

HOSEA

A 10 Day Bible Study



Hosea 1 (Optional: skim 2 Kings 15-17 and Amos 4:1-5 for background)

1. Read Hosea 1:1-2 and make notes on what you know regarding the state of Israel, Hosea and the people.

2. Look at the names in Hosea and what they mean (check various versions of the Bible). For each one, list the meaning and include what this might mean for God’s relationship with Israel.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Relationship meaning</u>
Gomer	Complete	
1st child, son Jezreel	God scatters	
2nd child, dtr Lo-ruhamah		
3rd child, son Lo-ammi		
Hosea		

3. Verse 10 offers the beginnings of hope by starting with the word, “Yet...” Describe the promise of hope God offers his people in verses 10-11. (also see Gen 22:15-18 & Jer 33:22)

As the book of Hosea provides an illustration of God’s relationship with Israel, it also points the way to his relationship with us through Jesus. If God calls us “children of the living God,” what does this mean to you?

Read Hosea 1:10-2:23

- 1.** We read in chapter 1 of the names of Hosea & Gomer's children. How were these names now stated in 2:1? What does this tell you about God? (also see 1:10-11)
- 2.** What did Hosea command the children to do to Gomer? (2:2) What had Gomer decided to do? (2:5-7)
- 3.** In 2:3-4 & 8-13, make a list of the things Hosea would do to Gomer for being unfaithful, keeping in mind this represents God's relationship with Israel.
- 4.** What had Hosea provided for Gomer, and God provided for Israel? (2:8) Write a few things that come to mind that God had done for Israel before this time in history.
- 5.** Hosea 2:14-23 describes a beautiful picture of how God (Hosea) would restore Israel (Gomer) to himself once again. List these statements beginning with "I will..."

Look back on your life and write down things that come to mind that God has done for you. Thank and praise Him for each of these things.

Read Hosea 2:19-3:5

1. Describe the marriage terminology in 2:19-20. What would this mean for Israel? What does this tell you about God?
2. In 2:20, what does it mean that Israel (and that you) “will know the LORD”?

Proverbs 9:10

Isaiah 1:2-4

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Hosea 4:1, 6

John 17:3

Philippians 3:8-11

Hebrews 8:10-12

2 Peter 3:17-18

3. In restoring their marriage covenant, Hosea bought Gomer back from slavery after her lovers rejected her (3:2). From 2 Corinthians 5:17-19, describe another faithful act of ‘buying back’ sinners in an act of redemption.
4. From Hosea 3:5, describe Israel’s repentance and when it will happen.

In 2:23, God calls us, “My people,” showing his loving kindness and compassion. Offer a prayer today to God starting with, You are my God! Because of this...

Skim Hosea 4-5, focusing on 4:1-10 & 5:1-7, 15

1. Hosea chapters 4 & 5 are described as a court case, in which Israel is on trial before God as Judge. Skim these chapters and list words or phrases that identify this as a legal proceeding.
2. Identify the following parts of the trial, including verses where you find them.

Judge

Plaintiff (Accuser)

Defendant (Accused)

The Accusation/Crime

The Evidence:

The Judgement

3. From Hosea 5:4-7, identify why Israel would not be able to return to the Lord, and why they would seek him but would not find him.

*Read Jeremiah 29:13 and write what it means to you to seek the LORD.
How can you practice this intentionally this week?*

Read Hosea 6-7, focusing on 6:1-6 and 7:1-2, 8-14

1. In Hosea 6:1, the Hebrew word for “return” carries the following meanings: to turn back, to bring back, to restore, refresh, repair. What would it mean for Gomer to return to Hosea? For Israel to return to the LORD? For you to return to him?
2. Israel responded to God’s invitation in a desire to return to him. If this were genuine repentance, what would it involve?
3. Read Hosea 6:6. From the verses below, describe what other prophets told Israel about sacrifices and God’s hesed love—his steadfast, faithful, covenant love.

