

YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE

HOSEA'S TIMELESS MESSAGE OF GOD'S UNFAILING LOVE

SAMPLE PAGES:

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Lesson One and Lesson Two, Part One

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KRISTIE GANT



You Shall Be My People

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Printed in the United States of America.

Portions of this book were previously printed under the title *More Than Words* by Kristie Gant © 2016.

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ISBN: 978-0-9773358-1-7

Printed in the United States by: Morris Publishing®
3212 East Highway 30
Kearney, NE 68847
1-800-650-7888

Information about this book and other *In Praise of God Ministries* resources
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About This Study

The book of Hosea is first and foremost the story of God's love for His people. God is the One in view. He is the One who chose a bride of harlotry. He is the One who loves that bride again — and He is the One who helps her return to Him. Because of this, the book of Hosea is a perfect foundation for a study of God's love for His sin-prone people.

You Shall Be My People begins with an overview of the entire book of Hosea, and then moves to center primarily around Hosea chapters 1–6, 11 and 14. As you complete each lesson, you will not only find yourself standing in awe of the love God has for His people, but desiring to live daily in the reality of that love. Whether you know a little or a lot about the book of Hosea, its message is powerful for the transformation of heart and life!

What do I need to complete this course?

Other than your Bible, you will need a pencil or pen and this course book.

Does it matter which translation I use for study?

Quotations throughout this course come primarily from the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible with comparative readings from other translations, such as the English Standard Version (ESV). It is fine to use another translation — for example, the New American Standard Bible — to answer questions. Paraphrases, such as The Living Bible, will be more difficult to use for study.

Is there anything else I might want to have on hand?

Occasionally, there is an assignment to complete a word study (looking up definitions for the Hebrew or Greek words used in the original Bible languages) or to read from a commentary. Many of these resources are available free online. See Appendix C for more information on word studies.

If I join a group late, do I have to start from the beginning?

In order to lay a good foundation for study, first complete Days One and Two of Lesson One. When done, jump ahead to the lesson your group is currently completing. At the end of the study, you can come back to the beginning and work through any lessons you missed.

Why are there both two sections *and* five days of study?

The course is divided in this way in order to accommodate different study preferences or needs. You can complete the course in 2 “parts” or 5 “days” of study per lesson by following the divisions that work best for you.

Why are there boxes to initial?

It is all too easy to plunge right in and begin studying without pausing to ask God's blessing on, and help in, your Bible study endeavors — or to conclude your study without responding to God in prayer. To remind you of the importance of prayer, and encourage you to make it a serious part of your study time, there is a small box for you to initial after completing a time of prayer and/or meditation. These boxes appear throughout the lessons.

When two days of study are combined, how do I determine a good stopping place?

Some study segments are too long for one day of study, yet are best considered as a whole. Such segments begin with a heading such as "*Days One and Two*" or "*Days Three and Four*." While there is no "official" place to suspend study, a icon indicates you are approximately halfway through the section.

What if I have limited time for study?

Most lessons require approximately 25 minutes of study time per day. For those with a more limited time for study, longer assignments often contain optional questions and/or boldface and non-boldface passages to consider. In these instances, skipping the optional questions and completing only the boldface items will provide an excellent overview of essential truths. (*For examples of these shorter study options, see page 16. Question #1 contains both boldface and non-boldface references. Question #2 is optional.*)

What if I don't understand, or don't have an answer for a question?

If you occasionally have trouble answering a question, make a mark in the margin and go on to the next question. Many times an answer will come to light as you continue to study.

Why does each lesson end with a hymn?

God has designed music to be a large part of our worship, spiritual encouragement and comfort in life; therefore, I have included a hymn at the close of each weekly lesson. If you are unfamiliar with any of the melodies, you can be encouraged by simply reading the words aloud, or you can find audio demonstrations at websites such as:

hymnbook.igracemusic.com/hymns

In addition to the lyrics, this site also includes lead sheets, chord charts, stories behind the hymns, and more. Some of the selections are the traditional melodies; however, many are updated or changed.

hymntime.com/tch/index.htm

This home site for The Cyber Hymnal provides the traditional lyrics and melodies for many hymns.

I'd love to hear from you!

If you have comments or questions, or if you would like to share what the LORD has done in your life as you have studied His Word in this course, please write to me at: kristiegant@inpraiseministries.com.

