

MASTER THE CONTENT

OF SCRIPTURE



The Book of Hosea

(Observe, Interpret, Apply & Go)

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THE BOOK OF HOSEA

Observe, Interpret & Apply

In our studies of the Bible, we will be using an inductive approach. This approach is a fun and exciting way to study the Bible! It's like being a detective. Instead of starting with a conclusion, you look at the details and clues in the text to discover the meaning for yourself.

Here's how you can do it:

1. **Observation:** First, you look closely at the Bible passage. You pay attention to:

- a. Who is in the story
- b. What is happening
- c. Where it is taking place
- d. When it is happening
- e. Why things are happening
- f. How they are happening.

You write down or make a mental note of all the details you notice.

2. **Interpretation:** Next, you try to understand what those details mean.

- a. You think about why the characters did what they did
- b. You think about what the important words and phrases mean.
- c. You may need to look up some words or ask questions to understand better.

3. **Application:** Finally, you think about how the story applies to our lives. What truth does it communicate?

- a. **What does it teach us about God?**
- b. What does it teach us about ourselves?
- c. What action (s) does it call us to take?

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CHAPTER 1

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 1 introduces the prophet Hosea and his symbolic marriage to Gomer, a woman of promiscuity, representing Israel's unfaithfulness to God. God commands Hosea to marry Gomer to symbolize Israel's spiritual adultery in worshiping other gods. They have three children, each named to signify God's judgment and mercy on Israel. The names—Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah (not loved), and Lo-Ammi (not my people)—reflect Israel's impending punishment and the eventual hope for restoration. This chapter sets the stage for understanding God's relationship with Israel, combining themes of judgment, mercy, and covenant love.

Opening Question

1. What do you think it means when God asks Hosea to marry someone unfaithful?
 2. How do the names of Hosea's children reflect Israel's relationship with God?
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Outline

1. **Hosea's Call and Marriage to Gomer (Hosea 1:1-3)**
 - God commands Hosea to marry Gomer as a symbol of Israel's unfaithfulness.
 - Application Question 1: How can we understand the significance of Hosea's obedience to God's unusual command?
 - Application Question 2: What does Hosea's marriage teach us about God's view of faithfulness?
2. **The Birth of Jezreel and its Meaning (Hosea 1:4-5)**
 - Hosea and Gomer's first child, Jezreel, symbolizes God's impending judgment on Israel.

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- Application Question 1: Why is the choice of the name Jezreel significant in the context of Israel's history?
- Application Question 2: How does understanding God's judgment help us in our spiritual lives?

3. The Birth of Lo-Ruhamah and Lo-Ammi (Hosea 1:6-9)

- The names of Hosea's next two children signify God's displeasure with Israel and a withdrawal of His favor.
- Application Question 1: What does the name "Lo-Ruhamah" reveal about God's feelings toward Israel's actions?
- Application Question 2: How can we relate to the idea of being "not my people" in our relationship with God?

4. Hope for Restoration (Hosea 1:10-11)

- Despite the judgment, God promises eventual restoration and unity for Israel and Judah.
- Application Question 1: How does the promise of restoration demonstrate God's mercy?
- Application Question 2: In what ways can we find hope in God's promises despite our own failings?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 1:10, which speaks of the restoration and future hope for Israel and Judah. Have students recite it and discuss its meaning.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Create a skit where students act out the symbolic actions of Hosea's family, discussing how their names and actions represent God's relationship with Israel.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a group discussion on the themes of unfaithfulness and redemption in the chapter, encouraging students to share personal insights and connections.
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Quiz

1. Who is Hosea commanded to marry?
 - A. A queen
 - B. A prostitute
 - C. A princess
 - D. A widow
2. What is the name of Hosea's first child?
 - A. Lo-Ruhamah
 - B. Lo-Ammi
 - C. Jezreel
 - D. Immanuel
3. What does the name Jezreel signify?
 - A. Mercy
 - B. Judgment
 - C. Love
 - D. Peace
4. What does "Lo-Ruhamah" mean?
 - A. Not my people
 - B. Loved
 - C. Not loved
 - D. Judged
5. What does "Lo-Ammi" mean?
 - A. My people
 - B. Not my people
 - C. Blessed
 - D. Faithful
6. Why did God ask Hosea to marry Gomer?
 - A. To show love

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- B. To symbolize Israel's unfaithfulness
 - C. To make Hosea happy
 - D. To have many children
7. What does the birth of Hosea's children represent?
- A. God's blessings
 - B. Israel's future prosperity
 - C. God's judgment and mercy
 - D. Hosea's happiness
8. How many children did Hosea have with Gomer?
- A. One
 - B. Two
 - C. Three
 - D. Four
9. What is the hopeful promise given at the end of the chapter?
- A. Eternal separation
 - B. Restoration and unity
 - C. Complete destruction
 - D. Wealth and prosperity
10. Which two kingdoms are mentioned as being united in the future?
- A. Israel and Egypt
 - B. Judah and Samaria
 - C. Israel and Judah
 - D. Babylon and Israel

Answers: B, C, B, C, B, B, C, C, B, C

Fill in the Blank

1. God told Hosea to marry _____ to symbolize Israel's unfaithfulness.
2. The first child of Hosea and Gomer was named _____, representing God's judgment.

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3. _____ means "not loved," reflecting God's displeasure with Israel.
4. _____ means "not my people," indicating a severed relationship with God.
5. Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, God promises a future of _____ and unity.

Answers: Gomer, Jezreel, Lo-Ruhamah, Lo-Ammi, restoration

Vocabulary Words

1. **Jezreel (יִזְרְעֵאל)** - Refers to the valley where significant battles were fought; symbolizes God's impending judgment.
 2. **Lo-Ruhamah (לֹא רַחֲמָה)** - Means "not loved" or "not pitied," indicating God's temporary withdrawal of mercy.
 3. **Lo-Ammi (לֹא עַמִּי)** - Means "not my people," signifying a broken relationship between God and Israel.
 4. **Prophet (נָבִיא)** - A person chosen by God to deliver His messages and guidance to the people.
 5. **Covenant (בְּרִית)** - A sacred agreement or promise between God and His people, often involving commitments and stipulations.
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CHAPTER 2

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 2 continues the allegory of Israel's unfaithfulness, represented by Gomer's infidelity. God, portrayed as a husband, warns Israel of the consequences of idolatry and spiritual adultery. He speaks of stripping away blessings and protection, revealing Israel's shame. Yet, the chapter also holds a promise of restoration and renewal. God declares His intent to lead Israel into the wilderness, speak tenderly to her, and restore their covenant relationship. The chapter highlights God's justice and mercy, demonstrating His desire for repentance and a renewed relationship with His people.

Opening Question

1. How does God use the imagery of marriage to describe His relationship with Israel in this chapter?
 2. Why do you think God speaks of both judgment and restoration in His message to Israel?
-

Outline

1. **God's Warning and Judgment Against Israel (Hosea 2:1-13)**
 - Israel's unfaithfulness is likened to adultery, and God warns of the consequences, including loss of blessings and exposure of their sins.
 - Application Question 1: What does this passage teach us about the seriousness of unfaithfulness to God?
 - Application Question 2: How can we apply the lesson of God's warning in our daily lives?
2. **Promise of Restoration and Renewal (Hosea 2:14-23)**

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- Despite Israel's unfaithfulness, God promises to allure her back, speak tenderly, and restore the covenant, transforming the Valley of Achor into a door of hope.
 - Application Question 1: How does God's promise of restoration show His mercy and love?
 - Application Question 2: What can we learn from God's desire to restore relationships, even after betrayal?
-

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 2:19-20, which speaks of God's promise to betroth Israel to Himself forever. Have students recite and discuss its meaning in groups.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Create a dramatization where students act out the dialogue between God and Israel, discussing how both judgment and hope are presented in the text.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a class discussion on the themes of forgiveness and renewal, encouraging students to share their thoughts on how these themes relate to their own experiences.
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Quiz

1. What does God compare Israel's unfaithfulness to?
 - A. Theft
 - B. Murder
 - C. Adultery
 - D. Lying
2. What is the consequence of Israel's unfaithfulness mentioned in Hosea 2?
 - A. Prosperity
 - B. Exile

