

Hosea

A STUDY ON THE FAITHFUL LOVE OF GOD

Welcome To Hosea

Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the water rains, like spring rains that water the earth.

Hosea 6:3 NIV

Welcome to the women's Winter Bible Study of the book of Hosea! LifePoint's mission is to influence people to find and follow Jesus with the goal of becoming Christ-like influencers. A Christ-like influencer engages with God daily. But what does that look like? This study is designed to help you engage with God daily by leading you through the book of Hosea.

You are about to embark on a journey. A journey in the Old Testament, entering a time in biblical history where the once united kingdom of Israel had divided into two kingdoms, Israel and Judah. A journey through one of the most unexpected marriages, Hosea the prophet and Gomer the prostitute. And a journey through decades of God's people rebelling against Him spiritually, morally, and politically. Interwoven through this story of Hosea warning the people of their sin and God's just judgement is the steadfast love and restoration of God. He is forever faithful, despite the unfaithfulness of His people.

We can all relate to this story. We are all prone to wander and rebel, and as the hymn *Come Thou Fount* so rightly says, "prone to leave the God I love." But as we will see in the book of Hosea, God always longs for our return. His love is unfailing and never ending. Our prayer is that this Bible study of Hosea will deepen your love and relationship with the Lord and bring transformation to your life. We are so glad you are here. Let the journey begin!

Many blessings,

The Women's Bible Study Team

How To Study The Word Of God

OUR MISSION AND VISION :

Our mission is for participants to be active students in the study of the Bible through:

- Curriculum rooted in God's Word, designed to build first-hand knowledge of the text and spiritual growth for participants of all backgrounds.
- Guided conversation through Scripture within small groups.
- Sound teaching by teachers in the local church.

Our vision is to see women grow in their knowledge and love of God, be transformed by His Word, and become Christ-like influencers within the context of the larger community.

OUR METHOD :

This Bible study may look a little different than others you have done. Instead of looking at a particular topic, we will be spending seven weeks in one book of the Bible. Studying the book of Hosea from beginning to end will allow the topics introduce themselves. First, we will glean the background information so we can study Hosea in the proper context. We will need to answer some essential questions... Who wrote this? To whom was it written? When and why was it written?

Once context has been established, we will better positioned to enter into the study of Scripture. The study guide has been written to be just that, a guide through the book of Hosea. As you work through each day, you will gain first-hand knowledge of the text, meaning you will learn for yourself. While this may sound scary, it really isn't. The series of marking the text and answering questions are not written to be difficult, but to take you through three important stages of learning : comprehension, interpretation, and application.

Comprehension: What does the text say?

This stage of learning involves reading repetitively to gain familiarity with the text and looking for detail. For this study, the comprehension piece is labeled OBSERVATION in your study guide. In order to know what the text says, we must first see the text, and observation skills will help us do just that. We look for any words or phrases that are repeated. We look for key transition words (if/then, therefore, but) and see how they connect the text. We use a dictionary to look up definitions to words we may not

fully understand. Some observation questions will appear in the ANSWER section. Be sure to write out any questions that arise as you make observations because it is ok to have questions as you study. Hosea is a more challenging book of the Bible, and questions will arise, as they should. Also, be sure to take note of any attributes of God that you notice as you read.

Interpretation: What does the text mean?

This stage of learning involves implying things from the text beyond what it says. While it is easier to read a blog or listen to a sermon and get the answer, we want to use our own minds in this process. In this study, the interpretation questions are in the section labeled ANSWER. We do our best to answer, allowing scripture to interpret scripture. We look up cross references to better answer the question "what does this mean?"

Application: How should this change me?

While we are now looking at how to apply the text to ourselves, this stage of learning is drawn from a God-centered perspective. We ask questions like - What does this teach me about God? Is there an example to follow? Is there a sin to avoid? Is there a promise to claim? While it more natural for us to look at others and how the text would apply to them, we must apply the text to ourselves first and foremost. It is only after our own personal application that we are equipped to share how it works in the lives of others.

A Table Of Contents

CONTEXT	6
WEEK 1: THE MARRIAGE	9
WEEK 2: THE LOVERS AND THE LOVER	15
WEEK 3: ACKNOWLEDGE AND RETURN	29
WEEK 4: FICKLE AND FAITHLESS	43
WEEK 5: WANDERING AND RETURNING	57
WEEK 6: LOOK BACK AND LEARN	71
WEEK 7: THE WAY HOME	85
APPENDIX A: PROPHETS OF ISREAL	96
APPENDIX B: KINGS OF ISRAEL	97
APPENDIX C:	98
APPENDIX D: ATTRIBUTES OF GOD	99
APPENDIX E: MAP (CITIES OF ISRAEL & JUDAH)	100

Context

Where Hosea Fits in The Story of the Bible

Genesis	Adam & Eve - Creation and Fall Abraham - Isaac - Jacob Israel is set apart to make God known among the nations A famine leads Jacob's family to Egypt
Exodus	Israelites in slavery in Egypt for 400 years God sends 10 plagues on the Egyptians Moses delivers them from slavery Mt. Sinai - 10 Commandments & Tabernacle
Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	The law given and explained God teaches His people how to worship in the tabernacle The Israelites unbelief led to their wandering in the desert for 40 years Instruction for future generations and entering the promised land
Joshua	Joshua leads Israel into the promise land of Canaan
Judges	The people don't wipe out all of the inhabitants as commanded Co-inhabit the land and influenced by foreign nations The beginning of a downward spiral into sin and evil God delivered His people through the leadership of judges
1&2 Samuel	Israel asks for a king so they can be like the other nations First two kings - David and Saul
1&2 Kings 1&2 Chronicles	A record of the kings following Saul and David Downward spiral continues (Solomon - Rehoboam - Jeroboam) Nation splits in two : Judah and Israel Exile (Assyrian, Babylonian, Persian)

Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi	<p>Hosea ("salvation") <i>Prophet - A spokesman of God, spoke in God's name and by God's authority</i></p> <p>The book of Hosea is a collection of prophecies that were spoken by Hosea to the people of Israel (northern kingdom) around 755 BC to 714 BC. This is not one message spoken at one time, but several messages within a span of decades.</p> <p>Hosea began his ministry when Israel is economically prosperous but continuing on a spiritual and moral decline. Israel continues to worship idols and oppress the poor. Hosea is calling God's people back to their covenant with God and warns of judgement (exile) to follow if they don't return to God.</p> <p>What sets Hosea apart from the other prophets is that his message was a very personal one. God told him to marry Gomer, a woman who would be unfaithful. Not only was Hosea told to marry Gomer, but he was to love her and go after her in the midst of her adultery. Hosea's personal life would be an illustration of God's steadfast love for His people.</p>
Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Historical books Remnant of Israel returns to their homeland after Exile

Week 1

The Marriage

Hosea 1 - 1:9

The book of Hosea opens with a narrative, the very personal story of Hosea and his family. God gives Hosea an unsettling command. God asks Hosea to marry Gomer, a woman who will be unfaithful to him. This marriage will be a symbol of Israel's unfaithfulness of to the Lord.

This section is the first of five cycles of Israel's sin, followed by God's judgement and future restoration. The children born to Gomer have names that carry significance of Israel's rebellion and God's judgement. But just as God promises to judge, he also promises mercy. While we will be stopping in the middle of the story in this introduction, next week we will see that the judgement behind the children's names are not the final word. God will point to His faithful love and the restoration of His people.

INTRODUCTION

READ

HOSEA 1:1-9

¹ The word of the Lord that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel:

² When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord." ³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ Then the Lord said to Hosea, "Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. ⁵ In that day I will break Israel's bow in the Valley of Jezreel."

⁶ Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, "Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means "not loved"), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. ⁷ Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the Lord their God, will save them." ⁸ After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. ⁹ Then the Lord said, "Call him Lo-Ammi (which means "not my people"), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Judah, Israel

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

Underline the **related words** in red : promiscuous, adulterous, unfaithfulness

FOR THIS SECTION :

Put a box around the following **names** : Hosea, Gomer, Jezreel

Underline the **repeated phrase** : "The word of the Lord that came" / "The Lord said"

Double underline **the place** : Valley of Jezreel

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the cause **words** in green : because

Circle the contrast **words** in green : yet, but

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for, that

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

ANSWER

When did God speak to Hosea? (**Hosea 1:1**) _____

Use **Hosea 1:1** and the timeline it provides to help you fill in the chart.

KINGS of JUDAH	YEARS RULED	KINGS of ISRAEL	YEARS RULED

Who did God tell Hosea to marry? How is she described? (**Hosea 1:2**) _____

What was God illustrating in the marriage of Hosea and Gomer? (**Hosea 1:2**) _____

Fill out the chart below. (**Hosea 1:4-9**)

NAME	MEANING

Why would God choose such names for these children? What was God trying to communicate? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

Fill out Appendix C in the back of your study.

NOTES

Week 2

The Lovers and the Lover

Hosea 1:10 - 3:5

Last week, we were introduced to Hosea's family and the beginning of first cycle of sin, judgement, and restoration. This week, we will complete the first cycle that began at the introduction to the study, and go through the second cycle of sin, judgement, and restoration as the story continues. Gomer leaves her husband and goes after other lovers, whom she is convinced provide for her. Gomer, the runaway wife and mother, continues to be a picture of Israel running away from God. God's judgement will follow their sin, but His love is relentless. Just as Hosea is sent to love his wayward wife and buy her back, God will do the the same for His people.

DAY 1

READ

Reread **Hosea 1:1-9** then read the following.

HOSEA 1:10 - 2:1

¹⁰ "Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'children of the living God.' ¹¹ The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel. 1 "Say of your brothers, 'My people,' and of your sisters, 'My loved one.'

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Israelites, Judah

FOR THIS SECTION :

Put a box around the following **name** : Jezreel

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the contrast **words** in green : yet

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

ANSWER

Read **Genesis 22:15-18** and **Genesis 32:11-12**. What promise did God make to Abraham and Jacob that continued to hold true and was continuing to be fulfilled regardless of Israel's unfaithfulness? According to **Hosea 1:10**, would this happen now to the Israelites? _____

What names are changed in **Hosea 1:10 - 2:1**? _____

Read **John 1:10-13**. How do we become children of God? _____

Take a minute and look at the timeline. (Appendix A) If both kingdoms will eventually be exiled, how will they come together? Who is the leader God is referring to? (**Ephesians 1:22** may help you with the answer.) _____

In **Hosea 1:4**, the name Jezreel depicts divine judgement. In **Hosea 1:11**, it represents the scattering, as when a farmer plants seeds. This would represent a new day and a new relationship between God and Israel. What other names were changed in **Hosea 2:1**? How does this reflect a change of status, character, and destiny? Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Grace is defined as the unmerited or undeserved favor of God. God's grace towards the Israelites was to bring His restoration and blessing to them, even though they turned their backs on God and didn't deserve it. How has God shown you His grace recently? _____

How has beginning a relationship with God changed you, your character, and your destiny? _____

DAY 2

READ

Reread **Hosea 1-2:1** then read the following.