May the LORD bless your study!

Kristie

Lesson One

Love's Call

*God, who at various times and in various ways
spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,
whom He has appointed heir of all things,
through whom also He made the worlds;*

Hebrews 1:1-2

*T*he Scriptures tell us that before Christ came to earth, the Lord spoke to His people through the prophets. At various times and in diverse ways, He clearly communicated His thoughts, will, and ways to these divinely chosen men and women. In turn, they were not only to receive His message, but to faithfully proclaim it. While it might be easy to consider this call to hear and convey God's Word as something to be joyfully coveted, it was in reality a profound commitment of both heart and life . . . and, as the words the prophets were appointed to declare often revealed both the holiness of God *and* the sinfulness of God's people, it frequently came at a high personal cost.

This was certainly the case for the prophet Hosea. It all began when the word of the LORD "*came to Hosea the son of Beerai, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.*" (Hosea 1:1)



*The word of the LORD
that came to Hosea the son of Beeri,
"Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry"
So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim*

Hosea 1:1a-3a



*Deal bountifully with Your servant,
That I may live and keep Your word.
Open my eyes, that I may see
Wondrous things from Your law.*

Psalm 119:17-18

Pray!

Begin with prayer and initial the small box to the left as the "amen" to your prayer.

=====
Part One
=====

Day One

Of the 66 books in our Bibles today, 39 are in the Old Testament. Of these 39, five comprise what we call the Major Prophets and 12 make up the Minor Prophets. ("Minor" does not mean these books are of less importance. It simply means these 12 books are shorter in length than the works of the Major Prophets.) The book of Hosea is the first of the Minor Prophets.

1. As we begin our look at the love of God as revealed in the book of Hosea, pause to consider the treasure we hold in our hands every time we pick up our Bibles. We hold . . .

- the Word of God (Hebrews 4:12)
- the Word of truth (James 1:18)
- the Holy Scriptures / sacred writings (2 Timothy 3:15)
- the oracles of God (Romans 3:1-2; 1 Peter 4:11)
- the Book of the LORD (Isaiah 34:16)
- the prophetic Scriptures / prophetic writings (Romans 16:26)
 - a lamp and light (Psalm 119:105, 2 Peter 1:19)
 - a sharp and powerful sword (Hebrews 4:12)
 - a revealing mirror (James 1:22-25)
 - a fire and a hammer (Jeremiah 23:29)

. . . and when we read this amazing Word — indeed, every time we read this Word — it will not return void, but will accomplish every single thing the Lord intends and empowers it to do. (Isaiah 55:10-11; Hebrews 4:12-13)

a. Choose any one of the passages referenced above and write it out fully in the space below. When done, spend a short time thinking about this treasure you hold.

b. Having been reminded of the power of God and His Word, what is your prayer as you begin this study?
 Do you desire a more vibrant or faithful walk with the Lord? Let Him know.
 Are you in a time of spiritual dryness or sadness? Tell Him.
 Has sin gained a foothold in your life? Return to your God.
 Are you weak? Anxious? Fearful? Lonely? Ask Him for help.
 Whatever your situation, spend time now before the throne of God. When done, initial the box as the "amen" to your prayer.

--

2. Hosea 1:1 tells us that the word of the Lord came to Hosea "in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel." Gain a better understanding of Hosea's place in history by reading the timeline below.

A Very Brief, Incredibly Short History from Creation to the Time of Hosea

As you read, put a mark by sections and boldface names which are familiar to you.

God creates the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1)

Adam and Eve sin against God by eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (Genesis 3)

God makes a covenant with Abram and promises to give him descendants who will be a great nation — a nation that will be a blessing to all families. He changes Abram's name to Abraham meaning "father of many." (Genesis 12, 15, 17)

Abraham has a son named Isaac. (Genesis 21)

Isaac has a son named **Jacob**. (Genesis 25)

Jacob has 12 sons and God changes Jacob's name to **Israel**. (Genesis 32:22-32 and 35:9-12)

The 12 sons of Jacob (Israel) are fruitful and begin to multiply. Through a series of God-ordained events, all the descendants of Abraham end up as slaves in Egypt. (Genesis 15:12-14; Genesis 37 through Exodus 1)