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- C. Blessings
- D. Loss of protection
- 3. What does God promise to do in the wilderness?
 - A. Abandon Israel
 - B. Speak tenderly to Israel
 - C. Give Israel riches
 - D. Destroy Israel
- 4. What will the Valley of Achor become, according to Hosea 2?
 - A. A place of sorrow
 - B. A door of hope
 - C. A battlefield
 - D. A desert
- 5. What does God say He will remove from Israel's mouth?
 - A. Lies
 - B. The names of the Baals
 - C. Curses
 - D. Prayers
- 6. What is the new covenant God speaks of in this chapter?
 - A. A covenant of war
 - B. A covenant of peace and love
 - C. A covenant of wealth
 - D. A covenant of power
- 7. What will God plant for Himself in the land, according to Hosea 2:23?
 - A. Trees
 - B. Crops
 - C. Israel
 - D. His enemies
- 8. What is the significance of the name "Lo-Ammi" being changed in this chapter?
 - A. It signifies defeat

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- B. It signifies Israel becoming God's people again
 - C. It signifies judgment
 - D. It signifies abandonment
9. How does God describe His future relationship with Israel?
- A. As a master
 - B. As a bridegroom
 - C. As a judge
 - D. As a stranger
10. What theme is central to Hosea 2?
- A. Revenge
 - B. Unfaithfulness
 - C. Judgment and restoration
 - D. Wealth

Answers: C, D, B, B, B, B, C, B, B, C

Fill in the Blank

- 1. God compares Israel's unfaithfulness to _____.
- 2. The Valley of Achor is transformed into a _____ of hope.
- 3. God promises to betroth Israel to Himself forever, in _____ and love.
- 4. God will remove the names of the _____ from Israel's mouth.
- 5. Despite judgment, God offers a message of _____ and renewal.

Answers: adultery, door, righteousness, Baals, hope

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Vocabulary Words

1. **Adultery (זִנְיָה)** - Infidelity in marriage; used metaphorically to describe Israel's unfaithfulness to God by worshiping other gods.
 2. **Achor (עֲכֹר)** - Means "trouble"; a valley mentioned in Hosea as a place that will become a door of hope.
 3. **Betroth (אָרֶשׁ)** - To pledge in marriage; God uses this term to describe His commitment to Israel in a renewed covenant.
 4. **Baals (בַּעַלִּים)** - False gods worshipped by Israel, representing idolatry and spiritual adultery.
 5. **Covenant (בְּרִית)** - A solemn agreement between God and His people, often involving mutual commitments and promises.
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CHAPTER 3

Summary of Chapter

In Hosea 3, God instructs Hosea to show love to his wife, Gomer, despite her unfaithfulness, symbolizing God's unwavering love for Israel despite their idolatry. Hosea redeems Gomer by buying her back, demonstrating commitment and redemption. The chapter illustrates Israel's need for repentance and a period of waiting without leadership or idols before returning to the Lord. God promises a future where Israel will seek Him and David their king. This chapter underscores themes of love, redemption, and hope for restoration, showcasing God's enduring mercy.

Opening Question

1. What does Hosea's action of buying back Gomer tell us about God's love for His people?
 2. Why is the concept of redemption important in understanding our relationship with God?
-

Outline

1. **Hosea's Redemption of Gomer (Hosea 3:1-2)**
 - God instructs Hosea to love Gomer again, despite her betrayal, symbolizing God's continued love for Israel. Hosea redeems her by purchasing her.
 - Application Question 1: How can Hosea's actions inspire us to show love and forgiveness in our relationships?
 - Application Question 2: What does it mean to be "bought back" in our spiritual journey with God?

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2. Israel's Waiting and Return (Hosea 3:3-5)

- Hosea commands Gomer to remain faithful, mirroring Israel's need to turn away from idols and return to God. A future time of seeking the Lord and David their king is foretold.
 - Application Question 1: How can we apply the idea of waiting on God in our lives today?
 - Application Question 2: What does it mean to seek God and David their king in a modern context?
-

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 3:5, which speaks of the Israelites returning and seeking the Lord and David their king. Encourage students to reflect on what it means to seek God sincerely.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Have students role-play the scene where Hosea redeems Gomer. Discuss how this act of redemption mirrors God's forgiveness and love for His people.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the concept of unconditional love and redemption. How does God's relationship with Israel, as depicted in Hosea 3, reflect these themes?
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Quiz

1. Who does God tell Hosea to love again?
 - A. A new wife
 - B. Gomer
 - C. A queen
 - D. A servant
2. What does Hosea do to show his love for Gomer?
 - A. Punishes her

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- B. Buys her back
 - C. Leaves her
 - D. Marries someone else
3. How much did Hosea pay to redeem Gomer?
- A. Fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley
 - B. Ten shekels of silver
 - C. Thirty shekels of gold
 - D. A bag of coins
4. What does Hosea instruct Gomer to do after buying her back?
- A. Leave him
 - B. Remain faithful to him
 - C. Serve as a maid
 - D. Go back to her old ways
5. What does Hosea's redemption of Gomer symbolize?
- A. God's judgment
 - B. God's love and forgiveness for Israel
 - C. A political alliance
 - D. A battle strategy
6. What are the Israelites prophesied to live without for a time?
- A. A king or prince
 - B. Wealth and power
 - C. Homes
 - D. Food and water
7. Who are the Israelites expected to seek in the future, according to Hosea 3:5?
- A. Foreign gods
 - B. The Lord and David their king
 - C. Riches
 - D. Idols

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8. What theme is emphasized by Hosea's actions towards Gomer?
 - A. Hatred
 - B. War
 - C. Redemption and love
 - D. Greed
9. What does the chapter indicate will happen in the "latter days"?
 - A. Destruction of Israel
 - B. Israel will return to the Lord
 - C. A great famine
 - D. The end of the world
10. How does this chapter portray God's attitude towards Israel?
 - A. Indifferent
 - B. Loving and redemptive
 - C. Hostile
 - D. Angry and vengeful

Answers: B, B, A, B, B, A, B, C, B, B

Fill in the Blank

1. God commands Hosea to love _____ again, showing God's love for Israel.
2. Hosea redeems Gomer by paying _____ shekels of silver and a homer and a lethech of barley.
3. The redemption of Gomer symbolizes God's _____ and forgiveness.
4. Israel is foretold to live without a _____ or prince for a period.
5. In the future, Israel will return and seek the _____ and David their king.

Answers: Gomer, fifteen, love, king, Lord

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Vocabulary Words

1. **Redeem (גָּאַל)** - To buy back or regain possession of something; used here to describe Hosea's act of buying back Gomer, symbolizing God's redemption of Israel.
 2. **Shekel (שֶׁקֶל)** - A unit of currency used in ancient Israel, mentioned as part of the price Hosea paid to redeem Gomer.
 3. **Idolatry (עֲבוֹדַת זָרָה)** - The worship of idols or false gods; a major theme in Hosea's message against Israel.
 4. **Faithfulness (אֱמוּנָה)** - Loyalty and steadfastness; in this context, it refers to Israel's expected return to faithfulness to God.
 5. **Covenant (בְּרִית)** - A sacred agreement or promise, particularly the one between God and Israel that is central to Hosea's prophecy.
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CHAPTER 4

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 4 presents God's indictment against Israel for their unfaithfulness and moral corruption. God charges the people with a lack of truth, mercy, and knowledge of Him, leading to widespread sin, including lying, murder, theft, and idolatry. The priests, who are responsible for teaching God's laws, have also failed, leading the nation astray. As a result, Israel faces inevitable judgment and destruction. The chapter emphasizes the importance of knowing God and obeying His commands, highlighting the destructive consequences of spiritual ignorance and moral decay.

Opening Question

1. Why is knowledge of God considered so important in this chapter?
 2. How do you think the actions of the priests affected the spiritual state of Israel?
-

Outline

1. **God's Charge Against Israel (Hosea 4:1-3)**
 - God accuses Israel of lacking truth, mercy, and knowledge of Him, resulting in widespread sin and a breakdown of societal values.
 - Application Question 1: How does a lack of knowledge of God lead to moral decline in a society?
 - Application Question 2: What can we do to ensure we maintain truth and mercy in our own lives?
2. **The Role of the Priests and Their Failures (Hosea 4:4-10)**

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- The priests, who should have been spiritual leaders, have failed to instruct the people properly, contributing to Israel's sin.
- Application Question 1: Why is it important for leaders to uphold and teach God's laws?
- Application Question 2: How can we encourage our spiritual leaders to stay true to God's word?

