the people? (v6)

Chuck Smith - “[T]he whole problem with Israel began with the priesthood and with the prophets--the corrupted priesthood not teaching the people, not being responsible to teach the people the law of God. They themselves didn't know the law of God. If you have forgotten the law of God, how can you teach the people if you've forgotten it yourself?

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 4:11-14

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

1. What kind of things can rob us of wisdom and enslave our hearts?
2. What caused the people to stray and be foolish? (v12)
3. How might Christians today exhibit spiritual unfaithfulness in their relationship with the Lord?
4. What did the psalmist say about the LORD God and foreign gods? (Psalm 135:13-18)

If people deceive themselves long enough they begin to truly believe the deception and are made foolish. Satan has many schemes and tactics and one of them is to deceive people into believing in anything **but** the God of truth.

5. Read Romans 1:20-22 and 1 Tim 4:1-2 and journal your thoughts in light of today's society.

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 4:15-19

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 used to be one nation is now divided into two; Israel to the north and Judah to the south. God warns Judah to not follow Israel's sinful ways. He told them to not go up to Gilgal or Beth Aven which were centers of idolatry in Israel. Gilgal was where Samuel was judge, and Saul was made king; later it was a city known for its forbidden worship of idols. Beth Aven (Bethaven) literally means 'house of deceit, vanity or wickedness'.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15:33 and write about a time you found this truth to be real in your own life.

Note: The tribe of Ephraim, mentioned in verse 17, was the largest tribe and made up most of the population of Israel. Therefore, the prophets often refer to Israel as "Ephraim."

2. What did 'Ephraim' do and what did God tell Judah to do regarding Israel?
3. What did Paul say to the people of Corinth in 2 Corinthians 6:16-17?
4. What was the condition of the hearts of the rulers of Israel? (v18)
5. **Personal insight:** What else did you learn from today's passage that was not mentioned?

Day 5 Pray for your Bible teacher and small group**Read Hosea 3 or 4 to complete today's homework**

We are approaching today's lesson using the S.O.A.P method. "S.O.A.P. stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer. It's a great way to delve more deeply into your Bible reading, and record your thoughts, emotions and observations when studying Scripture. S.O.A.P. is meant to be a journal you create with your regular Bible reading, but it can also be an effective tool to help you connect with particular passages."

Scripture: What verse from the entire chapter stood out for you today?

Observation: What did you notice today that you had not seen before?

Application: What do you have to do or change to apply what you learned today?

Prayer: Write a prayer of repentance, praise, thanksgiving...whatever the Spirit is leading you to do.