Over approximately 400 years in **Egypt**, God's people become a nation consisting of well over one million men, women and children organized into 12 tribes (one for each of the sons of Jacob/Israel). (Exodus 12:37)

God commissions Moses to bring His people out of slavery and lead them to the land of Canaan. (Exodus 3)

On their way to this promised land, the people of Israel make a covenant with the Lord their God: a covenant to love and obey Him in all their ways. The Lord promises blessings if they obey, cursings if they do not. (Deuteronomy 28)

After many years in the land, God raises up David to rule as king over the nation of Israel. (1 Samuel 16, 2 Samuel 2)

David's son Solomon becomes king after him. (1 Kings 2)

David's grandson Rehoboam becomes king after Solomon, but his reign is not favored by all Israel. (1 Kings 12)

Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, from the tribe of Ephraim, leads a rebellion against Rehoboam and the God-ordained line of David. As a result, the 12 tribes split into a northern kingdom of 10 tribes called **Israel** (also called **Ephraim** after its most prominent tribe) and a southern kingdom of two tribes called **Judah** (after its most prominent tribe). The capital of the northern kingdom is the city of **Samaria**. The capital of the southern kingdom is Jerusalem. (1 Kings 12)

To keep the people of the northern tribes from going to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices to the Lord, Jeroboam leads the northern kingdom into idolatry by setting up golden calves at two new places of worship: one in the southern part of the northern kingdom (**Bethel**) and one in the northern part (**Dan**). (1 Kings 12)

Over hundreds of years, a series of kings rule in both Israel and Judah. The southern kingdom of Judah has a handful of godly kings (the rest being evil), while Israel has only evil kings. (1 Kings 12 through 2 Chronicles 36)

Although at different rates, the result for both Israel and Judah is a slide into apostasy and idolatry.

Ahab is one of the kings of Israel. He and his wife Jezebel have a palace in **Jezebel**. Their legacy is one of cruelty, bloodshed, abuse of power and furthering the worship of the fertility god called **Baal** (or Baalim). (1 Kings 20-22)

God commissions **Jehu** to strike down the house of Ahab and become king in his place. Jehu obeys the word of the Lord, goes to Jezebel, and kills Ahab and much of his family. (2 Kings 9-10)

In spite of his initial obedience to the Lord, Jehu is not a godly king. After 28 years as king in Israel, his descendants succeed him. All of them do evil in the sight of the Lord. (2 Kings 9-14)

The 41-year reign of Jehu's great-grandson (**Jeroboam II**) is a spiritually bankrupt but physically prosperous age in the northern kingdom. It is during the reign of Jeroboam II that the Lord speaks to His people by the prophet **Hosea**.

If we expanded this history to other parts of the world, we would find the decades of Hosea's ministry coinciding with the first Olympic games in Greece, and with the founding of Rome.¹

3. Having considered the historical context of Hosea, begin an overview of this book by reading chapter one aloud.
- From these initial words (Hosea 1:1-11), what would Hosea have learned about the Lord and the Lord's relationship with His people?

b. In one word, how would you describe the relationship between the Lord and His people? _____

c. What word would best describe *your own* relationship to the Lord today? _____

As you think about your relationship with the Lord, what is your prayer?

Note: If you are concerned about your relationship with the Lord, see Appendix B.

Day
Two

While the first chapter of Hosea reveals God's plan to speak through the life and words of this prophet, the first *three* chapters serve to summarize the message God has for His people. In these chapters, Hosea's unfaithful wife (**Gomer**) **pictures the nation of Israel as a whole**: the culture, ideals, values, actions, practices, and policies set by political and religious leaders. Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah and Lo-Ammi (**the children of Gomer**) **represent the people of Israel** who have followed their "mother" into sin and idolatry.

- With the above thoughts in mind, read Hosea 2:1-23.
 - What do you find most incomprehensible in this chapter — Israel's sin or God's love? Explain.
 - Verses 2-13 contain graphic warnings of judgment. Which do you find most frightening?
 - In contrast, verses 14-23 contain amazing expressions of kindness and love. Which words do you find most hopeful?
- Words of hope continue into chapter three. Read Hosea 3:1-5 aloud. What does the Lord reveal about Himself in this short chapter? (*Take time here.*)
- At this point in your study, prayerfully respond to the word of the Lord, taking your thoughts, desires, feelings, questions, convictions, and insights before His throne.