3. Israel's Idolatry and Its Consequences (Hosea 4:11-14)

- Israel's engagement in idolatry and spiritual adultery is condemned, and God warns of the consequences, including destruction and desolation.
- Application Question 1: What are some modern forms of idolatry that can distract us from God?
- Application Question 2: How can we guard ourselves against spiritual adultery in our daily lives?

4. Judgment Pronounced on Israel (Hosea 4:15-19)

- God warns that judgment is coming upon Israel for their sins, and they will be shamed for their actions.
- Application Question 1: How does understanding God's judgment help us live righteously?
- Application Question 2: What steps can we take to repent and return to God when we have strayed?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 4:6, which states, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Discuss its implications for understanding and obeying God.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Assign roles to students to act out the various groups mentioned in the chapter (priests, Israelites, God) and discuss how each contributed to Israel's spiritual state.

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3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the importance of spiritual knowledge and leadership, encouraging students to reflect on how they can grow in their understanding of God and His word.
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Quiz

1. What does God accuse Israel of lacking?
 - A. Wealth
 - B. Knowledge of God
 - C. Military strength
 - D. Wisdom
2. What actions are the people of Israel committing, according to Hosea 4?
 - A. Lying and murder
 - B. Praying and fasting
 - C. Building temples
 - D. Making offerings
3. Who does God hold responsible for leading the people astray?
 - A. The prophets
 - B. The kings
 - C. The priests
 - D. The elders
4. What is one consequence mentioned for Israel's lack of knowledge?
 - A. Prosperity
 - B. Victory in battle
 - C. Destruction
 - D. Exile
5. What have the priests done wrong in Hosea 4?
 - A. They have built idols

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- B. They have failed to teach God's laws
 - C. They have led wars
 - D. They have become rich
6. What does God say will happen to those who engage in idolatry?
- A. They will be blessed
 - B. They will find peace
 - C. They will face destruction
 - D. They will be ignored
7. What does "harlotry" symbolize in Hosea 4?
- A. Israel's political alliances
 - B. Israel's spiritual unfaithfulness
 - C. Israel's military strategies
 - D. Israel's trade practices
8. What will happen to Israel's land, according to God's warning?
- A. It will become prosperous
 - B. It will become desolate
 - C. It will expand
 - D. It will remain the same
9. What is the main reason for Israel's punishment, as outlined in Hosea 4?
- A. Lack of economic resources
 - B. Military defeat
 - C. Spiritual ignorance and sin
 - D. Poor leadership
10. How does Hosea 4 describe God's feeling toward Israel's behavior?
- A. Indifference
 - B. Joy
 - C. Displeasure
 - D. Confusion

Answers: B, A, C, C, B, C, B, B, C, C

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Fill in the Blank

1. God accuses Israel of lacking _____, mercy, and knowledge of Him.
2. The priests have failed to _____ the people in God's ways.
3. Israel's engagement in _____ is condemned by God.
4. God warns that the people will be _____ for their actions.
5. "My people are destroyed for lack of _____," declares the Lord.

Answers: truth, teach, idolatry, punished, knowledge

Vocabulary Words

1. **Knowledge (דעת)** - Understanding and awareness, particularly of God and His laws, which is lacking in Israel according to Hosea.
 2. **Priests (כֹּהֲנִים)** - Religious leaders in Israel responsible for teaching God's laws and leading worship; criticized for their failure in Hosea 4.
 3. **Idolatry (עֲבוֹדַת זָרָה)** - Worship of idols or false gods; a primary reason for God's judgment against Israel in this chapter.
 4. **Harlotry (זִנוּיָה)** - Used metaphorically to describe Israel's spiritual unfaithfulness and involvement in idolatry.
 5. **Judgment (מִשְׁפָּט)** - The act of determining right from wrong; in Hosea 4, God's judgment is pronounced upon Israel for their sins.
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CHAPTER 5

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 5 addresses the leaders and people of Israel and Judah, warning them of impending judgment due to their sins and spiritual corruption. God condemns both nations for their arrogance, idolatry, and unfaithfulness. The chapter highlights the futility of trying to escape God's judgment through alliances or religious rituals. God's wrath will not be turned away until Israel and Judah acknowledge their guilt and seek His face. Hosea 5 emphasizes the need for repentance and the consequences of turning away from God's laws and guidance.

Opening Question

1. Why does God hold both Israel and Judah accountable for their actions in this chapter?
 2. What can we learn about the importance of humility from God's message to Israel and Judah?
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Outline

1. **God's Judgment Against the Leaders (Hosea 5:1-5)**
 - God addresses the priests, Israel's house, and the king, accusing them of leading the people into sin. Both Israel and Judah are warned of coming judgment.
 - Application Question 1: How can leaders' actions impact the spiritual direction of a community or nation?
 - Application Question 2: What responsibilities do we have as leaders or influencers to guide others in truth?
2. **Israel's Guilt and Consequences (Hosea 5:6-9)**

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- God declares that Israel's attempts to seek Him through rituals are in vain due to their persistent idolatry and sin.
- Application Question 1: Why is it important to seek God with a sincere heart rather than just through rituals?
- Application Question 2: How can we ensure that our worship and service to God are genuine?

3. Judah's Involvement and Warning (Hosea 5:10-15)

- Judah is also condemned for its sins, and both Israel and Judah are warned of severe consequences if they do not repent. God's judgment is likened to a destructive force.
- Application Question 1: How can the comparison of God's judgment to a destructive force help us understand the seriousness of turning away from God?
- Application Question 2: What steps can we take to avoid falling into the same pitfalls as Israel and Judah?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 5:15, where God speaks of returning to His place until His people acknowledge their guilt. Discuss the importance of confession and repentance.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Have students role-play a scene where Israel and Judah's leaders discuss their failures and the need to return to God. Reflect on the impact of leadership in spiritual matters.
3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the concept of genuine repentance. What does it mean to truly seek God's face, and how can we apply this in our daily lives?

Quiz

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1. Who does God specifically address at the beginning of Hosea 5?
 - A. Prophets
 - B. Priests, Israel's house, and the king
 - C. Foreign nations
 - D. The poor
2. What does God accuse the leaders of doing?
 - A. Protecting the people
 - B. Leading the people into sin
 - C. Building temples
 - D. Creating laws
3. What is Israel's main offense in Hosea 5?
 - A. Worshipping foreign gods
 - B. Failing to farm
 - C. Building fortresses
 - D. Ignoring the Sabbath
4. What is God's reaction to Israel's religious rituals?
 - A. He is pleased
 - B. He is indifferent
 - C. He rejects them because of their insincerity
 - D. He rewards them
5. How does God describe His judgment in this chapter?
 - A. As a gentle breeze
 - B. As a flood
 - C. As a destructive force
 - D. As a celebration
6. What does God say He will do until Israel acknowledges their guilt?
 - A. Bless them
 - B. Remain silent

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- C. Return to His place
- D. Destroy them
- 7. What are the people of Israel and Judah encouraged to do in Hosea 5?
 - A. Fight against each other
 - B. Make alliances with foreign nations
 - C. Repent and seek God's face
 - D. Build new altars
- 8. What happens when Israel tries to seek God with their flocks and herds?
 - A. They find Him
 - B. God accepts their offerings
 - C. God remains distant
 - D. They are blessed abundantly
- 9. How is God's judgment depicted towards the end of Hosea 5?
 - A. A peaceful agreement
 - B. A surgical operation
 - C. A fierce lion
 - D. A friendly guide
- 10. What is the final message of Hosea 5?
 - A. Destruction is unavoidable
 - B. Repentance leads to restoration
 - C. Israel will be prosperous
 - D. God is indifferent to sin

Answers: B, B, A, C, C, C, C, C, C, B

Fill in the Blank

- 1. God addresses the _____ of Israel and Judah at the beginning of Hosea 5.
- 2. God is displeased with Israel's _____ due to their lack of sincerity.
- 3. Israel's main offense is _____ foreign gods.

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4. God's judgment is compared to a _____ force.
5. God will return to His place until the people acknowledge their _____.