1 Samuel 15:22-23

Isaiah 1:11-20

Jeremiah 7:21-23

Hosea 12:6

Amos 5:21-24

Micah 6:6-8

4. List evidence God saw that Israel’s repentance was fake (7:1-2 & 8-14), and that they “had not returned to the LORD their God” (7:10).

Write out Hosea 6:3 as a prayer to desire to know God more.

Read Hosea 8-9, focusing on 8:1-4, 12-14, 9:1-4, 7-10, 15-17

1. As you read through Hosea 8 & 9, write a list of sins Israel has committed.
2. Describe the images and metaphors in this section, including anything that would relate to Israel's condition with God.

Eagle (8:1-6)

Sowing & reaping (8:7)

Pottery (8:8)

Donkey (8:9a)

Prostitute (8:9-10; 9:1-6)

Agriculture (9:10)

3. What was at the base of all of Israel's sin? (9:17) What happens when we choose to not listen to God?
4. What might these sins look like in today's world? How do the sins of Israel reflect on your life?

Spend 5 minutes in prayerful confession to God, identifying an area in which you realize you need God's forgiveness. Thank and praise Him for His grace and forgiveness.

Read Hosea 10-11

1. Hosea 11:1-4 describes God's love for Israel as compared to a father and his child. How did Israel, as the son, respond to the Father's love?
2. After years of God's love for Israel, they still wanted to go back to a loyalty with other nations like Egypt or Assyria. Describe, in your own words, the battle in God's heart over his wayward people in 11:8-9. What did God finally decide? (also see 2:19-20, 4:6-10, 6:4, 10:12)
3. From the following verses, identify what God does for his people out of his great compassion.

Genesis 9:13-15

Psalms 78:38-39

Psalms 86:3-5

Isaiah 30:18

Lamentations 3:22-23

Matthew 9:36-38

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

2 Peter 3:9

Write out a few words describing what it means to you that God is compassionate toward you.

Read Hosea 12-13

1. This section records the weight of Israel’s actions. As you skim this section, write Israel’s sins and how God intended to discipline them, including verses.

<u>Sin</u>	<u>Discipline</u>

2. What two vital reminders did God give his people in 12:5-6 and 13:4? How did this impact their sin and his need to discipline them?

3. Hosea 12:6 explores again the command to return to the LORD, and describes God’s *hesed* love for his people. Imagine you are Hosea, writing or speaking this verse to people today. Write out this verse in your own words. (You might look up this verse in other versions of the Bible for help.)

What does it mean to you to wait continually for your God? How could you practice this?

Read Hosea 14

1. What commands did Hosea present to Israel from God? (14:1-2)
2. Israel finally realized Assyria would not save them. (14:3) What things in life are you prone to think will save you?
3. In God's great compassion, list everything God would do for Israel instead of destroying them.
4. An idea of 'stumbling' is developed in verses 4:5, 5:5, 14:1 and 14:9. What did God say caused the Israelites to stumble? What things in life can cause you to stumble?
5. God settled the dilemma in his heart over destroying Israel due to their sin and showing his compassionate grace to his people and forgiving them. What do these verses say about this same theme?

Psalm 51:16-17

1 Corinthians 1:9

2 Timothy 2:13

1 John 1:9

Micah 7:18-20

Write down a few things God has saved you from. Thank him for his saving grace!

God, in His Grace, Restores His People

1. Looking back over Hosea and your notes, compare the themes of sin, repentance and restoration identified in each of the relationships represented in the book.

	<i>Hosea & Gomer</i>	<i>God & Israel</i>	<i>God & You</i>
<i>Sin</i>			
<i>Repent/Return</i>			
<i>Compassion</i>			
<i>Restoration</i>			

2. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and Hosea 11:4. Compare the message of Hosea to Israel with God’s love for us through Jesus, his Son.

What does it mean to you that God showed great compassion and love for you through his son, Jesus Christ? Write a prayer thanking him today.

