

Guided Bible Study

Salendine Nook Baptist Church

Hosea 6 v. 1 - 10

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 5 -

A Temporary

Repentance

A little boy spilled orange juice on a white carpet. It was an accident; he was sorry; all was forgiven. Not long afterwards he took some red paint straight to the same rug, got his mother's attention, grinned at her and proceeded to pour the paint directly on the rug. This time his mother was not so lenient!

When we do wrong, it's so easy to say 'Oops!' or 'I guess I made a mistake there'. It takes a deeper level of honesty and commitment to say, 'I'm sorry', mean it and to resolve not to repeat the action.

PERSONAL REFLECTION. *How do you judge whether someone is sincere when he or she says 'I'm sorry'? when someone apologises to you, do you forgive right away, or do you wait until the person shows evidence that he or she is sorry? Why?*

Through the first 5 chapters of Hosea we have seen the rebellion of God's people. The next part of the book of Hosea begins with a refreshing change.

Read Hosea 6 v. 1 - 10

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

- What happens in this passage that you have not seen so far in Hosea?
- What did Israel hope to receive from the Lord if they returned to him (**Hosea 6 v. 1 – 3**)?
- Why was the Lord unsatisfied with their supposed repentance (**Hosea 6 v. 4 – 6**)?
- When have you dealt with a person who apologised to you but apparently for selfish motives? What happened long – term?
- How does the Lord identify the evidence of true repentance (**Hosea 6 v. 6**)?
- Most of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy are given over to the law of God, with much attention on proper worship and various sacrifices and offerings. Scripture makes it plain that God gave those laws; they were not human inventions. Then what do you think God means when he announces, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings’ (**Hosea 6 v. 6**)?
- Why is such evidence more trustworthy than the performance of ritual sacrifices?
- What sort of behaviour betrayed Israel’s supposed repentance (**Hosea 6 v. 7 – 10**)?
- In what areas of your own life do you tend to make only a superficial repentance? What would true repentance mean for you?

(What would it look like? What changes would you need to make?)

Now

or

Later

Prayer

Thank God for the mercy he shows you and for the mercy other people have shown you. Pray that your life will show a spirit of mercy.

Activity

Write a letter to the Lord to express more thorough and more personal responses to some of the questions that you answered. As a fuller answer to the latter question, why not draw a literal picture or a word picture of the changes you want to make with God's help.



To help you in your study

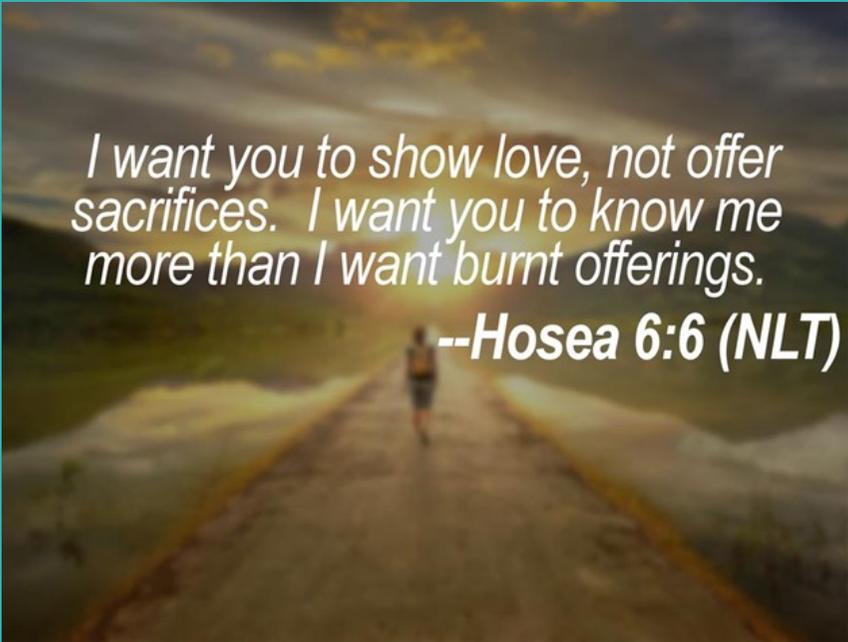
The studies purpose is: To affirm that repentance means a change of heart rather than correct words or the proper form of worship.

Israel's hopes are full of nature imagery: the rising sun, the refreshing rains. To a sincere seeker, the Lord will appear in those ways and more. Yet God saw that their love for him was as fleeting as mist and dew. The people's motive for supposedly returning to God (to gain his short – term blessings) is identical with their motive for turning to idols.

When Jesus was challenged by the self – righteous Pharisees, he quoted part of **Hosea 6 v. 6**. (Ref: **Matthew 9 v. 13 & 12 v. 7**)

A sacrifice or offering, no matter how expensive, can be made without any repentance from the heart. To put money in a collection plate or lay something on the altar is a purely external act. An observer can discern nothing about the giver's spiritual condition.

Mercy (or 'steadfast love') and the acknowledgment (or 'knowledge') of God are inward qualities which inevitably show on the outside.



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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](#)