Answers: leaders, rituals, worshipping, destructive, guilt

Vocabulary Words

1. **Judgment (מִשְׁפָּט)** - A formal decision or pronouncement; in Hosea 5, God's impending action against Israel and Judah for their sins.
 2. **Repentance (תְּשׁוּבָה)** - The act of turning away from sin and returning to God, a central theme in Hosea's message.
 3. **Iniquity (עֲוֹן)** - Moral or spiritual corruption; the sins that Israel and Judah are accused of in Hosea 5.
 4. **Arrogance (גָּאוֹן)** - Pride or self-importance; described as a reason for Israel and Judah's downfall.
 5. **Seek (בָּקַשׁ)** - To search or strive for something earnestly; in this chapter, Israel is urged to seek God earnestly for repentance and restoration.
-

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 6

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 6 begins with a call for Israel to return to the Lord, expressing hope for restoration if they repent and seek God earnestly. However, God criticizes Israel's fleeting devotion, comparing their love to the morning mist that quickly disappears. He desires steadfast love and knowledge of God over ritual sacrifices. The chapter concludes with a reminder of Israel's continual faithlessness and betrayal, despite God's consistent mercy and desire for a sincere relationship. Hosea 6 emphasizes the importance of genuine repentance and lasting devotion to God.

Opening Question

1. Why does God compare Israel's devotion to a morning mist in this chapter?
 2. How can we ensure our love and commitment to God are steadfast and not temporary?
-

Outline

1. **A Call to Return to the Lord (Hosea 6:1-3)**
 - The people express a desire to return to God, believing He will heal and restore them if they seek Him earnestly.
 - Application Question 1: How can we apply the idea of "returning to the Lord" in our own spiritual lives?
 - Application Question 2: What steps can we take to ensure we seek God with sincerity?
2. **God's Critique of Israel's Inconsistent Devotion (Hosea 6:4-6)**
 - God laments Israel's inconsistent love, comparing it to a morning mist, and emphasizes that He desires steadfast love and knowledge of God over sacrifices.

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- Application Question 1: Why is it important to have a steadfast relationship with God rather than a fleeting one?
- Application Question 2: What does God's preference for steadfast love over sacrifices teach us about our own worship practices?

3. Israel's Continued Faithlessness (Hosea 6:7-11)

- God highlights Israel's continued betrayal and unfaithfulness, comparing their actions to those who break covenants. Despite this, God's desire for a sincere relationship remains.
 - Application Question 1: How can we avoid the pitfalls of unfaithfulness in our relationship with God?
 - Application Question 2: What can we learn from Israel's mistakes to strengthen our covenant with God?
-

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 6:6, "For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." Discuss its meaning and how it applies to daily life.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Create a skit where students act out Israel's repentance and God's response, highlighting the importance of genuine devotion versus empty rituals.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Facilitate a group discussion on what it means to have a sincere relationship with God. Encourage students to share personal insights and experiences.
-

Quiz

1. What does Israel say they want to do in the beginning of Hosea 6?
 - A. Fight a war
 - B. Return to the Lord

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- C. Build a temple
- D. Seek riches
- 2. What does God compare Israel's devotion to?
 - A. A strong rock
 - B. A morning mist
 - C. A burning fire
 - D. A deep ocean
- 3. What does God desire more than sacrifices?
 - A. Wealth
 - B. Steadfast love and knowledge of God
 - C. Military strength
 - D. Festivals
- 4. How does God feel about Israel's love?
 - A. Satisfied
 - B. Pleased
 - C. Like it's fleeting and inconsistent
 - D. Indifferent
- 5. What is emphasized as important in a relationship with God?
 - A. Rituals
 - B. Genuine devotion and understanding
 - C. Strict rules
 - D. Building altars
- 6. What is God's reaction to Israel's broken covenant?
 - A. He blesses them
 - B. He mourns their unfaithfulness
 - C. He rewards them
 - D. He ignores it
- 7. What is Israel accused of in Hosea 6:7?
 - A. Building idols

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- B. Lying
 - C. Transgressing the covenant
 - D. Fasting
8. How does God describe Israel's actions in the chapter?
- A. Righteous
 - B. Evil
 - C. Betrayal and faithlessness
 - D. Heroic
9. What does God continue to seek from Israel despite their unfaithfulness?
- A. Riches
 - B. Military strength
 - C. A sincere relationship
 - D. Ritual sacrifices
10. What lesson does Hosea 6 teach about our relationship with God?
- A. It's all about rituals
 - B. It should be based on steadfast love and knowledge
 - C. It's only about sacrifices
 - D. It doesn't matter

Answers: B, B, B, C, B, B, C, C, C, B

Fill in the Blank

1. The people express a desire to _____ to the Lord in Hosea 6.
2. God compares Israel's love to a _____ that disappears quickly.
3. God desires _____ love and knowledge of Him over sacrifices.
4. Israel is accused of breaking the _____ with God.
5. Hosea 6 emphasizes the importance of a _____ relationship with God.

Answers: return, morning mist, steadfast, covenant, sincere

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

Vocabulary Words

1. **Steadfast Love (חֶסֶד)** - Loyal and unwavering love; God desires this quality over ritual sacrifices from His people.
 2. **Repentance (תְּשׁוּבָה)** - The act of turning away from sin and returning to God, highlighted in the chapter's call for Israel to return to the Lord.
 3. **Covenant (בְּרִית)** - A sacred agreement or promise; Israel is accused of breaking their covenant with God.
 4. **Burnt Offerings (עֹלֹת)** - Sacrificial offerings that are completely burned; God prefers steadfast love over these rituals.
 5. **Knowledge (דַּעַת)** - Understanding, particularly of God and His desires; God values knowledge of Him over empty rituals.
-

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 7

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 7 describes Israel's persistent sinfulness and deceit, highlighting their refusal to repent and return to God. The chapter uses vivid metaphors to portray Israel's actions: like an oven heated by a baker, a half-baked cake, and a senseless dove. These images depict Israel's unrestrained passions, superficial devotion, and misguided alliances. Despite God's desire to heal them, Israel continues in wickedness, relying on foreign nations rather than seeking God. Hosea 7 emphasizes the danger of hypocrisy and the consequences of turning away from God.

Opening Question

1. What do the metaphors in this chapter (oven, half-baked cake, senseless dove) reveal about Israel's spiritual state?
 2. How does relying on others instead of God lead to consequences, according to Hosea 7?
-

Outline

1. **Israel's Sin and Deceit (Hosea 7:1-4)**
 - God speaks of Israel's sin being revealed, noting their deceit and refusal to repent despite His desire to heal them.
 - Application Question 1: How does sin deceive us into thinking we can hide from God?
 - Application Question 2: What steps can we take to be more open and honest in our relationship with God?
2. **Metaphors Describing Israel's Condition (Hosea 7:5-10)**

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- Israel is compared to an oven, a half-baked cake, and a senseless dove, illustrating their uncontrolled desires, incomplete devotion, and foolish alliances.
- Application Question 1: How do these metaphors help us understand the consequences of a divided heart in our faith?
- Application Question 2: What can we learn from these metaphors about being fully committed to God?

3. Israel's Misplaced Trust (Hosea 7:11-16)

- Israel turns to Egypt and Assyria instead of God, resulting in their downfall. Their insincere worship and cries are condemned as they continue to stray from God.
- Application Question 1: Why is it dangerous to place our trust in worldly powers instead of God?
- Application Question 2: How can we strengthen our trust in God rather than in human solutions?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 7:13, "Woe to them, because they have strayed from me! Destruction to them because they have rebelled against me!" Reflect on its meaning and discuss how it applies to staying faithful to God.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Create a skit where students act out Israel's misplaced trust in foreign nations and God's response. Discuss the consequences of relying on human strength over divine guidance.
3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the metaphors used in this chapter. Encourage students to share how these images help them understand the importance of sincere devotion and reliance on God.