Days
Three
and
Four

Some of the words Hosea speaks are hard — others are hopeful. Some are disturbing — others delightful. All of them, however, are from the heart of God; and, like all His words, are:

*. . . written for our learning, that we
through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

Romans 15:4

1. Continue your overview of Hosea by reading the remaining chapters of this book. *If time is limited*, read only chapters 4, 6, 11 and 14 for this lesson, and the remaining chapters as the course continues and time allows. As you complete each section below, record a thought, verse or repeated word which stands out to you.

__ **Chapter 4**

__ Chapter 5

__ **Chapter 6**

__ Chapters 7, 8, 9 and 10

__ **Chapter 11**

□□

__ Chapters 12 and 13

__ **Chapter 14**

2. (Optional) Create a short title for each of the readings you have done in Hosea.

Hosea, chapters 1 through 3: _____

Hosea, chapters 4 through 14: _____

3. In light of all you have read in the book of Hosea, record two observations, or conclusions you have reached, about God and His people.

4. In chapters four through 13, the Lord's words focus heavily on the sins of His people. Is God's love also visible in these pages? If so, how?

5. Chapter 14 is full of hope.

a. What thought do you find most encouraging today? Why?

b. What is your prayer?



Hosea was not the only Old Testament prophet called to both speak *and* demonstrate God's message to God's people. For example:

God told Isaiah to walk naked and barefoot for three years.² (Isaiah 20:1-6)

God told Jeremiah to buy a sash, wear it but not put it in water, hide it in a hole and later dig it up — only to find it ruined. (Jeremiah 13:1-11)

God told Ezekiel to create a picture of Jerusalem and then lie on his left side for 390 days and on his right side for 40 days. In addition, he was to measure his food and drink and cook barley cakes using the fuel of human waste (later changed to cow dung). (Ezekiel 4:1-17)

At another time, God told Ezekiel to dig a hole in the wall of his house and carry his possessions out through it. (Ezekiel 12:1-16)

1. While God often asks His people to do hard things, He never does so without a reason. Sometimes He reveals that reason, other times He does not. (*Optional*) Read one of the accounts above and record the reason(s) God called His prophet to do these things.

2. By way of review, why did God call Hosea to take a wife of harlotry and to love her again? (Hosea 1:2; 3:1)

3. Read Luke 24:25-27. What do you learn about the message declared by Hosea (and other prophets)?

4. The greatest Prophet to ever live — the One anticipated by lesser prophets — was God incarnate, Jesus Christ. As those who came before Him, He spoke the very words of God.

*"I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true;
and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him"*

Then Jesus said to them,

*"When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He,
and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things."*

John 8:26-28 (See also John 14:10 and Deuteronomy 18:15-18 with Acts 3:11-26.)

Also like others before Him, Christ not only spoke God's message, but demonstrated it through His life and actions.

a. From what you know of Scripture, what message did Christ come to bring — and how did His life demonstrate that message? (*If you are not sure, Appendices A and B should be helpful.*)

b. What similarities do you see between Christ's life and message and the life and message of Hosea?

5. Through the ages, few have been called to the office of prophet; however, having heard and read the Scriptures, *all* believers have a commission to proclaim the words, message and love of God . . . and like the prophets, we sometimes experience difficult and unexpected circumstances.³

a. Whether expected or unexpected, ordinary or uncommon, easy or hard — what are the current circumstances of your life?

b. How have you responded to the circumstances in which God has placed you? (*Answer concisely, but thoughtfully.*)

c. Whether it currently does so or not, what message would you like your words and life to demonstrate?

d. Other than the effective working of the Holy Spirit, what do you consider your greatest need if you are to wholeheartedly proclaim the Lord's love? (*For example, more knowledge, a deeper understanding, better recall of Scripture, greater appreciation of His love, a change of life-style, repentance from sin, etc.*)

6. Through his words and life, Hosea proclaimed the love of a holy God to a sin-prone nation. His ministry, however, was not only to ancient Israel. It was also to you, and to me.

*Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully,
who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time,
the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating
when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ
and the glories that would follow.*

***To them it was revealed that, not to themselves,
but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you
through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven . . .***

1 Peter 1:10-12

How encouraging it must have been for the prophets to know that their life and words would impact generations of God's people! As you look forward to the things the Lord will use the book of Hosea to accomplish in your life, respond in prayer.