HOSEA 2:2-8

² "Rebuke your mother, rebuke her, for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband. Let her remove the adulterous look from her face and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts. ³ Otherwise I will strip her naked and make her as bare as on the day she was born; I will make her like a desert, turn her into a parched land, and slay her with thirst. ⁴ I will not show my love to her children, because they are the children of adultery. ⁵ Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, 'I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.' ⁶ Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way. ⁷ She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will say, 'I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.' ⁸ She has not acknowledged that I was the one who gave her the grain, the new wine and oil, who lavished on her the silver and gold— which they used for Baal.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Circle the repeated phrase in orange : "I will"

Underline the related words in red : adulterous/adultery, unfaithful/unfaithfulness

Circle the key word in blue : go back

FOR THIS SECTION :

Draw an X over the word : Baal

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the cause word in green : because

Circle the **contrast** word in green : but

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for, so that

Put a green box around the **inference** word : therefore

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : as

WRITE THE DEFINITION.

REBUKE : _____

Baal is first introduced to us in is first introduced in **Hosea 2:8**, but will continue to be mentioned throughout Hosea. Baal was the most popular Canaanite gods, Baal idols were often made in the shape of a bull, representing strength and fertility and reflecting lust for power and sexual pleasure. Baal worship corrupted the worship of God. (**1 Kings 16:29**) The plural form "Baals" is used for multiple shrines where Baal was worshiped.

ANSWER

In this section, God is speaking to Israel, while using the marriage of Hosea and Gomer as an illustration. Why is Gomer being rebuked? (**Hosea 2:2**) _____

What was the purpose of blocking her path? (**Hosea 2:6**) _____

When will she go back to her husband? (**Hosea 2:7**) _____

Who provided for Gomer? To whom did she give the credit? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Gomer's sin was unfaithfulness. What does unfaithfulness for the believer look like? See **James 4:4** and **1 John 2:15-16** to help you with your answer. _____

Read **Hosea 2:5** again. This is a list of both daily needs and pleasures. Food and water are essential for survival. Wool was fabric to keep warm in the winter and flax was fabric to keep cool in the summer. Oil and drink were pleasures. Gomer was looking to her lovers to supply her needs and pleasures. Where do you turn for your needs and pleasures? _____

Has the Lord ever blocked your path? What did that look like? What was your response? _____

DAY 3

READ

Reread **Hosea 2:2-8** then read the following.

HOSEA 2:9-13

⁹ “Therefore I will take away my grain when it ripens, and my new wine when it is ready. I will take back my wool and my linen, intended to cover her naked body. ¹⁰ So now I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers; no one will take her out of my hands. ¹¹ I will stop all her celebrations: her yearly festivals, her New Moons, her Sabbath days—all her appointed festivals. ¹² I will ruin her vines and her fig trees, which she said were her pay from her lovers; I will make them a thicket, and wild animals will devour them. ¹³ I will punish her for the days she burned incense to the Baals; she decked herself with rings and jewelry, and went after her lovers, but me she forgot,” declares the Lord.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : “I will”

FOR THIS SECTION :

Draw an X over the word : Baals

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Put a green box around the **inference** word : therefore

WRITE THE DEFINITION.

LEWDNESS : _____

ANSWER

What is the “therefore” connecting in **Hosea 2:8** and **2:9**? In other words, why was the grain and new wine being taken away? _____

Underline the repeated word “my” in **Hosea 2:9**. Look back at **Hosea 2:5**. What do you see in comparing the two verses? _____

Circle and write down the verbs used after the phrase “I will”. _____

What do the above words tell you about the consequences for sin? _____

Read **Deuteronomy 32:49**. Who was their land from? Who were they giving credit to for their land? (**Hosea 2:11**) _____

Who did she go after? Who did she forget? _____

Summarize this section in one sentence. _____

APPLY

Gomer did not realize that Hosea had given her all that she owned and needed, just as Israel failed to recognize that God had given them all they had. Read **James 1:17**. Who gives every good gift? Do you recognize God as the Giver or do you tend to give credit to yourself and/or others for what you have? _____

Have you ever felt forgotten by others? How do you think God felt to be forgotten by His people? _____

DAY 4

READ

Reread **Hosea 2:9-13** and then read the following.

HOSEA 2:14-23

¹⁴ "Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her.
¹⁵ There I will give her back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. There she will respond as in the days of her youth, as in the day she came up out of Egypt. ¹⁶ "In that day," declares the Lord, "you will call me 'my husband'; you will no longer call me 'my master.' ¹⁷ I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips; no longer will their names be invoked. ¹⁸ In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle I will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety. ¹⁹ I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. ²⁰ I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord. ²¹ "In that day I will respond," declares the Lord — "I will respond to the skies, and they will respond to the earth; ²² and the earth will respond to the grain, the new wine and the olive oil, and they will respond to Jezreel. ²³ I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called 'Not my loved one.' I will say to those called 'Not my people,' 'You are my people'; and they will say, 'You are my God.'

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

FOR THIS SECTION :

Underline the **repeated phrase** : "In that day"

Circle the **key words**: hope, covenant, acknowledge

Put a box around the **name** : Jezreel

Draw an X over the word : Baals

KEY TRANSITION WORDS

Put a green box around the **inference** word : therefore

Color in the **explanation** word in green : so that

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like, as

WRITE THE DEFINITION.

COVENANT : _____

ANSWER

What is the “therefore” connecting in **Hosea 2:13** and **2:14**? In other words, why is she being led into the wilderness? _____

Achor means “trouble”. **Joshua 7** gives the account of Achan sinning by keeping the forbidden war plunder from Jericho. This brought trouble to Joshua’s troops as they were trying to conquer the land. According to **Hosea 2:15**, how will God change their trouble? What will it become? _____

Hosea 2:15 is recalling “the day she came up out of Egypt”. This would be very familiar to the original hearers. God had delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and parted the Red Sea so that they walked through on dry ground. Read **Exodus 14:31** and **Exodus 15:1-21**. What was their response? _____

In spite of Israel’s continued unfaithfulness, God still desires a covenant relationship (marriage) with His people. What words are used to describe the betrothal here? Circle these key words, they are attributes of God that we want to pay attention to. (**Hosea 2:19-20**) _____

What is the response to the betrothal? (**Hosea 2:20**) _____

How do the verbs in this section differ from the verbs in **Hosea 2:9-13**? _____

Read **Hosea 2:23** and then look back at **Hosea 1:10**. How do these verses compare? What do they convey? _____

What pattern do you notice in God’s message to Hosea? According to today’s verses, where is Israel in this pattern? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

When is a time that God has turned your time of trouble into a time of hope? Journal it below. _____

On day 2 (**Hosea 2:9-13**), God had some harsh words, but was He finished with her yet? Is all lost when you sin? What does this tell you about God’s heart towards you? _____

Did you know that God uses **Hosea 2:23** in reference to you? Read **Romans 9:25-26** and write what God says about you. _____

DAY 5

READ

HOSEA 3:1-5

¹ The Lord said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." ² So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. ³ Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you." ⁴ For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵ Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Israelites

Underline the **related words** in red : adulteress, prostitute

Circle the **key word** in blue : return

FOR THIS SECTION :

Underline the **repeated word** : love

Underline the **repeated phrase** : "The Lord said"

Circle the **key word** : seek

Draw an X over the word : gods

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the **contrast** word in green : though

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : as

ANSWER

What did God command Hosea to do? (**Hosea 3:1**) _____

How was Hosea to love Gomer? What was God revealing through this command? (**Hosea 3:1**) _____

What did Hosea ask of Gomer? Was this request one sided or mutual? (**Hosea 3:3**) _____

Use the box below to describe how Hosea and Gomer's relationship parallels with God and Israel's relationship.

HOSEA & GOMER	GOD & ISRAEL

Hosea bought back Gomer before she promised to be faithful. Read **Romans 5:8**. How is Hosea a foreshadowing of Jesus? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

What theme do you notice from the text this week? What characteristics (attributes) of God were most visible to you? Fill out your answers in *Appendix C*. _____

APPLY

As a believer, what is your relationship to Christ? **2 Corinthians 11:1-2** may help with your answer. _____

As a believer, what does faithfulness look like? Use your own words and Scripture to help you. If you have been in the James or Ephesians study, you may remember some verses in those books that can answer this question. (**Ephesians 4:4, Ephesians 5:18-33**) _____

NOTES

Week 3

Acknowledge and Return

Hosea 4 - 6:3

Last week, we watched Gomer leave her husband, just as Israel has done to God. This week will be the third cycle of sin, judgement, and restoration. We will be like witnesses in a courtroom, as God has specific accusations to make against His people. None are innocent in this case, God even charges the priests and kings with being unfaithful. All have failed to acknowledge the Lord and all lack understanding. This leads to the continued downward spiral of worshipping other gods, cult prostitution, poor leadership, and forging reckless foreign alliances. God mentions specific cities to both remind and warn them of their sinful ways. Here, we will see God's judgement and mercy. God brings judgement so that His people will return to Him. It is with Him that they will find restoration. It with God that we, too, find healing and restoration. Let us press on to know the Lord!

DAY 1

READ

HOSEA 4:1-11

¹ Hear the word of the Lord, you Israelites, because the Lord has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. ² There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. ³ Because of this the land dries up, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea are swept away. ⁴ "But let no one bring a charge, let no one accuse another, for your people are like those who bring charges against a priest. ⁵ You stumble day and night, and the prophets stumble with you. So I will destroy your mother— ⁶ my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.

⁷ The more priests there were, the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their glorious God for something disgraceful. ⁸ They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness. ⁹ And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds. ¹⁰ "They will eat but not have enough; they will engage in prostitution but not flourish, because they have deserted the Lord to give themselves ¹¹ to prostitution; old wine and new wine take away their understanding.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israelites

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

Underline the **related words** in red : prostitution

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key words** in this section : faithfulness, love, prophets

Circle the **repeated word** in this section : acknowledgement/knowledge, priests

Underline the **repeated phrase** : "Hear the word of the Lord"

Draw an X over the word : sin/sins/sinned

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the **cause** words in green : because

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

WRITE THE DEFINITION.

FAITHFUL / FAITHFULNESS : _____

ANSWER

Who is Hosea speaking to? (**Hosea 4:1**) _____

What is there none of "in the land"? (**Hosea 4:1**) _____

What did this lead to? (**Hosea 4:2**) _____

What will be the consequence of these actions? (**Hosea 4:3**) _____

What do the people "lack"? What will be the result? (**Hosea 4:6**) _____

What do you notice from the repeated word acknowledgement/knowledge in this section? _____

Read **Exodus 20:1-17**. This is the law that God gave his people through Moses on Mt. Sinai. What do you see to be the result for ignoring the law? _____

Read **Hosea 4:7-11**. Who specifically is sinning? Does this surprise you? _____

What is the spiritual condition of God's people? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Knowledge of God (or lack of it) seems to be at the root of their sin. Do you know that God wants you to know Him?