Quiz

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. What is revealed about Israel in the beginning of Hosea 7?
 - A. Their wealth
 - B. Their sin and deceit
 - C. Their wisdom
 - D. Their love for God
2. What does God desire to do for Israel, according to Hosea 7?
 - A. Punish them
 - B. Heal them
 - C. Destroy them
 - D. Ignore them
3. To what does God compare Israel's unrestrained desires?
 - A. A roaring lion
 - B. A heated oven
 - C. A flowing river
 - D. A mighty tree
4. How is Israel described when it comes to their devotion?
 - A. Fully committed
 - B. Like a half-baked cake
 - C. Pure and holy
 - D. Strong and firm
5. What does the metaphor of a "senseless dove" represent in Hosea 7?
 - A. Israel's wisdom
 - B. Israel's loyalty
 - C. Israel's foolishness and misguided alliances
 - D. Israel's strength
6. Who does Israel turn to instead of God?
 - A. Egypt and Assyria
 - B. Babylon and Persia

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- C. Greece and Rome
- D. Edom and Moab
- 7. What does God say about Israel's cries and worship in Hosea 7?
 - A. They are sincere
 - B. They are ignored
 - C. They are insincere
 - D. They are pleasing
- 8. What consequence is mentioned for Israel's rebellion?
 - A. Prosperity
 - B. Destruction
 - C. Peace
 - D. Victory
- 9. How does God feel about Israel's behavior in Hosea 7?
 - A. Pleased
 - B. Indifferent
 - C. Displeased and angry
 - D. Happy
- 10. What lesson does Hosea 7 teach about reliance on God?
 - A. Reliance on God is unnecessary
 - B. Reliance on God is crucial for true security and peace
 - C. Reliance on God leads to weakness
 - D. Reliance on God brings confusion

Answers: B, B, B, B, C, A, C, B, C, B

Fill in the Blank

1. God reveals Israel's _____ and deceit in the beginning of Hosea 7.
2. Israel's devotion is compared to a _____ cake, symbolizing incompleteness.
3. The metaphor of a heated _____ is used to describe Israel's unrestrained desires.

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. Israel is called a "senseless _____" for its foolish alliances.
5. Hosea 7 emphasizes the danger of turning away from God and relying on _____ powers.

Answers: sin, half-baked, oven, dove, foreign

Vocabulary Words

1. **Deceit (מַרְמָה)** - Dishonesty or misleading actions; Israel is described as being deceitful in their relationship with God.
 2. **Metaphor (מָשַׁל)** - A figure of speech used to describe something by comparing it to something else; Hosea uses several metaphors to describe Israel's spiritual condition.
 3. **Repentance (תְּשׁוּבָה)** - The act of turning away from sin and returning to God; highlighted as necessary in the chapter's call for Israel to change their ways.
 4. **Idolatry (עֲבוֹדַת זָרָה)** - The worship of idols or false gods; a major issue for Israel in Hosea 7 as they turn to other nations instead of God.
 5. **Insincere (שָׁקֵר)** - Not genuine or real; God criticizes Israel's insincere worship and cries for help in this chapter.
-

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 8

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 8 delivers a warning to Israel for their rebellion against God. The chapter begins with a call to sound the trumpet as a sign of impending judgment. Israel is accused of breaking the covenant, making unauthorized kings and idols, and trusting in foreign alliances instead of God. God declares that these actions will lead to destruction, with Israel reaping what they have sown—idolatry and false worship resulting in exile and loss. Hosea 8 underscores the consequences of disobedience and misplaced trust, urging Israel to return to their true God.

Opening Question

1. Why does God compare Israel’s behavior to “sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind” in this chapter?
 2. How do the consequences Israel faces in this chapter relate to the choices they made?
-

Outline

1. **The Trumpet Call and Israel’s Rebellion (Hosea 8:1-3)**
 - God commands the sounding of the trumpet, symbolizing imminent judgment. Israel is condemned for rejecting God’s law and covenant.
 - Application Question 1: What does the blowing of the trumpet signify in our spiritual lives today?
 - Application Question 2: How can we avoid rejecting God's guidance in our own lives?
2. **Idolatry and Unauthorized Kings (Hosea 8:4-6)**

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- Israel is criticized for setting up kings and idols without God's approval, demonstrating their unfaithfulness.
- Application Question 1: Why is it important to seek God's guidance before making important decisions?
- Application Question 2: How can idolatry appear in modern contexts, and how can we guard against it?

3. Consequences of Trusting Foreign Powers (Hosea 8:7-10)

- God warns that Israel's alliances with foreign nations, instead of trusting Him, will lead to their downfall and scattering.
- Application Question 1: What are the dangers of placing our trust in worldly solutions rather than God?
- Application Question 2: How can we build a stronger trust in God during challenging times?

4. Judgment and Loss (Hosea 8:11-14)

- Israel's reliance on idols and foreign alliances will result in destruction and exile. God promises to remember their sins and bring judgment.
- Application Question 1: How can understanding the consequences of Israel's actions help us make better choices?
- Application Question 2: What steps can we take to remain faithful to God even when tempted to stray?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 8:7, "They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind." Discuss its meaning and implications for understanding actions and consequences.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Act out a scenario where Israel debates trusting in foreign alliances versus trusting in God. Discuss the outcomes and lessons learned.

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3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the theme of sowing and reaping. How do our actions today affect our future? Encourage students to share personal reflections.
-

Quiz

1. What does God command at the start of Hosea 8?
 - A. To build a temple
 - B. To sound the trumpet
 - C. To gather crops
 - D. To celebrate a festival
2. What is the trumpet meant to signify?
 - A. A new king
 - B. Peace
 - C. Imminent judgment
 - D. Wealth
3. What is Israel accused of in Hosea 8?
 - A. Faithfulness
 - B. Breaking the covenant and making unauthorized kings
 - C. Helping their neighbors
 - D. Building idols for God
4. What does "sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind" mean in this context?
 - A. Planting crops and getting a harvest
 - B. Engaging in meaningless actions and facing severe consequences
 - C. Building homes
 - D. Becoming wealthy
5. What has Israel wrongly placed their trust in, according to Hosea 8?
 - A. God
 - B. Foreign alliances and idols

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- C. Their own wisdom
- D. The temple priests
- 6. What does God say will happen to Israel's idols?
 - A. They will be blessed
 - B. They will be destroyed
 - C. They will multiply
 - D. They will be ignored
- 7. Who did Israel set up without God's approval?
 - A. Foreign alliances
 - B. Kings and princes
 - C. Judges
 - D. Prophets
- 8. What is the result of Israel's actions as described in Hosea 8?
 - A. Victory
 - B. Prosperity
 - C. Destruction and exile
 - D. Peace
- 9. What does God promise to do in response to Israel's sins?
 - A. Forget them
 - B. Reward them
 - C. Remember their sins and bring judgment
 - D. Leave them alone
- 10. What lesson can be learned from Hosea 8?
 - A. Rely on idols for success
 - B. Trust in God and avoid disobedience
 - C. Make alliances for security
 - D. Ignore God's warnings

Answers: B, C, B, B, B, B, B, C, C, B

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Fill in the Blank

1. God commands the _____ to be sounded as a warning of judgment.
2. Israel is accused of _____ the covenant and making unauthorized kings.
3. “Sowing the wind and reaping the _____” describes Israel's actions and their consequences.
4. Instead of trusting in God, Israel turned to foreign _____.
5. God promises to remember Israel's _____ and bring judgment.

Answers: trumpet, breaking, whirlwind, alliances, sins

Vocabulary Words

1. **Whirlwind** (סופה) - A destructive windstorm; used metaphorically to describe the severe consequences of Israel's actions.
 2. **Covenant** (ברית) - A sacred agreement; Israel is accused of breaking their covenant with God in this chapter.
 3. **Idolatry** (עבודה זרה) - The worship of idols; Israel's reliance on idols and foreign powers is condemned.
 4. **Alliance** (ברית) - A formal agreement or treaty; Israel wrongly places trust in alliances with foreign nations instead of God.
 5. **Judgment** (משפט) - A decision or decree; God declares judgment on Israel for their disobedience and idolatry.
-

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 9

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 9 describes God's judgment on Israel due to their disobedience and idolatry. The chapter warns Israel not to rejoice, as their days of celebration are over. Israel has turned away from God and engaged in idol worship, leading to their impending exile. God declares that their harvests and offspring will fail, and they will face punishment in a foreign land. The chapter emphasizes the consequences of abandoning God's laws and the futility of seeking joy apart from Him. Hosea 9 serves as a stark reminder of the importance of faithfulness to God.