And Can it Be

by Charles Wesley⁴

And can it be that I should gain
 An interest in the Savior's blood?
 Died He for me, who caused His pain —
 For me, who Him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! How can it be,
 That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
 Amazing love! How can it be,
 That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Refrain

Amazing love!
 How can it be,
 That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above
 So free, so infinite His grace —
 Emptied Himself of all but love,
 And bled for Adam's helpless race:
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
 For O, my God, it found out me!
 'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
 For O, my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
 Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
 Thine eye diffused a quickening ray —
 I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
 My chains fell off, my heart was free,
 I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
 My chains fell off, my heart was free,
 I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
 Alive in Him, my living Head,
 And clothed in righteousness divine,
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Lesson Two

Love's Heartbreak

*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,
by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

Ephesians 4:30

*T*here is much we do not know about Hosea and his wife, Gomer. For instance:

Except for the names of their fathers, we do not know anything about the families in which they grew up.

We do not know how they met, where they were married, who was present at their wedding, or how long it was before their first child was born.

In fact, given that the words "*bore him a son*" are missing from the accounts of the last two children, we are even uncertain as to whether or not Hosea was the father of all three children.

Notwithstanding the things we do not know, there is much we *do* know. For example, given the kings mentioned in the first verse of Hosea:

We can conclude that Hosea married Gomer and began to prophesy when he was a young man and continued as God's spokesman well into old age (a ministry of roughly 50 to 70 years).

We also know that Hosea and Amos spoke to the northern kingdom of Israel at the same time in history (Amos 1:1), and that Isaiah and Micah were their contemporaries in bringing similar words of love and warning to the southern kingdom of Judah. (Isaiah 1:1 and Micah 1:1)

More importantly, we know that Hosea is written, ". . . *that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*"¹ For this to happen, however, we do well to know something more of the sin that, so long ago, was ravaging the nation of Israel.

*. . . For she said,
"I will go after my lovers,
Who give me my bread and my water,
My wool and my linen,
My oil and my drink."*

.....

*For she did not know
That I [the LORD] gave her grain, new wine, and oil,
And multiplied her silver and gold —
Which they prepared for Baal.*

Hosea 2:5, 8

*Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.
Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things,
And revive me in Your way.*

Psalm 119:35, 37

Pray!

Begin with prayer and initial the small box to the left as the "amen" to your prayer.

Part One

Days
One
and
Two

Chapters four through 13 of Hosea present an unrelenting picture of the unfaithful heart; and while these verses can be hard to read as they expose sin in all of its shocking colors, they are nonetheless rich with insight. This week, as you focus on the sin that had ensnared the hearts of God's people, remember that we are not here to cast blame or puff ourselves up by thinking we have not sinned as greatly as Israel. This opportunity to probe into the sin-prone heart is a gracious gift from God — a gift that, with God's help, will draw us closer to our Lord. To that end, will you pray again?

1. Ephraim. Samaria. Jacob. In the book of Hosea, all three names refer to the northern kingdom of Israel. Why so many names? In part, because the sins of Israel were varied, and each name accentuates a facet of their sin.

Ephraim, Israel's largest tribe, was prominent in leading God's people into idolatrous worship.

Samaria was the center of that worship.

Jacob (whose name was changed to Israel) was notorious for his deceitfulness and selfish ambition.²

To better understand the sin that had captivated the hearts of the Israelites, skim chapters four and eight of Hosea. To help focus your observations, follow the directions in the box below.

The Sins of an Unfaithful Heart
Brief Observations from Chapter 4 and Chapter 8

*As you skim these two chapters,
list and contemplate one or
more of the following:*

Specific sins.

Repeatedly mentioned sins.

Descriptions of sin.

Results of sin.

Who is committing the sin.

The "reasons" for sin.

2. (Optional) Add to your list above by including further observations from Chapter 5 through Chapter 7 and/or Chapter 9 through Chapter 13.



3. As you observed the sins of an unfaithful heart in question #1, you may have noticed the Lord using powerful comparison statements. What insights do you gain from the following verses? (*Optional*) Complete word studies or consult commentaries for added insight.

God's sinning people are like . . .

a. Hosea 4:16

b. Hosea 7:11

c. Hosea 8:9

This is a problem worthy of censure because . . .