- How would you describe your knowledge of God and His word?
- How can you grow in your knowledge of God?
- What are some practical steps you can take to help your family to grow in knowledge of God, too?

Sadly, even the priests had turned against God. This can happen today even in the church. Take some time to pray for the women and men that lead you. Pray that they would continue to remain faithful to God and to the study of his Word. Write a prayer below and commit to pray for them throughout this study. _____

DAY 2

READ

Reread **Hosea 4:1-11**

HOSEA 4:12-19

¹² My people consult a wooden idol, and a diviner's rod speaks to them. A spirit of prostitution leads them astray; they are unfaithful to their God. ¹³ They sacrifice on the mountaintops and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar and terebinth, where the shade is pleasant. Therefore your daughters turn to prostitution and your daughters-in-law to adultery. ¹⁴ "I will not punish your daughters when they turn to prostitution, nor your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery, because the men themselves consort with harlots and sacrifice with shrine prostitutes—a people without understanding will come to ruin! ¹⁵ "Though you, Israel, commit adultery, do not let Judah become guilty." "Do not go to Gilgal; do not go up to Beth Aven. And do not swear, 'As surely as the Lord lives!'

¹⁶ The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn heifer. How then can the Lord pasture them like lambs in a meadow? ¹⁷ Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone! ¹⁸ Even when their drinks are gone, they continue their prostitution; their rulers dearly love shameful ways. ¹⁹ A whirlwind will sweep them away, and their sacrifices will bring them shame.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Israelites/Ephraim/Judah

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

Underline the **related words** in red : prostitution, unfaithful, adultery

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **repeated word** : sacrifice(s)

Put an X through the word : idol(s), shrine prostitutes

Double underline the **place** : Gilgal, Beth Aven

KEY TRANSITION WORDS

Underline the **cause** words in green : because

Put a green box around the **inference** word : therefore

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like, as

Ephraim is first mentioned in **Hosea 4:17** and will become a key figure in Hosea. Ephraim is another name for Israel, the northern kingdom. Ephraim was the most powerful of the ten tribes in the north. Some commentators suggest that Ephraim may have been the only tribe left in the northern kingdom at this time because of Assyrian invasion. Either way, Ephraim is used as a reference to Israel. The southern kingdom was called Judah after its most powerful tribe.

ANSWER

Read **Hosea 1:2**. What continues to be the root sin of the people? (**Hosea 4:12**) _____

How are the people showing their unfaithfulness? (**Hosea 4:12-13**) What commandments are the people breaking? (Read **Exodus 20:4-6** to help you with this answer.) _____

Why won't the daughters be punished? (**Hosea 4:14**) _____

Fill in the blank. (**Hosea 4:14**) _____

"A people without _____ will come to ruin."

How does this verse tie back to **Hosea 4: 1-11**? _____

We will learn more about Gilgal in the coming weeks. For now, read **Hosea 9:15**. What does this tell you about why God warns them not to go there? _____

Beth Aven means "house of wickedness". This is referring to Bethel, a the city that was called "house of God". Based on what you have read today, how could Bethel now be a "house of wickedness"? _____

What is Israel compared to in **Hosea 4:16**? Why? _____

What will bring them shame? (**Hosea 4:19**) Why? (You can also look back to **4:12**.) _____

Read **Malachi 2:1-8**. What is the priest's calling and responsibility? Note what you learn. _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Sin can have a ripple effect because it affects those around us. Take some time to pray and reflect on how your sin may be affecting others. Do you talk negatively about others or gossip? Do you complain? Do you argue or struggle with anger? How could this be affecting others or leading them into sin as they watch and follow you? Remember, ultimately who is our sin against? _____

The Lord wants to pasture His people (including us) "like lambs in a meadow." Take some time to read and meditate on **Psalms 23**. Are you allowing the Lord to take care of you in the loving way He desires? In what ways are you being stubborn? _____

DAY 3

READ

HOSEA 5:1-7

¹ "Hear this, you priests! Pay attention, you Israelites! Listen, royal house! This judgment is against you: You have been a snare at Mizpah, a net spread out on Tabor. ² The rebels are knee-deep in slaughter. I will discipline all of them. ³ I know all about Ephraim; Israel is not hidden from me. Ephraim, you have now turned to prostitution; Israel is corrupt. ⁴ "Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the Lord.

⁵ Israel's arrogance testifies against them; the Israelites, even Ephraim, stumble in their sin; Judah also stumbles with them. ⁶ When they go with their flocks and herds to seek the Lord, they will not find him; he has withdrawn himself from them. ⁷ They are unfaithful to the Lord; they give birth to illegitimate children. When they celebrate their New Moon feasts, he will devour their fields.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Israelites/Ephraim, Judah

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

Underline the **related words** in red : prostitution, unfaithful

Circle the **key word** in blue : return

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key word** : judgement, acknowledge, seek

Draw an X over the word : sin

Double underline the **places** : Mizpah, Tabor

ANSWER

What groups of people is the judgement against? (**Hosea 5:1**) _____

Based on yesterday's reading, what might you assume is happening in Mizpah and Tabor that make these cities a "snare" and "net"? _____

What does God say He will do with the rebels? (**Hosea 5:2**) _____

Read **Hebrews 12:5-11**. Who does God discipline? What does discipline produce? (Mark son and discipline in your Bible.) _____

Look at the word you circled in **Hosea 5:4**. How does this tie back to what you learned in **chapter 4:1-11**? _____

Who is now stumbling with Ephraim? _____

Read **Psalms 24:3-4**. Why would their deeds not allow them to return? _____

Why would God withdraw from them? (**Proverbs 1:28-33** may help you with your answer.) _____

Read **Hosea 5:7**. What does God say He will do? How is this similar to **Hosea 2:11-12**? _____

What do you see to be the ongoing theme the Lord is pointing to? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Read **1 John 2:15-17**. What are some of the enslaving deeds today that keep people from turning to God? Is there anything keeping you from turning to God? _____

Hosea 5:5 says that "Israel's arrogance testifies against them". Read **Proverbs 16:18**. Is there any pride in your life? What will your pride lead to? Name the places pride has crept in and pray for humility. Be encouraged, **Proverbs 3:4** tells us that God "gives grace to the humble." _____

The enemy would like us to believe we are guilty and enslaved forever, but is this the case? _____

What truth does **John 8:34-36** tell us? _____

Read **Romans 6:6-18**. What is your position in Christ? What is your responsibility? _____

DAY 4

READ

Reread **Hosea 5:1-7** then read the following.

HOSEA 5:8-15

⁸ "Sound the trumpet in Gibeah, the horn in Ramah. Raise the battle cry in Beth Aven; lead on, Benjamin. ⁹ Ephraim will be laid waste on the day of reckoning. Among the tribes of Israel I proclaim what is certain. ¹⁰ Judah's leaders are like those who move boundary stones. I will pour out my wrath on them like a flood of water. ¹¹ Ephraim is oppressed, trampled in judgment, intent on pursuing idols. ¹² I am like a moth to Ephraim, like rot to the people of Judah. ¹³ "When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his sores, then Ephraim turned to Assyria, and sent to the great king for help. But he is not able to cure you, not able to heal your sores. ¹⁴ For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, like a great lion to Judah. I will tear them to pieces and go away; I will carry them off, with no one to rescue them. ¹⁵ Then I will return to my lair until they have borne their guilt and seek my face—in their misery they will earnestly seek me."

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Ephraim, Judah

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

Circle the **key word** in blue : return

FOR THIS SECTION :

Put a box around the **name** : Benjamin

Circle the key words : judgement, return

Circle the **repeated word** : seek

Draw an X over the word : idols

Double underline the **places** : Gibeah, Ramah, Beth Aven, Assyria

KEY TRANSITION WORDS

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

ANSWER

Look up **Amos 3:6**. From reading this, what would the sound of the trumpet bring to the people? _____

Jump ahead to **Hosea 9:9** and record what you learn about Gibeah. Look back at **Hosea 4:15** to remember what you learned about Beth Aven. What can you assume about Ramah from this context?

What were the leaders doing? (**Hosea 5:10**) What does **Deuteronomy 19:14** have to say about this? _____

Who do the people turn to for help? Why would this be a bad idea? (**Hosea 5:13**) _____

God describes himself as a great lion. What does this metaphor show you about God's desire for his people to be faithful to Him? _____

What does the repetitive word in **Hosea 5:15** tell you that God desires from His people? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Psalms 16:5-6 says, "Lord, you have assigned my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance." How can you live out this truth that the boundaries the Lord has given you are pleasant? _____

Hosea 5:11 says that they are "intent on pursuing idols." An idol is anything we set our hearts on in place of God. What modern day "idols" are you prone to run after? _____

During the reigns of Manaham and Hoshea, Israel went to the Assyrian king (Tiglath Pileser III) for help. (**2 Kings 15:19, 20** and **2 Kings 17:3, 4**) Who/what do you put your trust in instead of God? Who/what do you depend upon for help, security, comfort and provision? _____

DAY 5

READ

HOSEA 6:1-3

¹ “Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. ³ Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : “he will”

Circle the **key word** in blue : return

FOR THIS SECTION :

Underline the **repeated phrase** : “let us”

Circle the **repeated word** : acknowledge

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

Color in the **explanation** word in green : that

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like, as

ANSWER

What is the command to Israel in **Hosea 6:1**? _____

How does this differ from what you've read on days 2-4? _____

What does it mean to return to the Lord? (**Lamentations 3:40, Joel 2:12-13**) _____

Read **Hosea 5:14-15** and then look at **Hosea 6:1-3**. Was God finished with them? What truths do you see revealed from the previous judgements? _____

What is the exhortation in **Hosea 6:3**? How does this connect with what you already know about the Israelites and what they were failing to do? _____

Write down the verbs following the "he will" statements. What do you notice? (**Hosea 6:1-3**) _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

What theme do you notice from the text this week? What characteristics (attributes) of God were most visible to you? Fill out your answers in *Appendix C*. _____

APPLY

Are there any areas of your life where you need to return to the Lord? Pray for this specific area and anyone you know that may need to return as well. _____

Read **Philippians 3:10-16**. How does this relate to **Hosea 6:3**? What encouragement and challenge do you find in these verses? _____

As you continue in your study of Hosea, you are growing in your knowledge and understanding of God. We are so proud of your hard work! Keep going, and pray that God teaches you who he is so that you can know him more and walk in his ways. _____

NOTES

Week 4

Fickle and Faithless

Hosea 6:4 - 8:14

Last week, we saw that in spite of Israel's sin and stubbornness, God desires for them to know Him and return to Him. This week, we will begin the fourth cycle of sin, judgement, and restoration. Both Israel and Judah continue to break their covenant with God by worshipping idols and linking arms with Assyria and Egypt. Hosea uses a lot of imagery to describe the condition of their hearts and the judgement to come. Remember that while these metaphors might be new to us, they were very familiar to Hosea's original audience. We will dive into the meaning of this imagery to better understand who God is and what He desires.

