



Workbook 2 Supplement Lesson 6

Hosea 1 & 2

God wants us to know Him intimately.

Read Hosea Chapters 1 & 2 God commanded the prophet to marry and love a prostitute even though she would be unfaithful to Him, to illustrate Israel's relationship with their Husband, Jehovah. **Isaiah 54:4-6.**

Hosea 1:1,2 He is to marry a prostitute and have children to a prostitute

Hosea 1:4,5 Gomer bears a son to Hosea - **Jezreel means "to scatter"** – an illustration of 721BC when Assyrians decimated the land and the 10 northern tribes scattered.

Hosea 1: 6 Gomer conceived again, not to Hosea. A girl named **Lo-ruhamah** - "**she never knew a father's love or mercy**" Sidlow Baxter commentary states this is the literal meaning.

Hosea 1:7,8 God shows His mercy to Judah. Gomer has another son, not Hosea's, called **Lo-ammi** - **means "not mine"**. God says if you will not be let Me be your God, you will not be My people. He offers Himself as Lord, Savior, Father, God, but He will not force Himself on us.

Hosea 1:10 In spite of her rejecting the Lord, God says Israel will multiply. Prophecy that Israel will turn to Him.

Hosea 1:11 Israel and Judah would no longer be divided.

Hosea 2:6 God will put a hedge of thorns around her (Israel) to stop her wandering on wrong paths.

Hosea 2:8-13 Israel was following other gods, forming allies with other nations, not knowing the blessings God had given her, and had forgotten God.

Hosea 2:8 Israel had turned to other gods because she did not know God and what He had given her.

Hosea 2:14-18 In His mercy God promised He would lead Israel into a wilderness or desert, to change her heart, to know Him.

Promises for the desert, wilderness seasons: A desert or wilderness season is a place we compare to the cocoon season. God promises transformation which will bring a more intimate relationship with Him:

- He will comfort her
- He will give her vineyards (make her fruitful)
- He will give her a door of hope in the valley of trouble
- She will sing in the desert in the same way she sang when she left Egypt (like the first joy of our salvation).



- She will no longer call Him Master but Husband. Intimacy will grow.
- He will take the names of false gods from her mouth. She won't remember the names of the idols she worshipped in the past.
- He will make a covenant with Israel.

Hosea 2:19-23 God promises to betroth Himself to Israel, like a Bridegroom to a Bride, forever. He will betroth Himself in righteousness, justice, lovingkindness, mercy, faithfulness, and she will **know** the Lord.

This "know" means she will know Him deeply, she will know His character, and know Him as He wants to be known. Compare **Hosea 2: 19 with Jeremiah 9:24, 2 Corinthians 11:2**

Application for us: God will lead us into a desert place, our cocoon, not to destroy us or punish us, but to:

- Comfort us
 - Teach us to trust Him and depend on Him
 - Transform us
 - Know Him intimately
 - Plant the seed of His love, His Spirit and His word in our hearts which will make us fruitful
- 1 Peter 1:23

Hosea 2:23 The more we know Him and experience His mercy, we will find our identity in Him.

Hosea 11:9 Sometimes we are afraid of intimacy with God because we have been hurt by another person. We compare God with people who have hurt us. Hosea 11:9 and Numbers 23:19 remind us that God is not a man that He should lie.

We can ask the Holy Spirit to heal our wrong thinking about God. We can do this by looking at Jesus who is the image of God, **2 Corinthians 3:18, 4:6, Colossians 1:15**.

Read Hosea 11, 12:4-6, 13:4-6, 11, 14. How is God's love reflected in these passages?

REFLECTION:

Have you ever perceived and judged God by your human experience of the behavior of others? **Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal** anything in your life such as wounds, lies, negative experiences which might have hindered you knowing God and having an intimate relationship with Him. Ask Him to heal your heart, change your thinking and help you to know, receive and believe in His love for you.

2 Peter 1:2-11 Greek "knowledge" of God means knowing Him intimately.

- v 2 - knowing God and Jesus intimately multiplies grace and peace.
- V 3 - knowing God gives us life and godliness by His divine power
- V 4 - knowing God provides His promises through which we share in His divine nature.
- V 5-8 - we will be fruitful in knowing Jesus intimately when we practice diligence, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love.