

Guided Bible Study

Salendine Nook Baptist Church

Hosea 14 v. 1 - 9

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 12 -

God's Final Promise

'Cross my heart and hope to die, stick a needle in my eye'. With those words we confirmed the promises of childhood. Of course there was always a way 'out'. The promises didn't count if we crossed our fingers behind our back!

'Sure, I'll be there'. 'Count on me to help'. 'You can borrow my car anytime'. The words mean nothing if the promiser doesn't produce. We'd rather hear no promise at all than be a victim of a broken promise.

PERSONAL REFLECTION. *Do you have trouble keeping promises? Why (or why not)?*

In the final chapter of any book, we expect the author to tie up loose ends and reprise the book's main themes. The prophet Hosea does not disappoint us.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

Read Hosea 14 v. 1 – 9

- How does the mood of this passage differ from the other passages of Hosea that you have read during the course of this study?
- The Lord urged Israel to ‘take words with you and return to the Lord’. (**Hosea 14 v. 2**). Express in your own words what God longed to hear Israel say (**Hosea 14 v. 2 – 3**).
- Sometimes sincere repentance from the heart is the most difficult offering to make to God. What substitutes do you sometimes bring to the Lord in the place of honest words of repentance?
- What does the Lord commit himself to do for Israel (**Hosea 14 v. 4 – 8**)?
- How would you characterise the future that God promises for his people (**Hosea 14 v.4 – 8**)?
- How have you experienced ‘**rooting**’ and ‘**flourishing**’ under God’s faithful care?
- What conditions must Israel meet in order to be part of this future with the Lord (note esp. **Hosea 14 v. 1 – 3 & 9**)?
- Why do you think the Lord wouldn’t just say: ‘**Don’t worry about your idol worship; we’ll overlook that**’?
- How have your ideas about God been changed by your study of Hosea?
- With what ‘**words**’ do you need to ‘**return to the Lord**’ now?

To help you in your study

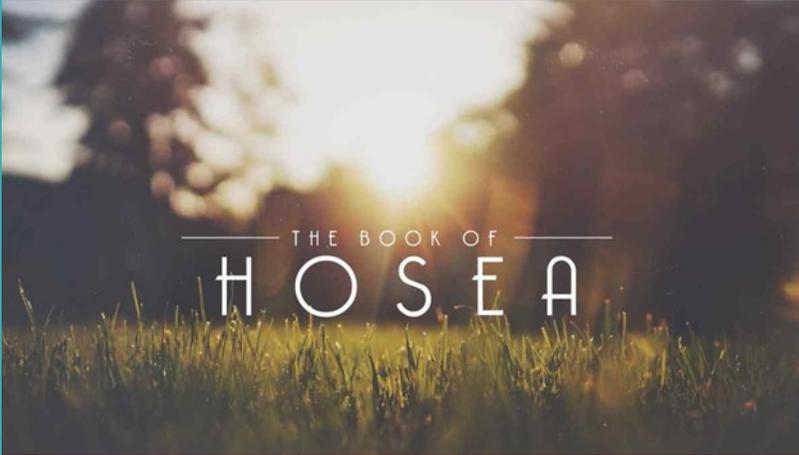
The studies purpose is: To commit ourselves to the Lord wholeheartedly because he is trustworthy.

After thirteen chapters of alternating judgment and mercy, the prophecy of Hosea ends with a lavish vision of a great future where God and Israel are completely reconciled. There is a finality about Hosea's vision, as though nothing could ever spoil it again.

In regards to substitutes in place of honest words of repentance there are some possibilities: good deeds, busyness in Christian service, perfect attendance at worship or Bible study, respectable appearance, money, and time.

As we have seen throughout Hosea, this passage is full of rich images. Here they practically burst with healthy, flourishing life. All these visions of prosperity and security are the results of God's care rather than the fruit of Israel's own efforts.

God's lavish promises are not meant to excuse sin. He still wants Israel to repent of their idolatry and worship him alone. Because he is just, he cannot ignore sin. Because he is merciful, he will forgive Israel when they turn back to him.



Contact

Address

Salendine Nook Baptist Church

Moor Hill Road

Salendine Nook

Huddersfield

West Yorkshire

HD3 3SF

Telephone - 01484 651845

Facebook - @SalendineNookBaptistChurch

Website - www.snbch.org.uk

Minister - minister@snbch.org.uk

Secretary - church.secretary@snbch.org.uk

Treasurer - treasurer@snbch.org.uk

Web Administrator - web.administrator@snbch.org.uk

Graphics and Media - snbch.media@snbch.org.uk