DAY 1

READ

HOSEA 6:4-10

⁴ “What can I do with you, Ephraim? What can I do with you, Judah? Your love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears. ⁵ Therefore I cut you in pieces with my prophets, I killed you with the words of my mouth—then my judgments go forth like the sun. ⁶ For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings. ⁷ As at Adam, they have broken the covenant; they were unfaithful to me there. ⁸ Gilead is a city of evildoers, stained with footprints of blood. ⁹ As marauders lie in ambush for a victim, so do bands of priests; they murder on the road to Shechem, carrying out their wicked schemes. ¹⁰ I have seen a horrible thing in Israel: There Ephraim is given to prostitution, Israel is defiled.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Ephraim, Judah

Underline the **related words** in red : unfaithful, prostitution

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key words** : love, prophets, mercy, acknowledgement, covenant, priests

Double underline the **places** : Adam, Gilead, Shechem,

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Color in the **explanation word** in green : for

Put a green box around the **inference word** : therefore

Circle the **comparison words** in yellow : like, as, so do

WRITE THE DEFINITION.

MERCY : _____

DEFILE: _____

ANSWER

How is Ephraim and Judah's love described? (**Hosea 6:4**) How does this differ from the steadfast love of God we have seen so far in this study? _____

God used prophets as a megaphone to deliver messages to His people. According to **verse 5**, what kind of messages were the prophets delivering? Why? (Look at the "therefore", this will help you understand why.) _____

Read **Hosea 6:6**. What does God desire? Why would He need to tell them this? _____

Read **Matthew 9:9-13**. What is the context for Jesus quoting **Hosea 6:6**? What was Jesus trying to communicate here? _____

What was broken? (**Hosea 6:7**) What will be the result of this? Read **Deuteronomy 28:36-37** to help you with your answer. _____

Gilead was once a sacred place. According to **verse 9**, what is it now? _____

Read **Joshua 20:1-2**. What kind of city was Shechem? Why would people go there? What does **verse 9** tell you is happening as people go to this city? _____

Who is being accused of unfaithfulness again in **Hosea 6:9**? Who are they compared to? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Micah was a contemporary prophet to Hosea. Read **Micah 6:6-8**. What does God require? How can you live this out? _____

Let's look at ourselves and ask some tough questions. How do you live your life? Do you go through the motions of going to church (which is a good thing) but then live in a way that is contrary to honoring God? Is there inconsistency with what you say and how you behave? Write below what the Lord is revealing that needs to change. _____

DAY 2

READ

Reread **Hosea 6:1-10** and then read the following.

HOSEA 6:11-7:7

¹¹ "Also for you, Judah, a harvest is appointed. Whenever I would restore the fortunes of my people, ¹ whenever I would heal Israel, the sins of Ephraim are exposed and the crimes of Samaria revealed. They practice deceit, thieves break into houses, bandits rob in the streets; ² but they do not realize that I remember all their evil deeds. Their sins engulf them; they are always before me. ³ They delight the king with their wickedness, the princes with their lies.

⁴ They are all adulterers, burning like an oven whose fire the baker need not stir from the kneading of the dough till it rises. ⁵ On the day of the festival of our king the princes become inflamed with wine, and he joins hands with the mockers. ⁶ Their hearts are like an oven; they approach him with intrigue. Their passion smolders all night; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire. ⁷ All of them are hot as an oven; they devour their rulers. All their kings fall, and none of them calls on me.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Judah, Israel/Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I would"

Underline the **related words** in red : adulterers

FOR THIS SECTION :

Draw an X over the word : sins

Double underline the **places** : Samaria

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like, as

ANSWER

This “appointed harvest” is a warning of destruction for Judah. Based on the timeline and what you already know about Judah from **Hosea 4:15, 5:1, and 5:10-11**, why would they need this warning? _____

Write down what crimes Ephraim is being accused of in **verse 1**? Read **Genesis 12:2-3**. Was Israel acting as the blessing that God had in mind when He made this promise to Abraham? _____

According to **Hosea 7:2**, what are they failing to realize about God? _____

Read **Hosea 7:4-7**. The leaders are being compared to a hot oven. What does this mean? What do they desire? Read **2 Kings 15:8-26** to help you with your answer. _____

Read **Psalms 72:1-2, 6-7**. Do you see this evidenced by the kings of Israel? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

When you belong to God, can you sin and not be held accountable? Why or why not? _____

While this may have been a difficult section to read, remember that in Christ there is complete forgiveness of sin. Read **Isaiah 43:25**. Are you feeling shame from a past sin? How can this verse encourage you? _____

In what ways is your heart “hot as an oven”? Do you strive for power, control, or perfectionism? What could be causing this? Take time to confess this to the Lord. _____

DAY 3

READ

HOSEA 7:8-16

⁸ “Ephraim mixes with the nations; Ephraim is a flat loaf not turned over. ⁹ Foreigners sap his strength, but he does not realize it. His hair is sprinkled with gray, but he does not notice. ¹⁰ Israel’s arrogance testifies against him, but despite all this he does not return to the Lord his God or search for him. ¹¹ “Ephraim is like a dove, easily deceived and senseless—now calling to Egypt, now turning to Assyria. ¹² When they go, I will throw my net over them; I will pull them down like the birds in the sky. When I hear them flocking together, I will catch them. ¹³ Woe to them, because they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, because they have rebelled against me! I long to redeem them but they speak about me falsely. ¹⁴ They do not cry out to me from their hearts but wail on their beds. They slash themselves, appealing to their gods for grain and new wine, but they turn away from me. ¹⁵ I trained them and strengthened their arms, but they plot evil against me. ¹⁶ They do not turn to the Most High; they are like a faulty bow. Their leaders will fall by the sword because of their insolent words. For this they will be ridiculed in the land of Egypt.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : “I will”

Circle the **key word** in blue : return

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key word** : woe, redeem, Most High

Double underline the **places** : Egypt, Assyria

Put and X on the following : gods

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the **cause** word in green : because

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for

Circle the comparison words in yellow : like

WRITE THE DEFINITION :

REDEEM _____

ANSWER

Read **Hosea 7:8**. Ephraim is being compared to “a flat loaf not turned over” or half-baked bread. Who would represent the baker, the one(s) being negligent of the bread, or in this case, Ephraim?

How does **Hosea 7:10** relate to **Hosea 5:4-5**? _____

Read **Hosea 7:11-12**. What is Ephraim being compared to? Why? (Look at King Manahem on your timeline and read **2 Kings 15:19-20**.) _____

How do these verses relate to **Hosea 5:13**? _____

“Woe” is a threat of judgement. Why would God be threatening Ephraim? (**Hosea 7:13-14**) _____

Who did they pray to? What did these prayers look like? (**Hosea 7:13**) _____

What did God do for his people? What do the people fail to do? (**Hosea 7:15-16**) _____

What will be the consequence? (**Hosea 7:16**) _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Israel had mixed with the nations. They intermarried with foreign people, picking up their gods and way of life. **1 Corinthians 15:33** says “Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character.” Have you seen this true in your life? How can you influence others for Jesus, while not letting your convictions waiver? _____

God desires faithfulness. In what ways is God calling you to be faithful right now? _____

DAY 4

READ

HOSEA 8:1-6

¹ “Put the trumpet to your lips! An eagle is over the house of the Lord because the people have broken my covenant and rebelled against my law. ² Israel cries out to me, ‘Our God, we acknowledge you!’ ³ But Israel has rejected what is good; an enemy will pursue him. ⁴ They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval. With their silver and gold they make idols for themselves to their own destruction. ⁵ Samaria, throw out your calf-idol! My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity? ⁶ They are from Israel! This calf—a metalworker has made it; it is not God. It will be broken in pieces, that calf of Samaria.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key words** : covenant, law, acknowledge

Double underline the **place** : Samaria

Put an X through the following : idols, calf-idol/calf

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the **cause** word in green : because

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

ANSWER

How is the introduction in **Hosea 8:1** similar to **Hosea 5:8**? _____

Hosea 8:1 says, "an eagle is over the house of the Lord?" What does this mean? Is this a good or bad thing? Read **2 Kings 15:27-29** and look at your timeline to help you with your answer. _____

Go back to the following - **Hosea 4:1, 4:6,** and **5:4**. How do these relate to **Hosea 8:2-3**? _____

God has several complaints against the people. List what you see from these verses :

Hosea 8:1 _____

Hosea 8:2-3 _____

Hosea 8:4 _____

Why is God so angry at His people? (**Hosea 8:5-6**) _____

Go back and read **Hosea 7:13, 16**. According to these verses and today's reading, what do the people continue to do? What do they fail to do? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

God desires purity from His people. (**Hosea 8:5**) Read **Psalm 119:9-11** below. _____

"How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." _____

What are some practical ways to stay on the path of purity? _____

DAY 5

READ

HOSEA 8:7-14

⁷ “They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up. ⁸ Israel is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like something no one wants. ⁹ For they have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey wandering alone. Ephraim has sold herself to lovers. ¹⁰ Although they have sold themselves among the nations, I will now gather them together. They will begin to waste away under the oppression of the mighty king. ¹¹ “Though Ephraim built many altars for sin offerings, these have become altars for sinning. ¹² I wrote for them the many things of my law, but they regarded them as something foreign. ¹³ Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, and though they eat the meat, the Lord is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins: They will return to Egypt. ¹⁴ Israel has forgotten their Maker and built palaces; Judah has fortified many towns. But I will send fire on their cities that will consume their fortresses.”

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Ephraim, Judah

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : “I will”

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key word** : law, Maker

Draw an X over the word : sin(s)/sinning

Double underline the **place** : Assyria

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the **cause** words in green : because

Circle the **contrast** words in green : although, though, but

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

Altars were used in many religions, but for God’s people, altars were more than places of sacrifice. For them, altars symbolized communion with God and commemorated notable encounters with Him. They were built of rough stones and earth and often remained in place for years, even centuries, as continual reminders of God’s protection and promises. According to **Deuteronomy 12:11**, they were not suppose to have multiple altars, but one central place to worship.

When Jeroboam became king of Israel, the northern ten tribes, he set up golden calves in Bethel and Dan, because he was afraid of losing his kingship. He established feast days and false priests and made it easy for the Northern Kingdom to worship the idols as God, rather than taking the long trip to Jerusalem to worship God as He had commanded.

