

Guided Bible Study

Salendine Nook Baptist Church

Hosea 11 v. 12 - 12 v. 14

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 10 -

Yet Justice

Prevails

When mass murderer Jeffrey Dahmer was killed in prison, people were shocked that authorities had not protected him from his enemies. At the same time, most people felt that he got what he deserved. Justice had been done.

Everyone has an inborn sense of justice. We think things ought to work out fairly, though we know they often don't. Much as we like mercy, we get impatient when we see too much of it. Shouldn't justice be satisfied too?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. *When has your attitude toward someone improved because you found out something about that person's history? What made the difference?*

Jacob, son of Isaac and grandson of Abraham, was the first person to be named Israel (**Genesis 32 v. 28**).

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

Read Hosea 11 v. 12 – 12 v. 14

- What aspects of Jacob's up – and – down career does this passage recount?
- Since the historical Jacob was long dead, why do you think certain events from his life are told here?
- Based on what you know of Jacob, how does your spiritual history resemble his (**Hosea 12 v. 1 – 4, 12**)?
- The heart of the preceding study was the mercy of God. However, if we focus solely on God's mercy, we do not see the whole story. What does this passage reveal about other truths of God's character?
- At first glance, love and justice appear to be mutually exclusive: we can practice one or the other but not both at once. Yet in **Hosea 12 v. 6**, God tells Israel to maintain both love and justice. What would be an example of both in action at once?
- What does Israel boast about (**Hosea 12 v. 7 – 8**)?
- Why was their boasting self – deceptive?
- What are some areas of life where you are tempted to brag?
- How did Hosea continue to use Israel's history to warn them of God's impending judgment (**Hosea 12 v. 9 – 14**)?
- How does your own spiritual history give you respect for God's justice?
- Where, or with whom, do you need to be more just, without sacrificing love?

Now

or

Later

Consider specific ways to put into practice each of the commands from **Hosea 12 v. 6**: *Return to your God, maintain love and justice and wait for your God always.*

Write out prayers to the Lord about each of those three commitments (no doubt they will overlap). Resolve to read the prayers again at least weekly.

PRAYERS FOR THESE THREE COMMITMENTS

Return to your God:

Maintain love & Justice:

Wait for your God always:

To help you in your study

The studies purpose is: To be confronted by the justice of God and to resolve to be just.

Jacob's life is related in detail in **Genesis 25 – 49**. The account of his birth (**Hosea 12 v. 3**) is told in **Genesis 25 v. 21 – 26**; his struggle with the angel of the Lord (**Hosea 12 v. 3 – 4**) is in **Genesis 32 v. 22 – 32**; his vision at Bethel (**Hosea 12 v. 4**) is in **Genesis 28 v. 10 – 22**; and his service for a wife (**Hosea 12 v. 12**) is in **Genesis 29**.

The people of Israel, Jacob's descendants, were repeating Jacob's personal history as they fluctuated between devotion and deviousness.

It may help you to think of examples from both your personal life (*such as dealing with family members or work situations*) and national life (**such as Government policy towards the poor**).

Hosea 12 v. 11 may refer to the destruction of Gilead by Tiglath – Pileser in **2 Kings 15 v. 29** because of idol worship. The surrounding verses refer to God's consistent faithfulness and deliverance.



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