

## Bible Study, Series 3, Week 1

### Personal Bible Study

#### Day: 1

*Read: Read Hosea 1: 1-3*

Verse 2: This is an introduction showing us that what follows (Hosea's marriage) is not a normal marriage but a way God wants to bring a message through the prophet to His people.

*Questions for your personal study:*

1. With what is the relationship between God and His people compared? (Look at Ephesians 5: 24-25 and 32 as well.)
2. What does it tell us about the quality and nature of a believer's relationship to God?
3. What is the instruction Hosea receives from God and what is his reaction and answer to it?
4. What is the message God wanted to convey with Hosea's marriage?

*Personal application:*

1. How is your relationship with God?
2. Write down one thing that struck you with today's message.
3. Now you have to choose one assignment that God has given you from today's piece and pray for the help you need to do it.

*For the evening:*

1. How did it go with the completion of your instruction for the day?
2. If you were successful, thank God for it.
3. If you were unsuccessful, confess it and accept God's forgiveness and try to complete it tomorrow.

#### Day: 2

*Read: Hosea 1: 4-5*

**Verse 4:** Jezreel (God sows) the name of the fertile area close to mount Carmel. It was a well know battlefield. The City Jezreel was situated there. In this city Ahab had his winter palace.

Jehu: he was the king of Israel that revenged the sin of Ahab and Jezebel, by Gods decree, by eliminating the family of Ahab. It was out of blood thirst though and not to do

God's will, he did not stop the idolatry. Because of this the massacre is now going to be revenged. That is the message Israel must read in the name of Hosea's oldest son.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. What is the message that the name of Hosea's son is supposed to bring to the Israelites?
2. What does the judgment over Jehu tell us about the way we are supposed to execute God's instructions?
3. What is God's attitude towards a person's sin?

*Personal application:*

1. What struck you in today's reading?
2. Get yourself a task from God out of today's piece, a task to do today.
3. Pray to God for the strength for the day.

*For the evening:*

1. How did it go with your task for the day?
2. Thank God for success and give Him the glory.
3. Pray for forgiveness if you failed and pray for victory.
4. Read Mathew 7; 21-27 and pray on the grounds of it.

### **Day: 3**

*Read: Hosea 1: 6-7*

*Question for personal study:*

1. What is the message that the name of the daughter was supposed to convey?
2. What are the consequences of this punishment for a person?
3. What does verse 7 tell us about the power of God? (Compare Psalm 33: 16-18)
4. Why can a person not simply keep on sinning and then simply pray for forgiveness without real repentance?
5. How did God make His promise in verse 7 come true?

*Personal application:*

1. What is the most important lesson you learned from this piece today?
2. Get a task for yourself for today in connection with your answer to the above question.
3. Pray and ask God to help you with it.

*For the evening:*

1. Were you able to complete your task for the day?
2. If you managed, thank God for giving you the strength.
3. If you failed, do not lose courage, ask God to give you the strength to do this task that He has shown to you.
4. Read Romans 6: 1-13

#### **Day: 4**

*Read: Hosea 1: 8-9*

Take note of how the announcements of punishment are getting more and more serious, as they are made in the names of the children: First God takes away the king of the nation (verse 4) then his love (verse 6) and now His presence (verse 9.)

*Questions for personal study:*

1. Read Genesis 17: 7-9. What was the contents and value of God's covenant with the nation? Compare Exodus 33: 16.
2. What is the message that had to be driven home by the name of this son?
3. What are the consequences of this message?

*Personal application:*

1. What struck you most in this piece of our Bible study?
2. How are you going to live this message today? Plan at least two ways of conduct for you to do this in a practical way today.
3. Pray.

*For the evening:*

1. How did it go today?
2. Thank God for your successes and pray for help where you failed.

#### **Day: 5**

*Read: Hosea 1: 10-12*

Verse 11: Jezreel can either show to a great battle but it also means "God sows" and can then be the fruit of God's mercy.

*Questions for personal study:*

1. To which promise does verse 10 refer?
2. What is the meaning of the word "but" in verse 10? What does it tell us of God's mercy?
3. Name the characteristics of God's time of salvation for His people?

4. What is the result of a restored relationship with God on a person's relationship to his neighbor?

*Personal application:*

1. What spoke to you about today's reading?
2. Claim a task for yourself for today where you can give a practical application to the unity there should be amongst believers.
3. Pray for the day.

*For the evening:*

1. Read 1 Peter 2: 1-11
2. How did it go with your task for the day?
3. Thank God for His mercy if you were successful.
4. If you were not successful, pray that you will be equipped for the task.

## **Day: 6**

*Read: Hosea 1: 1-11*

Today's study consists of revision of the previous 5 days studies. Have a look at all the tasks you had to do and try and answer the following questions:

1. Which tasks did you complete successfully? Thank God for them.
2. Where did you fail this week? Try and be honest with your self. Try and find the reasons why you failed. Try and work out a plan to try and improve on it in the future.
3. Ask God to help you with what He has shown you.

*For the evening:*

*Read Hebrews 10: 19-25. Take special note of verse 25.*

If it is possible in your circumstances try and attend at least one church service a week make a note of what the Holy Spirit told you in the service.

1. Write down what was read.
2. Write down what the Holy Spirit told you.
3. Write down how you can answer and formulate a practical way of doing what you need to do.

## **Group Bible Study**

*Read: Hosea 1: 1-11 and Romans 9: 22-26*

1. What is the God's attitude when He punishes His people? Compare Proverbs 3; 12 and Revelations 3: 19.
2. What are the elements that God's punishment consists of as seen in this piece? (Hosea 1: 4, 6 and 9)
3. Discuss the following statement: "someone included in God's covenant can never be lost"
4. What was the Israelites sin? (Hosea 1: 2 and compare to Isaiah 2: 20 and Ezekiel 23: 1-6)
5. How can it be said of us today "This whole country has become a whorehouse, unfaithful to me, GOD?" (Hosea 1: 2)
6. What is the promise in verse 10-11 for us? (Compare Romans 9: 24)
7. What is the important principle we get in Hosea 1: 10-11 concerning peaceful co-existence in a community or in a country?
8. Set a task for your group, based on this study, to do for the coming week to try and accomplish what you have learnt.