ANSWER

What was the name and meaning of Gomer's first child? (**Hosea 1:4**) How does this relate to what you read in **Hosea 8:7**? _____

According to what you know so far about Israel and Judah and today's reading, what are they sowing? Will this lead to fruitfulness or destruction? _____

Read **Hosea 8:7-14** again, then look at your timeline. Which invasion do you think this is speaking of? _____

What had the altars for sin offerings become? (**Hosea 8:11**) _____

Read **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**. What did God instruct them to do? What does it mean that the law, something that should be very familiar to them, has now become "foreign"? (**Hosea 8:12**) _____

Why would the Lord not be pleased with their sacrifices or rituals? Going back to **Hosea 6:6** will help you with your answer. _____

Who did Israel forget? (**Hosea 8:14**) How does this parallel to Gomer in her marriage to Hosea? (**Hosea 1-2**) _____

What has Judah done to protect themselves? Would this work? (**Hosea 8:14**) _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

What theme do you notice from the text this week? What characteristics (attributes) of God were most visible to you? Fill out your answers in *Appendix C*. _____

APPLY

The Israelites were sowing destruction and reaping it. Read **Galatians 5:6-8**. Are you in the pattern of sowing to please your sinful nature - sowing to what looks good, feels good, or gives you a sense of control and power? How can you practice sowing from the Spirit? _____

Ephraim was offering sacrifices and gifts to God, while still worshipping other idols. In what ways do you have one foot in each door, living for God but still chasing other idols? _____

NOTES

Week 5

Wandering and Returning

Hosea 9 - 11:11

The judgement continues this week. The idol worship that has consumed the land and the joining to foreign nations will be their downfall. Exile is in their future. Again, Hosea uses imagery to describe the people and their sin. We will explore what it means for Israel to be like grapes in the desert, a spreading vine, a trained heifer, and a child. Don't worry, we will conclude this week on a positive note, with God's love remaining and His people eventually returning to Him. God has "cords of kindness" and tender love for his people. He has the same for you!

DAY 1

READ

HOSEA 9:1-9

¹ Do not rejoice, Israel; do not be jubilant like the other nations. For you have been unfaithful to your God; you love the wages of a prostitute at every threshing floor. ² Threshing floors and wine presses will not feed the people; the new wine will fail them. ³ They will not remain in the Lord's land; Ephraim will return to Egypt and eat unclean food in Assyria. ⁴ They will not pour out wine offerings to the Lord, nor will their sacrifices please him. Such sacrifices will be to them like the bread of mourners; all who eat them will be unclean. This food will be for themselves; it will not come into the temple of the Lord.

⁵ What will you do on the day of your appointed festivals, on the feast days of the Lord? ⁶ Even if they escape from destruction, Egypt will gather them, and Memphis will bury them. Their treasures of silver will be taken over by briars, and thorns will overrun their tents. ⁷ The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand. Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired person a maniac. ⁸ The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman over Ephraim, yet snares await him on all his paths, and hostility in the house of his God. ⁹ They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel / Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

Underline the **related words** in red : unfaithful, prostitute

Circle the **key word** in blue : return

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key word** : prophet

Draw an X over the word : sins

Double underline **places** : Egypt, Assyria, Memphis, Gibeah

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the **cause** words in green : because

Circle the **contrast** words in green : yet

Underline the **condition** word in green : even if

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : as in

ANSWER

What are the Israelites being accused of again? (**Hosea 9:1**) _____

Often located at the top of a hill, a threshing floor was a flat area where harvesters would beat the wheat and separate it from the chaff. What was happening at the threshing floor? (**Hosea 9:1**) _____

A future famine is being foretold in **Hosea 9:2**. Without crops from the threshing floor and winepress, Israel would be without food. Would the Israelites then have a reason to rejoice and celebrate, as they are demonstrating in verse 1? What attitude should they have instead? _____

According to **Hosea 9:3-5** what will make them “unclean” in Assyria? _____

What is coming to the Israelites? (**Hosea 9:7**) What exactly will this look like for the Israelites? Look at your timeline (*Appendix A*) to help you. _____

The prophet is speaking to the people on behalf of God. Why are the prophets being called a fool? (**Hosea 9:7**) _____

How is the prophet (in this case Hosea) and God described in **Hosea 9:8**? What does this mean for Hosea and God’s people? (**Ezekiel 33:1-6** may help you with this.) _____

Hosea is comparing the nations corruption to “the days of Gibeah”. Read **Judges 19:16-30**. What happened in Gibeah? How does this description add to your understanding of the corruption of Israel? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Israel refused to listen to Hosea even though God had spoken through him to warn them about their sin and the consequences that would follow. Refusing to hear the truth is something we are all guilty of at some point in our lives. When have you ignored a warning that you needed to hear? Why? Who spoke it to you? What was your response? _____

DAY 2

READ

Reread **Hosea 9:1-9** and then read the following.

HOSEA 9:10-17

¹⁰ "When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your ancestors, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree. But when they came to Baal Peor, they consecrated themselves to that shameful idol and became as vile as the thing they loved.

¹¹ Ephraim's glory will fly away like a bird—no birth, no pregnancy, no conception. ¹² Even if they rear children, I will bereave them of every one. Woe to them when I turn away from them! ¹³ I have seen Ephraim, like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place. But Ephraim will bring out their children to the slayer."

¹⁴ Give them, Lord— what will you give them? Give them wombs that miscarry and breasts that are dry. ¹⁵ "Because of all their wickedness in Gilgal, I hated them there. Because of their sinful deeds, I will drive them out of my house. I will no longer love them; all their leaders are rebellious.

¹⁶ Ephraim is blighted, their root is withered, they yield no fruit. Even if they bear children, I will slay their cherished offspring." ¹⁷ My God will reject them because they have not obeyed him; they will be wanderers among the nations.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key word** : woe, love

Draw an X over the word : Baal Peor, idol, sinful

Double underline **places** : Baal Peor, Tyre, Gilgal

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the **cause** words in green : because

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

Underline the **condition** word in green : even if

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like, as

ANSWER

What metaphor does God use to describe Israel when he first found her? (**Hosea 9:10**) This metaphor gives us insight about God's feelings toward Israel. What are they? _____

Read **Numbers 25:1-3**. What happened at Baal Peor? (**Hosea 9:10**) _____

What is the resulting judgement? According to **Hosea 9:11**, will Ephraim continue to prosper? _____

Why does God pronounce another threat of judgment ("woe") on Ephraim? (**Hosea 9:12**) _____

Remember that Baal was a fertility God. The people were seeking idols to provide for their needs rather than God. How do you think the pronouncement of the punishment connects with the "crime" in **verses 11-12**? _____

In Hebrew, Ephraim sounds like the word "twice fruitful". The Israelites had gone to Baal for fruitfulness and fertility. According to **verses 11-16**, what will happen to their fertility and their offspring? Why? _____

What can we learn about Gilgal from **Joshua 4:19-24**? _____

Scripture doesn't reveal exactly what took this place from a place of honor to a place of evil, but what can you glean from **Hosea 4:15, 9:15, 12:11**, and **Amos 4:4**? _____

What will Ephraim become? Why? (**Hosea 9:17**) _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

We become what we behold. We take on the characteristics of what or whom we love. What do you behold? Are you becoming more like God or are you becoming more like someone or something else? _____

Israel has been prosperous. But in their prosperity, they turned from trusting in God and acknowledging that all they had came from Him. Today, what do we trust in and turn to for our prosperity? Growing stock market or growing economy? In what ways are you trusting in your own efforts of prosperity more than God? How can you make some practical changes to trust in God? _____

DAY 3

READ

HOSEA 10:1-10

¹ Israel was a spreading vine; he brought forth fruit for himself. As his fruit increased, he built more altars; as his land prospered, he adorned his sacred stones. ² Their heart is deceitful, and now they must bear their guilt. The Lord will demolish their altars and destroy their sacred stones. ³ Then they will say, "We have no king because we did not revere the Lord. But even if we had a king, what could he do for us?" ⁴ They make many promises, take false oaths and make agreements; therefore lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in a plowed field. ⁵ The people who live in Samaria fear for the calf-idol of Beth Aven. Its people will mourn over it, and so will its idolatrous priests, those who had rejoiced over its splendor, because it is taken from them into exile. ⁶ It will be carried to Assyria as tribute for the great king. Ephraim will be disgraced; Israel will be ashamed of its wooden idols. ⁷ Samaria's king will be destroyed, swept away like a twig on the surface of the waters. ⁸ The high places of wickedness will be destroyed—it is the sin of Israel. Thorns and thistles will grow up and cover their altars. Then they will say to the mountains, "Cover us!" and to the hills, "Fall on us!" ⁹ "Since the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, Israel, and there you have remained. Will not war again overtake the evildoers in Gibeah?" ¹⁰ When I please, I will punish them; nations will be gathered against them to put them in bonds for their double sin.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Judah, Israel/Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

FOR THIS SECTION :

Mark the **key words** : heart

Draw an X over the word : Beth Aven, idols/altars, sacred stones, sin/sinned

Double underline **places** : Beth Aven, Samaria, Assyria, Gibeah

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the **cause** words in green : because

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

Put a green box around the **inference** word : therefore

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

ANSWER

How does God describe Israel? (**Hosea 10:1**) _____

Read **Matthew 12:33**. What kind of vine was Israel? What "fruit" do you see from Israel?
(**Hosea 10:2-3**) _____

What do you notice about the character of the people in **Hosea 10:4**? How does this tie back to the condition of their heart in **Hosea 10:2**? _____

What is Israel worshipping? (**Hosea 10:5** and **8:5-6**) _____

What is the reaction of the people when it is given as a gift to the Assyrian king? (**Hosea 10:5**) _____

What does idol worship ultimately bring upon the people? (**Hosea 10:6-7**) _____

What are **Hosea 10:2** and **10:8** describing? _____

We learned this week on Day 1 what happened in Gibeah. What will God do there? (**Hosea 10:9-10**) .

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

What causes a deceitful heart we read about in **Hosea 10:2**? How can this lead us to forget God? How does a deceitful heart show itself? How does one with a deceitful heart behave? Consider these questions as you look at these verses:

Hosea 2:13 _____

Hosea 8:14 _____

Hosea 13:6 _____

Where are you on the continuum of having a deceitful heart that forgets God? Are you straying? In what ways? How can you return? _____

DAY 4

READ

Reread **Hosea 10:1-10** and then read the following.