Opening Question

1. Why does God warn Israel not to rejoice in this chapter?
 2. How does the impending exile reflect the consequences of Israel's choices?
-

Outline

1. **Warning Against Rejoicing (Hosea 9:1-3)**
 - God cautions Israel against rejoicing like other nations because they have forsaken Him and pursued idolatry.
 - Application Question 1: Why is it important to consider the reasons behind our celebrations?
 - Application Question 2: How can we ensure our joy is rooted in a right relationship with God?
2. **Consequences of Idolatry (Hosea 9:4-6)**

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Israel's sacrifices will not please God, and their idols will lead them to desolation and exile.
- Application Question 1: What are the dangers of turning to idols or false beliefs instead of God?
- Application Question 2: How can we recognize and avoid modern forms of idolatry in our lives?

3. Impending Exile and Loss (Hosea 9:7-9)

- God speaks of Israel's prophets becoming fools and their spiritual leaders failing, resulting in confusion and destruction.
- Application Question 1: How does losing spiritual guidance affect a community or nation?
- Application Question 2: What steps can we take to stay true to God's word and avoid confusion?

4. Judgment and Punishment (Hosea 9:10-17)

- God reflects on Israel's initial faithfulness and their subsequent turn to wickedness. He declares their coming punishment, including failed harvests and loss of offspring.
- Application Question 1: How does remembering our past faithfulness help us stay committed to God today?
- Application Question 2: What lessons can we learn from Israel's experience to strengthen our own faith?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 9:7, "The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand." Discuss its meaning and how it relates to understanding God's justice.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Act out a scene where the people of Israel debate their actions and hear the warning from a prophet about their impending exile. Reflect on the choices and their consequences.

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the concept of exile. How does being separated from God's presence impact individuals and communities? Encourage students to share personal reflections.
-

Quiz

1. What does God warn Israel not to do in Hosea 9?
 - A. Build temples
 - B. Rejoice like other nations
 - C. Make offerings
 - D. Go to war
2. Why are Israel's celebrations cut short in this chapter?
 - A. Because of their wealth
 - B. Because of their idolatry and turning away from God
 - C. Because of a famine
 - D. Because of a drought
3. What will happen to Israel's sacrifices, according to Hosea 9?
 - A. They will be accepted
 - B. They will bring wealth
 - C. They will not please God
 - D. They will bring peace
4. Where does God say Israel will be exiled to?
 - A. Babylon
 - B. Egypt and Assyria
 - C. Greece
 - D. Persia
5. What does Hosea 9 say will happen to Israel's harvests?
 - A. They will be abundant

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- B. They will fail
 - C. They will be stolen
 - D. They will multiply
6. Who is described as becoming fools in this chapter?
- A. The priests
 - B. The prophets
 - C. The kings
 - D. The elders
7. What is the fate of Israel's children mentioned in Hosea 9?
- A. They will prosper
 - B. They will be taken away
 - C. They will be ignored
 - D. They will become kings
8. How does God describe Israel's behavior in Hosea 9:10?
- A. Faithful
 - B. Wicked and rebellious
 - C. Brave
 - D. Generous
9. What lesson does Hosea 9 teach about turning away from God?
- A. It leads to prosperity
 - B. It has severe consequences
 - C. It brings peace
 - D. It is harmless
10. What should Israel do to avoid the punishment mentioned in Hosea 9?
- A. Continue their ways
 - B. Return to God and repent
 - C. Form alliances
 - D. Build more idols

Answers: B, B, C, B, B, B, B, B, B, B

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

Fill in the Blank

1. God warns Israel not to _____ like other nations because of their idolatry.
2. Israel's sacrifices will not _____ God, as stated in Hosea 9.
3. Israel will be exiled to _____ and Assyria due to their disobedience.
4. The _____ in Israel will fail as part of God's judgment.
5. Hosea 9 emphasizes the consequences of turning away from _____.

Answers: rejoice, please, Egypt, harvests, God

Vocabulary Words

1. **Exile (גלות)** - The state of being barred from one's native country; a punishment Israel faces for their disobedience.
 2. **Idolatry (עבודה זרה)** - Worship of idols; Israel's sin that leads to their judgment and exile.
 3. **Rejoice (שמח)** - To express joy or celebration; Israel is warned not to rejoice in this chapter due to their impending punishment.
 4. **Harvest (קציר)** - The process of gathering mature crops; Hosea 9 mentions that Israel's harvests will fail as a part of their punishment.
 5. **Punishment (עונש)** - The consequence of disobedience or wrongdoing; Israel faces punishment from God for turning away from Him.
-

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 10

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 10 describes Israel's continued unfaithfulness and the consequences of their sin. The chapter uses agricultural metaphors to illustrate Israel's deceitful and self-centered behavior. Despite being blessed with prosperity, Israel has misused its gifts for idol worship. God warns of impending judgment, comparing Israel's downfall to a destroyed vineyard. The chapter calls for Israel to sow righteousness and seek the Lord, but their persistent rebellion leads to further punishment. Hosea 10 emphasizes the importance of sincere repentance, righteous living, and the dangers of turning away from God.

Opening Question

1. What do the agricultural metaphors in this chapter.
 2. What do the agricultural metaphors in this chapter (like the vineyard and plowed field) teach us about the relationship between our actions and their consequences
-

Outline

1. **Israel's Misuse of Prosperity (Hosea 10:1-2)**
 - Israel, like a luxuriant vine, has used its blessings for idol worship instead of honoring God, revealing their divided heart.
 - Application Question 1: How can blessings and prosperity sometimes lead us away from God?
 - Application Question 2: What can we do to ensure our success and blessings honor God?
2. **Warning of Judgment (Hosea 10:3-8)**

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

- God warns that Israel's kings and idols will not save them from destruction; their altars will be demolished, and they will experience fear and shame.
- Application Question 1: Why is it dangerous to rely on worldly leaders and idols for security?
- Application Question 2: How can we avoid the fear and shame that comes from misplaced trust?

3. Call to Repentance and Consequences of Sin (Hosea 10:9-15)

- God calls Israel to "sow righteousness" and reap His mercy, but warns that continued rebellion will lead to further punishment, likened to a calf's destruction.
- Application Question 1: What does it mean to "sow righteousness" in our daily lives?
- Application Question 2: How can understanding the consequences of Israel's rebellion help us make better choices?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 10:12, "Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love." Discuss how this verse applies to the idea of living righteously and receiving God's blessings.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Create a skit where students portray Israel's choices to use their prosperity for idol worship instead of honoring God. Reflect on the impact of those choices and discuss alternatives.
3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the importance of repentance and righteous living. How can we ensure that our actions align with God's will, especially in times of prosperity?

Quiz

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. How is Israel described at the beginning of Hosea 10?
 - A. A fruitful tree
 - B. A luxuriant vine
 - C. A dry bush
 - D. A strong oak
2. What has Israel done with its prosperity?
 - A. Built temples for God
 - B. Used it for idol worship
 - C. Saved it for the future
 - D. Shared it with the poor
3. What does God warn will happen to Israel's altars and idols?
 - A. They will be blessed
 - B. They will be destroyed
 - C. They will remain untouched
 - D. They will be increased
4. Who does Israel place their trust in, according to Hosea 10?
 - A. God
 - B. Foreign allies and idols
 - C. Prophets
 - D. Themselves
5. What agricultural metaphor does God use to describe Israel's coming punishment?
 - A. A burning field
 - B. A plowed field
 - C. A destroyed vineyard
 - D. A growing tree
6. What does God call Israel to do in Hosea 10:12?
 - A. Sow discord
 - B. Sow righteousness

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- C. Sow hatred
- D. Sow crops
- 7. What is promised if Israel sows righteousness?
 - A. Wealth
 - B. The fruit of unfailing love
 - C. War
 - D. Exile
- 8. What does Hosea 10 say will happen if Israel continues in sin?
 - A. They will be prosperous
 - B. They will face further punishment
 - C. They will be forgiven
 - D. They will become powerful
- 9. What historical event does Hosea 10 reference as a warning?
 - A. The Exodus
 - B. The battle of Gibeah
 - C. The building of the temple
 - D. The crossing of the Jordan
- 10. What lesson does Hosea 10 teach about blessings and obedience to God?
 - A. Blessings come from self-reliance
 - B. Blessings should be used to honor God, not idols
 - C. Blessings are unrelated to obedience
 - D. Obedience leads to loss of blessings

Answers: B, B, B, B, C, B, B, B, B, B

Fill in the Blank

1. Israel is described as a luxuriant _____, misusing its prosperity for idol worship.
2. God warns that Israel's altars and idols will be _____.
3. Israel has placed its trust in foreign allies and _____ instead of God.