4. Circle the words "*stubborn*," "*silly/senseless*," and "*wild*" in the left-hand column above.

a. Where do we see these same sin tendencies in our nation or in ourselves today?

b. In personal times of sin, what comparison statement would best describe you? Why?

When I sin, I am most like . . .

5. In times of sin (whether our own or someone else's), what must we remember about the Lord? (*Take time here. One example: Psalm 130:3-4. If you find yourself "stuck," Appendix A may be helpful.*)

6. What change in thought or behavior would you most like to see in your life today — and what is your prayer?

Most desired change in thought or behavior:

My prayer:



Day
Three

In reading Hosea, the sin-prone heart of God's people is in full view — for out of the heart proceed such things as harlotry, wickedness, evil thoughts, murders, thefts, false witness, blasphemies and unbelief.³ As you study today, seek not only to learn more about the heart that sins, but to stand amazed at the heart of a holy God who passionately loves His people.

1. In chapters four through 13 of Hosea, the heart of God's people is mentioned seven times,⁴ each time giving insight into the foundational problems we all have with sin. Match each passage in the left-hand column with one or more of the descriptive words and synonyms on the right. Two lines are drawn for you.

The Heart of God's People in the Book of Hosea

<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> They set their heart on their iniquity.—Hosea 4:8b </p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Sin-focused</div>
<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Harlotry, wine, and new wine enslave the heart. —Hosea 4:11 </p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Hot like an oven</div>
<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> They do not consider in their hearts That I remember all their wickedness; Now their own deeds have surrounded them; They are before My face.—Hosea 7:2 </p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Captive</div>
<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> They prepare their heart like an oven, While they lie in wait . . . They are all hot, like an oven, . . . None among them calls upon Me.—Hosea 7:6-7 </p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Self-absorbed</div>
<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> They did not cry out to Me with their heart When they wailed upon their beds.—Hosea 7:14 </p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Inflamed</div>
<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Their heart is divided; Now they are held guilty.—Hosea 10:2a </p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Enslaved</div>
<p style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; Therefore they forgot Me.—Hosea 13:6 </p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Forgetful</div>
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Divided</div>
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Unmindful</div>
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Self-focused</div>
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Separated</div>
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Prideful</div>

2. From the left-hand column above, select one "heart condition" passage for further study. Record your choice on the lines below and follow the instructions in the box.

Choose any of the following:

Read the context surrounding your chosen passage, recording thoughts and actions closely associated with that heart condition. How might these all be connected?

Complete words studies on key words in your passage.

Consult reliable commentaries for insight.

Passage to study: _____

Heart condition: _____

Study notes: _____

3. Enslaved. Taken away. Unmindful. Hot like an oven. Forgetful. Divided. Prideful. Exalted. Self-absorbed. Adulterous. Sometimes it is the heart of Israel's leaders that is primarily in view; other times it is the heart of all God's people (for as the kings, priests, princes, and judges go, so go the people). Regardless, the picture is tragic. We must remember, however, that no matter how far one's heart strays, there is hope; and that hope *fills* the pages of Hosea. The Lord is not just telling the people of Israel how awful they are — *He is using their sin to call them to Himself!*

In love, He does the same for us — so, as you end this section of study:

Are you entangled in sin, resisting God's call to repent and turn to Him?

Is there a sin you are taking lightly, keeping it available, instead of forsaking it?

Does the sin you see (in yourself, in others, or in the world) hurt your heart?

Are you thankful for a time the Lord rescued you from a path of sin?

Do you plead for divine grace and strength to stay faithful to the Lord and His Word?

Every day — in *many* ways — the Lord uses sin to draw the hearts of His people to Himself. Respond to Him now.

Part Two

Day
Four

In Scripture, repetition is an indication that something deserves extra attention. In the book of Hosea, the sin of forgetfulness is a recurring theme (Hosea 2:13; 4:6; 8:14; 13:6); therefore, we will give it attention in this section — for surely we cannot faithfully love and serve the Lord if we do not "remember" Him.

1. Long before the days of Hosea, the Lord warned Israel about the dangers of forgetting Him. As you read Deuteronomy 8:11-17 (below), circle the word "*forget*" and record insights.

The Early Warning
Deuteronomy 8:11-17

Things Which Accompany the Sin of Forgetfulness

- ¹¹ Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,
- ¹² lest — when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;
- ¹³ and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;
- ¹⁴ when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;
- ¹⁵ who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;
- ¹⁶ who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end —
- ¹⁷ then you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth."