HOSEA 10:11-15

¹¹ Ephraim is a trained heifer that loves to thresh; so I will put a yoke on her fair neck. I will drive Ephraim, Judah must plow, and Jacob must break up the ground. ¹² Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you. ¹³ But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception. Because you have depended on your own strength and on your many warriors, ¹⁴ the roar of battle will rise against your people, so that all your fortresses will be devastated—as Shalman devastated Beth Arbel on the day of battle, when mothers were dashed to the ground with their children. ¹⁵ So will it happen to you, Bethel, because your wickedness is great. When that day dawns, the king of Israel will be completely destroyed.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Judah, Israel/Ephraim/Jacob

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : “I will”

FOR THIS SECTION :

Mark the **key words** : righteousness, unfailing love

Draw an X over the word : Beth Arbel

Double **underline places** : Shalman, Beth Arbel, Bethel

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the **cause** words in green : because

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for, so that

ANSWER

How does God describe Ephraim? (**Hosea 10:11**) How does this contrast to the metaphor in **Hosea 4:16**? _____

What are they instructed to reap and sow in **Hosea 10:12**? _____

What has Israel been sowing and reaping? (**Hosea 10:13**) How is this similar to **Hosea 8:7-10**? _____

Who and what did Israel depend on? (**Hosea 10:13-15**) _____

What is Hosea's warning to Israel? (**Hosea 10:14-15**) _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Hosea 10:12 says, "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you." How can you implement this verse today? What does sowing righteousness look like practically? How are you seeking the Lord? _____

Read **Matthew 11:28-30**. What does Jesus say about His yoke? How can you find rest in Jesus? _____

Who or what do you depend on when you are in trouble? Do you depend on your own strength or your own skills? Do you depend on others in an unhealthy way? _____

DAY 5

READ

HOSEA 11:1-11

¹ “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. ³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. ⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them. ⁵ “Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent? ⁶ A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans. ⁷ My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.

⁸ “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.

⁹ I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man—the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities. ¹⁰ They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. ¹¹ They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes,” declares the Lord.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : “I will”

Circle the **key word** in blue : return, turn

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key words** : kindness, love, compassion, God Most High, Holy One

Draw an X over the word : Baals, images

Double underline **places** : Egypt, Assyria

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Underline the **cause** words in green : because

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but, even though

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

WRITE THE DEFINITION.

COMPASSION : _____

ANSWER

How does God describe Israel? (**Hosea 11:1-4**) Who would God be in this metaphor?

Deuteronomy 1:31 may help you. _____

Read **Matthew 2:13-15**. God delivered his people out of Egypt through Moses. How is this Scripture applied to Jesus? What is the comparison? _____

How is God's "parenting" described in **Hosea 11:1-4**? What did he do for them? How did they respond? _____

What will happen as a result of the determination of the people turning from God? (**Hosea 11:5-7**) _____

How would you describe God's heart in **Hosea 11:1-9**? _____

Compare **Hosea 5:14-6:3** and **Hosea 11:10-11**. How are these verses similar? How is God illustrated in these verses? _____

What is the atmosphere of this chapter? What emotions come to mind as you read it? Why? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

What theme do you notice from the text this week? What characteristics (attributes) of God were most visible to you? Fill out your answers in *Appendix C*. _____

APPLY

What do you learn about God and his character from today's reading? How does that encourage you? _____

How has God spoken to you personally from this chapter? _____

NOTES

Week 6

Look Back and Learn

Hosea 11:12 - 13:16

This begins our fifth and last cycle of sin, judgement, and restoration. This week, Hosea will remind the Israelites of their past. They will be reminded of Jacob, one of the patriarchs and the namesake of their nation. They will be reminded of their days of being brought out of Egypt and the God who delivered them from slavery. They will be reminded of the days that they asked for a king. All this is said to encourage them to learn from the past and not make the same mistakes. God demonstrates His unwavering faithfulness to them over hundreds of years. Like Hosea, He is the faithful husband who continues to love his unfaithful wife with an enduring love.

This week, God is trying to teach His people to learn from the past and not make the same mistakes. But will they?

DAY 1

READ

HOSEA 11:12-12:6

12 Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, Israel with deceit. And Judah is unruly against God, even against the faithful Holy One. ¹ Ephraim feeds on the wind; he pursues the east wind all day and multiplies lies and violence. He makes a treaty with Assyria and sends olive oil to Egypt. ² The Lord has a charge to bring against Judah; he will punish Jacob according to his ways and repay him according to his deeds. ³ In the womb he grasped his brother's heel; as a man he struggled with God. ⁴ He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor. He found him at Bethel and talked with him there—⁵ the Lord God Almighty, the Lord is his name! ⁶ But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Judah, Israel/Ephraim/Jacob

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "he will"

Circle the **key word** in blue : return

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key words** : faithful, love, Holy One, Lord God Almighty, covenant

Double underline the **places** : Assyria, Egypt, Bethel

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

ANSWER

What is God's charge against Ephraim/Israel and Judah? (**Hosea 11:12-12:1**) _____

What alliances is Ephraim depending on? (**Hosea 12:1**) _____

Read **Genesis 25: 21-26** and **Genesis 32:22-32**. What do you learn about Jacob in these verses? How is the nation of Israel like Jacob, deceitful with a will to win? _____

Read **Genesis 28:10-22** and **Genesis 35:1-7, 9-15**? What happened at Bethel? How has Bethel changed according to **Hosea 4:15, 10:5, and 13:2**? _____

Read **Genesis 32:22-32**. What was Jacob's name changed to? Why? _____

What must Israel do? (**Hosea 12:6**) _____

What two principles does Hosea call the nation to live by? (**Hosea 12:6**) Based on what you have learned in this study, are they keeping these principles? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

God describes Ephraim as one who is full of lies and deceit and Judah as one who is still faithful. How would you describe the difference between a person who lies and one who is faithful? What are they like? What are their relationships like? What is their confidence like? _____

How do we, as women, sometimes fall into the trap of lies and deceit with our family and/or friends? What changes is God nudging you to make to so you can walk in truth? _____

Ephraim went to Assyria, a superpower of the time, to buy her safety. In what ways do we take our life into our own hands rather than trusting God? Think of some areas—relationships, finances, etc. What would trusting God with those or other areas look like? _____

DAY 2

READ

Read **Hosea 11:12-12:6** and then read the following.

HOSEA 12:7-9

⁷ The merchant uses dishonest scales and loves to defraud. ⁸ Ephraim boasts, "I am very rich; I have become wealthy. With all my wealth they will not find in me any iniquity or sin."

⁹ "I have been the Lord your God ever since you came out of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, as in the days of your appointed festivals.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key words** : the Lord your God

Draw an X over the word : iniquity/sin

Double underline **place** : Egypt

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : as in

ANSWER

How is Israel portrayed in **Hosea 12:7**? _____

What does Ephraim think their wealth will cover? (**Hosea 12:8**) According to this verse, where is Ephraim putting his hope? _____

How does God identify himself in **Hosea 12:9**? _____

Read **Exodus 20:2** and **Leviticus 26:13**. The Israelites would be very familiar with this. Why do you think God would bring this up from their past? What is He trying to communicate? _____

Read **Leviticus 24:42-43**. What was this annual festival (Feast of Tabernacles) remembering? What were the people instructed to do? _____

God says in **verse 9** that they will live in tents again. Based on what you already know, will this be a time of celebrating or bondage? Why? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Take a moment to evaluate your life. Where are you placing your hope? (work, career, retirement income, kids, spouse, credit card, etc) What do you expect these to do for you? _____

How can you shift your hope to the Lord? What would this look like in your thoughts, attitudes and actions? _____

DAY 3

READ

Reread **Hosea 11:12-12:9** and then read the following.

HOSEA 12:10-13

¹⁰ I spoke to the prophets, gave them many visions and told parables through them.”

¹¹ Is Gilead wicked? Its people are worthless! Do they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal? Their altars will be like piles of stones on a plowed field. ¹² Jacob fled to the country of Aram; Israel served to get a wife, and to pay for her he tended sheep.

¹³ The Lord used a prophet to bring Israel up from Egypt, by a prophet he cared for him.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel

FOR THIS SECTION :

Put a box around the following : Jacob

Circle the **key words** : prophet(s)

Draw an X over the word : bulls, altars

Double **underline places** : Gilead, Gilgal, Aram, Egypt

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the **comparison words** in yellow : like

ANSWER

Who spoke to the prophets? (**Hosea 12:10**) What does **2 Peter 1:21** say about this? _____

Read **2 Kings 17:13**. What was God warning Israel and Judah through the prophets? _____

Read **Hosea 4:15, 6:8**, and **9:15**. What is being reinforced by mentioning these cities again? What will happen to their altars? (**Hosea 10:8**) _____

Once again, Hosea goes back to the story of Jacob. Read **Genesis 27:41-28:5**. Why did Jacob go to Paddan Aram (referred to as Aram here in Hosea.)? _____

Read **Genesis 29:1-30**. What were the circumstances surrounding Jacob receiving his wives? _____

Read **Exodus 3:1-10**. Who was the prophet God used to bring Israel out of Egypt? (**Hosea 12:13**) _____

Jacob tended sheep to pay for Rachel. (**Hosea 12:12**) From the above verses in Exodus, what was Moses doing when God spoke to him? _____

God "cared for" or tended to His people through Moses. How does God continue to care for His people through Hosea? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentence. _____

APPLY

In just a two short verses we see the theme of shepherding. Read **John 10:1-18**. How are you encouraged that Jesus is the Good Shepherd? _____

Who are some people who have "shepherded" you in your walk with Jesus? What difference have they made in your life? _____

DAY 4

READ

Reread **Hosea 12:10-13** and then read the following.

HOSEA 12:14-13:8

14 But Ephraim has aroused his bitter anger; his Lord will leave on him the guilt of his bloodshed and will repay him for his contempt.

¹ When Ephraim spoke, people trembled; he was exalted in Israel. But he became guilty of Baal worship and died. ² Now they sin more and more; they make idols for themselves from their silver, cleverly fashioned images, all of them the work of craftsmen. It is said of these people, "They offer human sacrifices! They kiss calf-idols!" ³ Therefore they will be like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears, like chaff swirling from a threshing floor, like smoke escaping through a window.

⁴ "But I have been the Lord your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me. ⁵ I cared for you in the wilderness, in the land of burning heat.

⁶ When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me. ⁷ So I will be like a lion to them, like a leopard I will lurk by the path. ⁸ Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open; like a lion I will devour them—a wild animal will tear them apart.

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

FOR THIS SECTION :

Circle the **key words** : acknowledge, the Lord your God, Savior

Draw an X over the word : Baal, sin, idols, images, human sacrifices, calf-idols, images

Double underline the **place** : Egypt

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the **contrast** words in green : but

Color in the **explanation** word in green : so

Put a box around the **inference** word : therefore

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

Chaff is the outer shell or husk that must be removed to get at the valuable kernels of grain inside.

Chaff was removed by threshing. After the plants were cut, they were crushed and the pieces were thrown into the air. Chaff is very light and carried away by even the slightest wind, but the good grain falls back to the earth.

