

Guided Bible Study

Salendine Nook Baptist Church

Hosea 5 v. 1 - 15

A modified Version of Scripture Union's
LifeBuilder Bible Study Series originally written by
Dale & Sandy Larsen



About These Bible Studies

These Bible studies give us the opportunity to study the Bible in a greater depth and to reflect on what it is saying to us – much like we would do in our normal Wednesday Morning Bible Study. To give a sense of group study, it is suggested that you do the study on a Wednesday morning, for an hour, starting at 10.30am. Get yourself a tea or coffee, a Bible, pen and paper (for any notes you want to make) and begin studying.

For the purposes of our Bible Studies we will be using Scripture Union's LifeBuilder Bible Study Series. We will be looking at the book of Hosea, that is found in the Old Testament. The studies were originally written by Dale & Sandy Larsen, but we will be modifying them in order that they become more usable for home study during this time of lockdown.

Hope that you enjoy it!

Pastor Ian

Context

God never gives up on us. When we stray or make a mistake, God continues to pursue us with a relentless love. In Hosea's unfailing love for his wayward wife, he lived out the way God loves his people. His story is a reminder that God will never abandon us.

In choosing to study Hosea, we venture into a turbulent place of love and justice, promise and pain, close to the heart of God. The prophecy of Hosea does not progress logically from beginning to conclusion. Its writing is circular, going back and forth between judgment and mercy. We get a sense of God arguing with himself about Israel – not that God has trouble deciding what to do, but he feels the pain of conflict between what he wants for Israel and what he must do because of their sin.

Hosea shares God's conflict when at God's command he marries – and stays married to – the immoral woman Gomer. It is the conflict of anyone who cares deeply about a wayward person. God condemns Israel's sin and knows Israel deserves to be written off; yet he hangs on, unwilling to give up on them. God eventually let Israel be defeated in the Assyrian conquest, but he did not ultimately abandon his people whom he loved.

Study 4 -

Sins of the

Leadership

Only days after he performed a wedding, a minister confessed to a long – standing extramarital affair. When the new bride heard about it, she wept with disappointment and anger. ‘How could he stand up and say all those beautiful things about marriage?’ she demanded. Who could answer her?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. *What have you read in or heard on the news lately that has given you hope? What have you read or heard that has discouraged you?*

In Hosea 4, God issued strong words of judgment against the idolatry of the Israelites in general. Then he got more specific about the sins of particular classes of people.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

- In reading the passage, what values had replaced love for the Lord in the hearts of Israel's leaders?
- While you have been reading the book of Hosea, you will have read some of the sternest words of judgment anyone could imagine. Yet God continues to speak severely through Hosea. What do you think God was trying to accomplish with so much repetition?
- Israel made some attempts to seek the Lord (Hosea 5 v. 4 – 7). Why were their attempts not successful?
- In society today, many people show an increased interest in spiritual matters, but often their interest is in a non – Christian direction. What do you think may keep people who are interested in spirituality from connecting with the God of the Bible?
- What further warnings did God give to Israel and Judah in Hosea 5 v. 8 – 12?
- Where did Israel go in order to try to find a substitute for God's help (Hosea 5 v. 13)?
- Where do many of today's leaders turn for powerful help as a substitute for God?
- Thinks about a leadership position that you might be holding at the moment. It may involve only a small sphere of influence or it may be a large sphere of influence. When have you maybe been tempted to '**turn to Assyria**' for your help rather than turning to the Lord?
- What comfort do you take from the concluding words that are found in Hosea 5?

Now or Later

PRAYER

Thank God for leaders who are faithful to him. Pray that the Lord will give you godly leaders in your church, your community and your nation. Pray that you will rely on him in any leadership position that you hold.

TO THINK ABOUT . . .

Identify some present – day leaders who show godly character. They may be local, regional or national, religious or secular. Write a note of appreciation to one of them. Express your respect and gratitude for that person's leadership. Mention specific examples or reasons. (You do not have to agree with all of the leader's policies in order to recognize the person's consistent moral character.)

To help you in your study

The studies purpose is: To consider how ungodly leadership, whether secular or religious, draws people away from God.

Hosea begins chapter 5 with a threefold summons for judgment to three groups: priests, house of Israel, and house of the King. Though the house of Israel probably refers to all the people, it is likely that the tribe chieftains of the northern kingdom are the target along with the priests and the Kings and royal court.

Hosea 5 v. 3 introduces the name ‘**Ephraim**’, which appears prominently throughout the rest of the book of Hosea. Ephraim, one of the sons of Joseph, is used as another name for the northern kingdom of Israel.

We need to remember that God is going to tremendous lengths to warn the people that idolatry had terrible consequences, in the hope that they would see the truth and renounce their idols. As God sent Hosea to seek out Gomer and redeem her, so God longed to bring his people back to himself as well.

Israel had hoped that God could be found within their Baal worship. Remember, as long as people seek spirituality in a god of their own making, trying to create a ‘user – friendly’ god who does what they want, then the God of the Bible will be repulsive to them.

Gibeah and Ramah were both high among the mountains of central Palestine. The sound of alarm from these prominent places could be heard in both Judah and Israel. . . . Judah is pictured as awaiting the overthrow of Israel, after which she could then cross the boarder and appropriate Israelite territory.

In **Hosea 5 v. 10**, the moving of boundary stones was forbidden by God's law (**Deuteronomy 19 v. 14**).

Since the land had been given to the people of God and apportioned according to a God – given formula, to move boundary stones and therefore appropriate territory unlawfully was a crime of theft against God. (*IVP Bible Background Commentary*. p. 192).

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At present, our church email addresses have been shut down while we set up new addresses. We are working as hard as we can to get these sorted. In the mean time, if you need to contact us, please use the contact form on our website - or [click here](#)