2. With forgetfulness going hand-in-hand with times of prideful prosperity, it should not surprise us to know that the days of Hosea were a prosperous time for the Lord's people: tensions with neighboring nations had eased, Israel had reacquired some strategic territory⁵ — and the people forgot their God. Learn more about the sin of forgetfulness as you complete the boxed assignments on the following page.

Notes

Lesson One: *Love's Call*

1. J. Andrew Dearman suggests a ministry ca. 760-720 B.C. Commentators generally agree on a mid-eighth-century ministry.
2. This likely means without outer garments.
3. Psalm 96:2; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 11:26; 1 Peter 2:9-25 and 4:10-11.
4. Charles Wesley, public domain.

Lesson Two: *Love's Heartbreak*

1. Romans 15:4. (See also 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:2-4, 19-21.)
2. The insights in this paragraph are adapted from Nancy Guthrie, *The Word of the Lord*. (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2014), 63. For examples, see: 1 Kings 11:26; 12:25-33; 1 Kings 13:32-34; Genesis 27.
3. Matthew 15:18-19. (See also Numbers 15:37-39; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Hebrews 3:7-13.)
4. Seven is the number of mentions in the NKJV. Other translations may differ.
5. 2 Kings 14:23-29.
6. Hosea 3:1; 5:13; 8:14; 10:1-2; 12:7-8.
7. The thought in these first two paragraphs is adapted from Duane A. Garrett, *The New American Commentary*, Vol. 19A. (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 1997), 80.
8. Robert Robinson, public domain.

Lesson Three: *Love's Ways*

1. Scripture does not tell us if Gomer was a harlot when she married Hosea, or if she later followed that path.
2. Thoughts in this question, and in this day of study, inspired by and adapted from Jeremiah Burroughs, *An Exposition of the Prophecy of Hosea*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books, 2006).
3. Ibid, 130-131.
4. Genesis 1:26 and 9:6 reveal that man is different from all other creation as the only part created in the image of God.
5. Thoughts in this chart adapted and expanded from Burroughs, 471-484.
6. S. Trevor Francis, public domain.

Lesson Four: *Love's Foundation*

1. Hosea 2:6-23; Jeremiah 31:31-34 and 32:38-40; Ezekiel 36:25-28.
2. Charles F. Pfeiffer explains this oath: "According to Biblical idiom, children are said to issue from the 'thigh' or 'loins' of their father (cf. Gen. 46:26). Placing the hand on the thigh signified that, in the event that an oath were violated, the children who had issued, or might issue from the 'thigh' would avenge the act of disloyalty. This has been called a 'swearing by posterity' and is particularly applicable here, because the servant's mission is to insure a posterity for Abraham through Isaac."—Charles F. Pfeiffer, *The Book of Genesis*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976), 62.
3. This introduction inspired by and adapted from Burroughs, 158-163.
4. Burroughs, 158. Language modernized.
5. For example: Luke 22:19-20; John 3:27-36; John 17:20-26; Romans 15:7-13; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 8:6-13; Hebrews 9:15; Hebrews 10:14-17; Hebrews 12:24; Hebrews 13:20; Revelation 19:1-10; Revelation 21:1-3. See also Genesis 12:1-3; Psalm 117 (which mentions all peoples/Gentiles); Acts 10:34-35; Romans 1:16; Romans 4:1-25; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:1-29; Colossians 3:9-11; Revelation 22:12-17.
6. Ephesians 1:4-5; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 1:17-21.
7. Related references include: Psalm 139; Acts 16:14; Galatians 1:13-16a; Matthew 10:30-31; Deuteronomy 34:1-7; Job 14:5; Psalm 139:16; Daniel 5:23; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 2 Timothy 2:19; Exodus 3:6; Exodus 4:5.
8. Edward Mote, public domain.

Lesson Five: *Love's Heart*

1. 1 John 4:8, 16.
2. I have chosen to include both the NKJV and the ESV in these quotations to emphasize the various meanings of the word *cheched*, but also in deference to the better known wording of some verses.
3. Ada Habershorn, public domain.
4. Burroughs, 171-172. Language slightly modernized.
5. Frederick M. Lehman, public domain. Based on a poem by Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai.

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