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4. God calls Israel to "sow _____" and reap His mercy.
5. Hosea 10 emphasizes the importance of using our _____ to honor God.

Answers: vine, destroyed, idols, righteousness, blessings

Vocabulary Words

1. **Righteousness (צִדִּיק)** - Moral integrity and virtuous living; God calls Israel to sow righteousness to receive His mercy.
 2. **Idolatry (עֲבוֹדַת זָרָה)** - Worship of idols; a major sin for which Israel is judged in Hosea 10.
 3. **Prosperity (שְׁלוֹמ)** - A state of success or wealth; Israel misuses their prosperity for idol worship rather than honoring God.
 4. **Repentance (תְּשׁוּבָה)** - The act of turning away from sin and returning to God; Hosea calls for sincere repentance from Israel.
 5. **Judgment (מִשְׁפָּט)** - The act of God determining right from wrong; God's judgment is declared against Israel for their continued sin.
-

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 11

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 11 highlights God's enduring love for Israel despite their continued rebellion. The chapter begins with God recalling how He called Israel out of Egypt, nurturing them like a father. Despite His care, Israel turned to idols and refused to return to Him. God expresses sorrow over the idea of punishing Israel, showing deep compassion and mercy. Yet, the chapter ends with a promise of restoration, where God will not execute His fierce anger, but instead, will lead them back with love. Hosea 11 emphasizes the balance of God's justice and unwavering love for His people.

Opening Question

1. Why does God use the imagery of a parent and child to describe His relationship with Israel in this chapter?
 2. How does this chapter show both God's justice and His mercy?
-

Outline

1. **God's Love and Nurturing Care for Israel (Hosea 11:1-4)**
 - God recalls calling Israel out of Egypt and nurturing them, yet they turned away to worship idols.
 - Application Question 1: How can remembering God's past care and blessings help us stay faithful?
 - Application Question 2: What are some ways we can respond to God's nurturing love in our lives today?
2. **Israel's Rebellion and God's Sorrow (Hosea 11:5-7)**

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Despite God's love, Israel refuses to return to Him, leading to the consequences of their rebellion. God expresses sorrow over their stubbornness.
- Application Question 1: Why is it important to recognize and turn back from rebellion against God?
- Application Question 2: How does understanding God's sorrow over sin affect our relationship with Him?

3. God's Reluctance to Punish and Promise of Restoration (Hosea 11:8-11)

- God contemplates the punishment but ultimately decides against it, revealing His compassion and mercy. He promises future restoration for Israel.
- Application Question 1: How does God's decision to show mercy influence our understanding of His character?
- Application Question 2: What steps can we take to seek restoration in our relationship with God when we have strayed?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 11:1, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son." Discuss its significance and how it reflects God's enduring love.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Have students act out a scene where God expresses both His disappointment and His love for Israel. Discuss the balance between justice and mercy.
3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the concept of God as a loving parent. How does this image help us understand God's feelings toward His people? Encourage students to share personal reflections.

Quiz

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. How does God describe His relationship with Israel at the beginning of Hosea 11?
 - A. As a master and servant
 - B. As a parent and child
 - C. As a king and subjects
 - D. As strangers
2. From where did God call Israel, according to Hosea 11:1?
 - A. Babylon
 - B. Egypt
 - C. Assyria
 - D. Canaan
3. Despite God's love, what did Israel turn to?
 - A. Foreign nations
 - B. Worshiping idols
 - C. Building temples
 - D. Seeking riches
4. How does God feel about punishing Israel, according to this chapter?
 - A. Eager
 - B. Indifferent
 - C. Sorrowful
 - D. Happy
5. What does God ultimately decide about His anger towards Israel?
 - A. To execute it fully
 - B. To temper it with mercy
 - C. To ignore it
 - D. To increase it
6. What promise does God make for Israel's future in Hosea 11?
 - A. Destruction
 - B. Wealth

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- C. Restoration and love
- D. Continued exile
- 7. How does God describe His own emotions in this chapter?
 - A. Full of wrath
 - B. Compassionate and merciful
 - C. Completely indifferent
 - D. Overjoyed
- 8. What does God say about His approach to anger?
 - A. He will not carry it out to the fullest extent
 - B. He will unleash it completely
 - C. He is indifferent to anger
 - D. He will increase His wrath
- 9. What is the primary theme of Hosea 11?
 - A. God's wealth
 - B. God's justice and love
 - C. Israel's strength
 - D. Political power
- 10. What lesson can we learn from Hosea 11 about God's nature?
 - A. God is only just and never merciful
 - B. God is only merciful and never just
 - C. God balances justice with mercy
 - D. God does not care about human actions

Answers: B, B, B, C, B, C, B, A, B, C

Fill in the Blank

1. God describes His relationship with Israel as that of a _____ and child.
2. Despite God's nurturing care, Israel turned to _____.
3. God expresses _____ over the idea of punishing Israel.

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. God promises _____ and a return for Israel despite their rebellion.
5. Hosea 11 emphasizes God's balance of _____ and mercy.

Answers: parent, idols, sorrow, restoration, justice

Vocabulary Words

1. **Compassion (רַחֲמִים)** - Deep sympathy and sorrow for another's suffering; God shows compassion towards Israel despite their rebellion.
 2. **Mercy (חַסֵּד)** - Compassionate treatment, especially toward someone who deserves punishment; God decides to show mercy instead of executing full judgment.
 3. **Rebellion (מַרִּי)** - The act of resisting authority or control; Israel's repeated turning away from God is described as rebellion.
 4. **Restoration (תְּשׁוּבָה)** - The act of returning something to a former condition; God promises to restore Israel despite their unfaithfulness.
 5. **Justice (מִשְׁפָּט)** - The principle of fairness; God's decisions are just, balancing between discipline and mercy.
-

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 12

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 12 contrasts Israel's current deceitful behavior with their ancestor Jacob's struggles and encounters with God. The chapter highlights Israel's reliance on lies and deception, warning of the consequences of their actions. God reminds Israel of Jacob's earnest pursuit of God's blessing and calls them to return to righteousness and justice. The chapter also condemns Israel's reliance on wealth and foreign alliances rather than trusting God. Hosea 12 emphasizes the importance of humility, seeking God earnestly, and living justly, urging Israel to remember their heritage and return to faithful obedience.

Opening Question

1. How does the story of Jacob's encounters with God provide a lesson for Israel in this chapter?
 2. Why does God compare Israel's behavior to their ancestor Jacob's struggle for blessing?
-

Outline

1. **Israel's Deceitful Behavior (Hosea 12:1-2)**
 - God condemns Israel for their deceit and reliance on foreign alliances, warning of impending judgment.
 - Application Question 1: Why is it important to rely on God rather than deceit and manipulation?
 - Application Question 2: How can we practice honesty and integrity in our daily lives?
2. **Jacob's Struggle and Pursuit of God (Hosea 12:3-6)**

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

- The chapter reflects on Jacob's struggles and encounters with God, highlighting his earnestness in seeking God's blessing.
 - Application Question 1: What can we learn from Jacob's persistence in seeking God?
 - Application Question 2: How can we seek God earnestly in our own lives, especially in times of struggle?
3. **Call to Repentance and Warning Against False Security (Hosea 12:7-14)**
- God calls Israel to return to righteousness and warns against placing trust in wealth and false security. He recalls their past transgressions and the need for repentance.
 - Application Question 1: Why is it dangerous to place our security in wealth and material possessions?
 - Application Question 2: How can repentance and a return to God's ways bring true security and peace?
-

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 12:6, "But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always." Discuss how this verse encourages continuous faithfulness and justice.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Create a skit where students act out Jacob's struggles with God and Israel's current behavior. Reflect on the contrast and discuss the importance of seeking God earnestly.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the theme of repentance and returning to God. What does it mean to seek God with all our hearts, and how can we apply this in everyday life?
-