ANSWER

What actions of Ephraim has made God angry? (**Hosea 12:14-13:2**) _____

Hosea 13:3 describes the consequences of the sins of Israel. How do these metaphors describe the future of Ephraim? _____

How is **Hosea 6:4** similar to **Hosea 13:3**? In what way would **Hosea 13:3** be a consequence to **Hosea 6:4**? _____

Read **Hosea 13:4**. How is this similar to **Exodus 20:1-3**? _____

God calls Himself Savior. Who is Jesus called in **1 John 4:14**? _____

God cared for the Israelites in the desert by giving them manna and quail. (See **Exodus 16**). What happened when they were "satisfied"? (**Hosea 13:6**) _____

How is **Hosea 13:6** an accurate picture of what is presently happening in Israel? _____

How does God describe Himself in **Hosea 13:7-8**? What does this tell you about His intense love for His people? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Hosea 13:6 recalls the pride of Israel in the desert. In **Hosea 6:3**, you looked at three metaphors describing Israel. How do these metaphors connect with their pride? How do we demonstrate pride in our society? How is this a good reminder to us? Write out a prayer to God. _____

DAY 5

READ

HOSEA 13:9-16

⁹ "You are destroyed, Israel, because you are against me, against your helper. ¹⁰ Where is your king, that he may save you? Where are your rulers in all your towns, of whom you said, 'Give me a king and princes'? ¹¹ So in my anger I gave you a king, and in my wrath I took him away. ¹² The guilt of Ephraim is stored up, his sins are kept on record. ¹³ Pains as of a woman in childbirth come to him, but he is a child without wisdom; when the time arrives, he doesn't have the sense to come out of the womb. ¹⁴ "I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?" I will have no compassion, ¹⁵ even though he thrives among his brothers. An east wind from the Lord will come, blowing in from the desert; his spring will fail and his well dry up. His storehouse will be plundered of all its treasures. ¹⁶ The people of Samaria must bear their guilt, because they have rebelled against their God. They will fall by the sword; their little ones will be dashed to the ground, their pregnant women ripped open."

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

FOR THIS SECTION :

Put a box around the following : Ephraim

Circle the **key words** : deliver, redeem, compassion

Draw an X over the word : sins

Double underline **place** : Samaria

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the **contrast** words in green : even though

Color in the **explanation** word in green : because

ANSWER

Why is Israel destroyed? (**Hosea 13:9**) _____

According to **Hosea 13:10**, who were the people trusting in? _____

Read **1 Samuel 8:4-9**. Why did Israel want a king? Why would this anger the Lord? _____

Write down the "I will" statements below. Who should our trust come from? _____

Read **1 Corinthians 15:55-57**. How do we have victory over death? _____

Hosea 12:1 says that Ephraim "pursues the east wind all day". What will happen now when an "east wind from the Lord" comes? Will it bring prosperity or destruction? (**Hosea 13:15**) _____

Why must Israel "bear their guilt"? (**Hosea 13:16**) _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

What theme do you notice from the text this week? What characteristics (attributes) of God were most visible to you? Fill out your answers in **Appendix C**. _____

APPLY

Go back through the passage and mark where you see "I" and "me" where it personifies God. What do you learn about God from these markings? How does this knowledge affect the way you live on a daily basis? _____

Hosea 13:9 explains that God destroys Israel because they are against God, their helper. How can we learn from this? Why would you ever willfully go against God when He is the only one who can truly help and save you? In the short term, it may seem better to turn to someone or something to meet our needs, but where does that take you long term? Where has it taken our society? Journal your response below. _____

NOTES

Week 7

The Way Home

Hosea 14

We are almost at the end of our journey. This week concludes the fifth and final cycle of sin, judgement, and restoration. Last week was a reminder of Israel's past and God's enduring love to his unfaithful people. This week, we will see what happens when Israel eventually repents and returns to the Lord. There is beautiful imagery of a kingdom restored. This chapter and the book of Hosea concludes with an admonition of wisdom, something we all should pay close attention to. Oh, that we would return, repent, and receive healing so that we might flourish and blossom in God's everlasting love!

DAY 1

READ

HOSEA 14:1-3

¹ Return, Israel, to the Lord your God. Your sins have been your downfall! ² Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that we may offer the fruit of our lips. ³ Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount warhorses. We will never again say 'Our gods' to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion."

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

Underline the **key word** : return

FOR THIS SECTION :

Mark the **key words** : Lord your God, compassion

Draw an X over the word : sins, gods

Double underline **place** : Assyria

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for, that

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

ANSWER

Who does Israel need to return to? (**Hosea 14:1**) _____

What has been Israel's downfall? (**Hosea 14:1**) _____

What specific sins can you remember from the last weeks of studying? Go back through the previous weeks and write down some you may have forgotten. _____

What is the first thing they are instructed to say to the Lord their God? (**Hosea 14:1**) _____

Read **Hebrews 13:15**. What does it mean to "offer the fruit of our lips"? _____

Who were the Israelites calling "our gods"? (**Hosea 14:3**) _____

Who does God have compassion towards? (**Hosea 14:3**) How does this tie back to Gomer's children in **Hosea 1:6-2:1**? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Throughout the book of Hosea, God has been calling Israel to repentance, to change their mind about their sin and return to the Lord. This begins with confession, agreeing with God about our sin. What sin do you need to confess? Read **1 John 1:8-9**. Spend some time talking to God, confess your sin and receive His forgiveness. _____

Read **Psalms 145**. What attributes of God in this psalm lead you "offer the fruit of your lips" by praising Him? Write down these attributes and a prayer of praise to God for who He is. _____

Reread the definition of compassion you wrote down on week 5 day 5. How has God shown you His compassion recently? Who do you need to have compassion towards? _____

DAY 2

READ

Reread Hosea 14:1-3 and then read the following.

HOSEA 14:4-8

⁴ "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.

⁵ I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; ⁶ his young shoots will grow. His splendor will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. ⁷ People will dwell again in his shade; they will flourish like the grain, they will blossom like the vine—Israel's fame will be like the wine of Lebanon.

⁸ Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? I will answer him and care for him. I am like a flourishing juniper; your fruitfulness comes from me."

OBSERVE

THROUGHOUT HOSEA :

Put a box around the following : Israel/Ephraim

Circle the **repeated phrase** in orange : "I will"

FOR THIS SECTION :

Draw an X over the word : idols

Double underline **place** : Lebanon

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Color in the **explanation** word in green : for

Circle the **comparison** words in yellow : like

ANSWER

What is God's response to their repentance from **Hosea 14:1-3**? What two actions will he take? (**Hosea 14:4**) How is this similar to **Hosea 6:1**? _____

The metaphor of the "dew" applied to Israel is a picture of God's favor and grace. What will be the effect of God's favor and grace on Israel? (**Hosea 14:5**) _____

What will deep roots produce? (**Hosea 14:6**) _____

How will God's favor and grace on Israel affect others? Paying attention to the verbs in the verses will help with your answer. (**Hosea 14:7**) _____

Where does Israel's "fruitfulness" come from? (**Hosea 14:8**) _____

In **Genesis 41:52**, Joseph names his second son Ephraim "because God made me fruitful in the land of my suffering." Can Ephraim live up to the meaning behind the name? What would Ephraim need to do to be fruitful? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

APPLY

Read **Ephesians 3:17-19**. Paul tells us that we are to be rooted in love. And it is these roots of love that gives us power to know how wide and long and high and deep is the love of God in Christ. Do you believe that God has such deep love for you? God was ready to receive back the Israelites who had gone astray, and His love is always waiting for us to return. In what ways do you need to return and receive the love of God in Christ? _____

Just as Israel was to be a blessing to all the nations, so are we. Read **Hosea 14:7** again. Who can you offer "shade" to? How can you help you family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers to flourish? _____

Read **John 15:1-8**. Draw a picture below of this metaphor. Who is the Father? Who is Jesus? Who are you? According to this passage, how do you bear fruit? _____

DAY 3

READ

HOSEA 14:9

⁹ Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.

OBSERVE

FOR THIS SECTION :

Underline the **repeated phrase** : "let them"

Circle the **key words** : righteous

KEY TRANSITION WORDS :

Circle the **contrast words** in green : but

WRITE THE DEFINITION.

RIGHTEOUS : _____

ANSWER

What are wise and discerning people to do? _____

How are the ways of the Lord described? _____

Who walks and who stumbles? _____

Go back and read **Hosea 4:5** and **Hosea 5:5**. What have you learned about who is stumbling? What has been causing them to stumble? _____

Read **Proverbs 10:29**. How is this similar to **Hosea 14:9**? _____

Write down **Proverbs 10:30**. How will this be true for the Israelites? What will happen to Israel and Judah? _____

Summarize this section in one or two sentences. _____

What theme do you notice from the text this week? What characteristics (attributes) of God were most visible to you? Fill out your answers in *Appendix C*. _____

APPLY

This final verse in Hosea describes two ways: righteous and rebellious. Jesus also taught on two opposing ways. Read the following verses and write down the two ways Jesus is describing.

Matthew 7:13-14 _____

Matthew 7:15-18 _____

Matthew 7:24-27 _____

We make daily choices to walk in righteousness or stumble in rebellion, to bear good fruit or bad fruit, and to build our lives on a solid foundation or the sand. Take some time to reflect on your path. In what ways are you walking in righteousness? In what ways are you stumbling in rebellion? Are there practical steps you can take to walk in righteousness? _____

DAY 4

READ

HOSEA 1-3

Describe Hosea's marriage in **Hosea 1-3**. How was his marriage a picture for God and Israel?

HOSEA 4-6:3

Look for the pattern of sin, judgment, and restoration in this section.

Label the SIN : _____

List the JUDGMENTS: _____

Write down what will happen for RESTORATION: _____

DAY 5

READ

HOSEA 6:4-11:11

What is God's COMPLAINT? _____

What is the SIN? _____

What is the PUNISHMENT? _____

What is the RESTORATION? _____

HOSEA 6:4-11:11

What is the SIN? _____

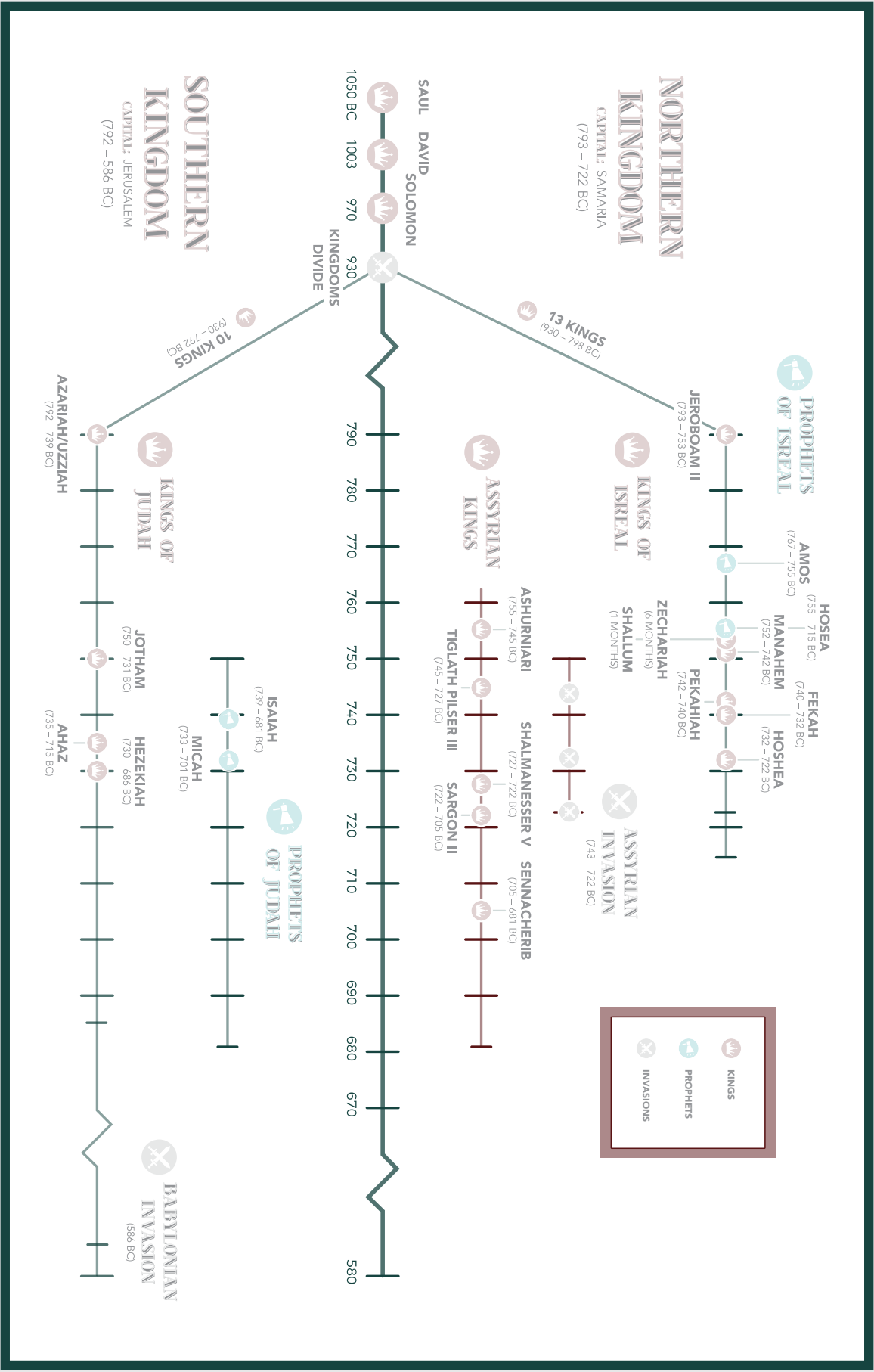
What is the PUNISHMENT? _____

What is the RESTORATION? _____

What marks the wise person? _____

How should you live as a result of what you have learned in this book? Summarize your thoughts below. _____

NOTES



KINGS of ISRAEL

JEBOAM II : "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord." Very evil but politically powerful. Brought great property to Israel, but he and the leaders and priests were disloyal to God by promoting idolatry and injustice. **(2 Kings 14:16-29)**

ZECHARIAH : "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. Encouraged idol worship. **(2 Kings 14:29-15:12)**

SHALLUM : Killed Zechariah. **(2 Kings 15:10-15)**

MENAHEM : "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord." Killed Shallum. Promoted idolatry and injustice. Imposed heavy taxes and oppressed his people. Trusted in an alliance with Assyria for security. Acknowledged Assyria's gods. **(2 Kings 15:14-22)**

PEKAHIAH : "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord." Promoted idolatry and injustice. Trusted in an alliance with Assyria for security. Acknowledged Assyria's gods. **(2 Kings 15:22-26)**

PEKAH : "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord."
Killed Pekahiah. Continued in idolatry and injustice. Tried to free himself from paying heavy tributes to Assyria by forming an alliance with Syria. Invaded Judah and attempted to make Judah join the rebellion against Assyria. **(2 Kings 15:25-31, 2 Chronicles 28:5-8)**

HOSHEA: "He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, but not like the kings who proceeded him."
Killed Pekah. Put on the throne by the Assyrians and forced to pay large tribute. Continued in idolatry and injustice and remained faithful to the Assyrians and their gods, but attempted to break free of Assyria by forming an alliance with Egypt. **(2 Kings 15:30, 17:1-6)**

KINGS of JUDAH

UZZIAH/ AZARIAH : "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord."
Did not remove the high places and the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there. **(2 Kings 15:1-7, 2 Chronicles 26:1-23)**

JOTHAM : "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord."
Rebuilt walls and cities and the Upper Gate of the Temple. Still permitted idol worship. **(2 Kings 15:32-38, 2 Chronicles 26:23-27:9)**

AHAZ : "He did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord."
Led Judah into idolatry and injustice. He sacrificed his own son to pagan gods, he nailed the Temple doors shut. Sought protection through an alliance with Assyria. **(2 Kings 15:38-16:20, 2 Chronicles 27:9-28:27)**

HEZEKIAH : "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord."
Turned away from Ahaz's idolatry and injustice. Reopened the Temple doors, reinstated priests, and destroyed idols. Trusted in his own strength to resist Assyria and then sought an alliance with Egypt. **(2 Kings 16:20, 18:1-20:21, 2 Chronicles 29:1-32:33)**

WEEK	THEME	ATTRIBUTE(S) OF GOD
Week 1 Hosea 1:1 - 1:9		
Week 2 Hosea 1:10 - 3:5		
Week 3 Hosea 4 - 6:3		
Week 4 Hosea 6:4 - 8:14		
Week 5 Hosea 9 - 11:11		
Week 6 Hosea 11:12 - 13:16		
Week 7 Hosea 14		

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE: God hears and responds to the needs of his children

COMPASSIONATE: God cares for his children and acts on their behalf

CREATOR: God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER: God rescues and saves his children

ETERNAL: God is not limited by and exists out of time

FAITHFUL: God always keeps his promised

GENEROUS: God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved

GLORIOUS: God displays his greatness and worth

GOOD: God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm

HOLY: God is perfect, pure and without sin

INCOMPREHENSIBLE: God is beyond our understanding.

We can comprehend him in part but not in whole

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING: God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow

JEALOUS: God will not share his glory with another. All glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST: God is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or underpunish.

LOVING: God feels and displays infinite unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response or merit.

MERCIFUL: God does not give his children the punishment they deserve

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY: God holds all power. Nothing is too hard for God.

What he wills he can accomplish.

OMNIPRESENT: God is fully present everywhere

OMNISCIENT: God knows everything - past, present and future, all real and potential outcomes, all thing micro and macro.

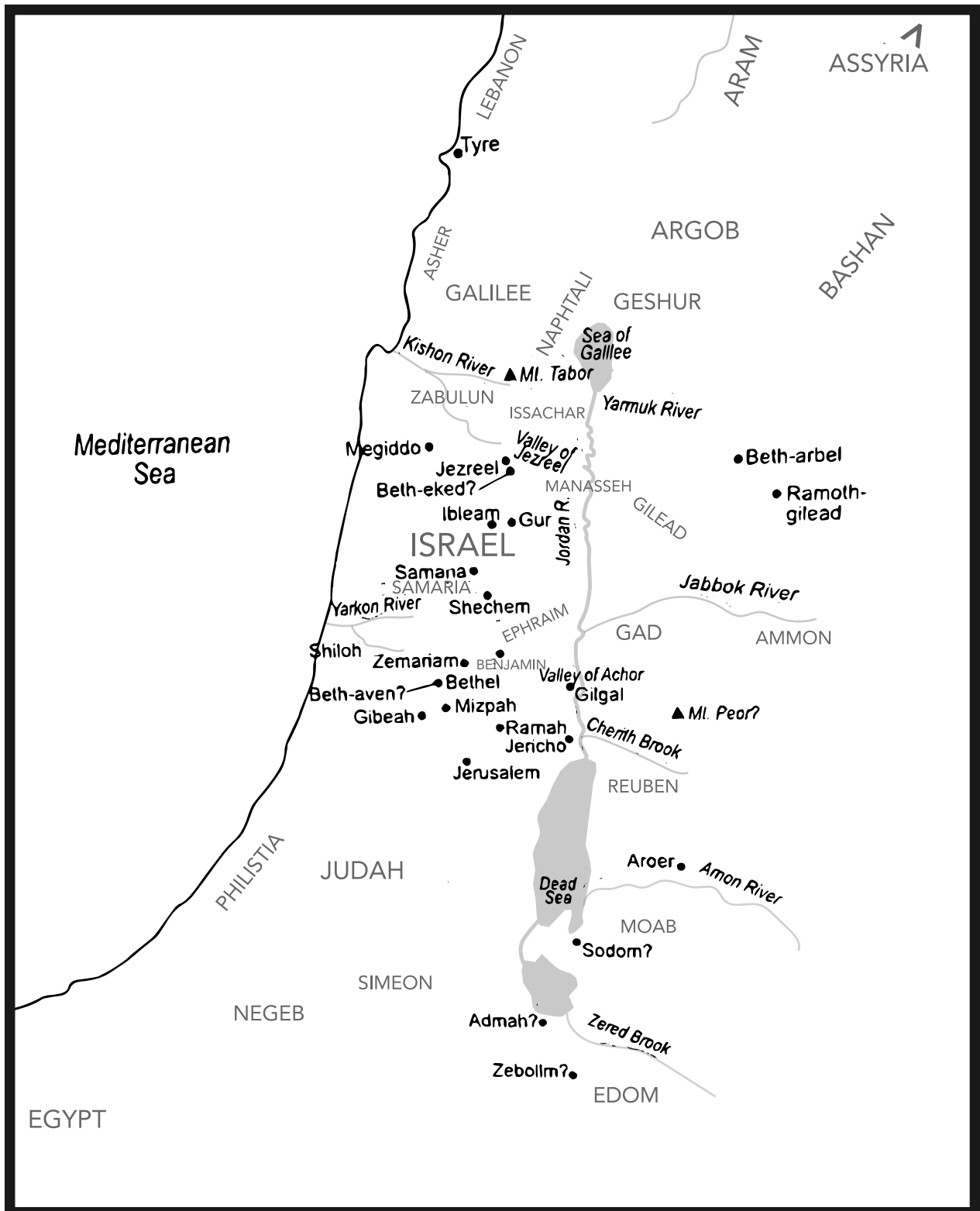
PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING: God is untiring and bears with his children

PROVIDER: God meets the needs of his children

REFUGE: God is a place of safety and protection for his children

MAP (CITIES OF ISRAEL & JUDAH)

CITIES OF ISRAEL & JUDAH





LifePoint Church
1701 Emory Road (Route 91)
Reisterstown, Maryland 21136

410-239-4700

lifepointchurch.us