Quiz

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

1. How does God describe Israel's behavior in Hosea 12?
 - A. Honest and faithful
 - B. Deceitful and rebellious
 - C. Wise and discerning
 - D. Strong and courageous
2. Who is compared to Israel in this chapter?
 - A. Moses
 - B. David
 - C. Jacob
 - D. Abraham
3. What is highlighted about Jacob's character in Hosea 12?
 - A. His wisdom
 - B. His strength
 - C. His earnest pursuit of God's blessing
 - D. His wealth
4. What does God call Israel to do in Hosea 12:6?
 - A. Build more altars
 - B. Return to God, maintain love and justice
 - C. Form alliances
 - D. Gather riches
5. What does God warn Israel about regarding their security?
 - A. To place it in military strength
 - B. To place it in wealth and alliances
 - C. To find it in prophets
 - D. To ignore it
6. How does God view Israel's reliance on wealth and deceit?
 - A. As a sign of intelligence
 - B. As wise stewardship

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- C. As foolishness leading to destruction
- D. As a blessing
- 7. What is God's response to Israel's current actions?
 - A. He rewards them
 - B. He ignores them
 - C. He promises judgment
 - D. He praises them
- 8. What does the chapter suggest is necessary for Israel to find true security?
 - A. Wealth and alliances
 - B. Returning to God and living righteously
 - C. Building more temples
 - D. Following foreign customs
- 9. What historical figure is mentioned to remind Israel of their past and call them to repentance?
 - A. Solomon
 - B. Elijah
 - C. Jacob
 - D. Saul
- 10. What is the main message of Hosea 12?
 - A. Trust in wealth and military might
 - B. Seek God earnestly and live justly
 - C. Ignore God's commands
 - D. Find security in foreign alliances

Answers: B, C, C, B, B, C, C, B, C, B

Fill in the Blank

1. God condemns Israel for their _____ and reliance on foreign alliances.
2. The chapter reflects on _____ struggles and encounters with God.
3. God calls Israel to return to righteousness and maintain _____ and justice.

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

4. Israel is warned against placing their trust in _____ and false security.
5. Hosea 12 emphasizes the importance of seeking God with _____ and living justly.

Answers: deceit, Jacob's, love, wealth, sincerity

Vocabulary Words

1. **Deceit (מַרְמָה)** - The act of deceiving or misleading; Israel is condemned for their deceitful behavior.
 2. **Repentance (תְּשׁוּבָה)** - The act of turning away from sin and returning to God; a call for Israel to return to righteousness.
 3. **Righteousness (צְדָקָה)** - The quality of being morally right or justifiable; God calls Israel to live righteously.
 4. **Justice (מִשְׁפָּט)** - The quality of being fair and reasonable; Israel is urged to maintain justice in their actions.
 5. **Security (בְּטָחוֹן)** - Freedom from danger or threat; Israel is warned not to place false security in wealth or foreign alliances.
-

THE BOOK OF HOSEA

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 13

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 13 depicts the final warnings and consequences of Israel's persistent idolatry and rebellion against God. God recounts Israel's history, beginning with their early devotion and subsequent turn to idol worship, which leads to their downfall. God's anger is kindled, and He declares that Israel will be destroyed like a lion attacking its prey. Yet, the chapter also foreshadows a glimmer of hope, hinting at redemption despite the impending judgment. Hosea 13 emphasizes the consequences of rejecting God's authority and the ultimate power of His judgment, calling for repentance and humility.

Opening Question

1. Why does God remind Israel of their early devotion and subsequent fall into idolatry in this chapter?
 2. How does this chapter balance God's judgment with a hint of hope for redemption?
-

Outline

1. **Recounting Israel's Early Faithfulness and Rebellion (Hosea 13:1-3)**
 - God recalls Israel's initial faithfulness and their later descent into idolatry, leading to their spiritual death.
 - Application Question 1: Why is it important to remember our past faithfulness to God?
 - Application Question 2: How can we prevent falling into spiritual complacency or rebellion?
2. **God's Anger and the Consequences of Idolatry (Hosea 13:4-8)**

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

- God expresses anger towards Israel for forgetting Him and turning to idols, describing the fierce consequences that will follow.
- Application Question 1: What are the dangers of turning away from God in pursuit of idols?
- Application Question 2: How can we guard against letting anything become an idol in our lives?

3. Imagery of Judgment and a Hint of Redemption (Hosea 13:9-16)

- The chapter uses vivid imagery to describe Israel's impending judgment, yet subtly suggests the possibility of future redemption.
- Application Question 1: How can understanding God's judgment lead us to repentance?
- Application Question 2: What does the hint of redemption tell us about God's character and His desires for His people?

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 13:4, "But I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me." Discuss how this verse reinforces the importance of exclusive devotion to God.
2. **Role Playing Activity:** Create a skit where students act out Israel's journey from faithfulness to idolatry and discuss the consequences. Reflect on the lessons learned about staying true to God.
3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the themes of judgment and redemption. How can recognizing our need for God's mercy lead us to repentance and a deeper relationship with Him?

Quiz

1. How does God describe Israel's initial relationship with Him?
A. Unfaithful

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. Faithful
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Hostile
2. What led to Israel's spiritual downfall, according to Hosea 13?
- A. Idolatry and forgetting God
 - B. Building more altars
 - C. Helping the poor
 - D. Obeying the commandments
3. What does God say about His role in Israel's history?
- A. He was indifferent
 - B. He brought them out of Egypt
 - C. He ignored them
 - D. He only punished them
4. How is God's judgment described in this chapter?
- A. Gentle
 - B. Like a lion attacking its prey
 - C. As a reward
 - D. As a light breeze
5. What does God warn will happen to Israel because of their sin?
- A. Prosperity
 - B. Destruction
 - C. Peace
 - D. Wealth
6. What does Hosea 13 emphasize about God's authority?
- A. It can be ignored
 - B. It is absolute and demands respect
 - C. It is weak
 - D. It is irrelevant

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7. How does God feel about Israel's idol worship?
 - A. Accepting
 - B. Angry
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Happy
8. What is hinted at the end of Hosea 13 despite the severe warnings?
 - A. Eternal destruction
 - B. Redemption and hope
 - C. Indifference
 - D. Continuous punishment
9. What lesson does Hosea 13 teach about consequences?
 - A. They are unpredictable
 - B. They follow from actions, particularly idolatry and rebellion
 - C. They do not exist
 - D. They are always positive
10. What should Israel do to avoid further judgment, according to Hosea 13?
 - A. Continue their current path
 - B. Repent and return to God
 - C. Seek more idols
 - D. Form alliances

Answers: B, A, B, B, B, B, B, B, B, B

Fill in the Blank

1. God recalls Israel's initial _____ and their later descent into idolatry.
2. God expresses _____ towards Israel for forgetting Him and turning to idols.
3. Israel's punishment is described like a _____ attacking its prey.
4. Despite warnings, there is a hint of _____ at the end of Hosea 13.
5. Hosea 13 emphasizes the importance of _____ devotion to God.

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

Answers: faithfulness, anger, lion, redemption, exclusive

Vocabulary Words

1. **Idolatry (עֲבוֹדַת זָרָה)** - The worship of idols; a major cause of Israel's downfall in Hosea 13.
 2. **Redemption (גְּאוּלָּה)** - The action of saving or being saved from sin; Hosea 13 hints at possible redemption despite impending judgment.
 3. **Judgment (מִשְׁפָּט)** - The expression of God's authoritative decision; Hosea 13 describes severe judgment for Israel's sins.
 4. **Faithfulness (אֱמוּנָה)** - Loyalty and steadfastness; Israel is reminded of their early faithfulness to God.
 5. **Exclusive (יָחִיד)** - Belonging solely or entirely to one person or group; Hosea 13 calls for Israel's exclusive devotion to God.
-

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER 14

Summary of Chapter

Hosea 14 concludes with a call for Israel to return to the Lord with sincere repentance. God promises to heal their waywardness and love them freely if they turn back to Him. The chapter describes the blessings that will follow their repentance: renewal, fruitfulness, and protection under God's care. God assures Israel of His forgiveness and His desire to restore them. The chapter ends with a reminder that the ways of the Lord are right, urging everyone to walk in them. Hosea 14 emphasizes the transformative power of repentance and God's unwavering desire to restore His people.

Opening Question

1. What does God promise to do if Israel returns to Him with sincere repentance in this chapter?
 2. How does Hosea 14 illustrate the concept of God's forgiveness and restoration?
-

Outline

1. **Call to Repentance (Hosea 14:1-3)**
 - God calls Israel to return to Him, confessing their sins and seeking forgiveness.
 - Application Question 1: Why is it important to acknowledge our sins and seek God's forgiveness?
 - Application Question 2: How can we practice sincere repentance in our daily lives?
2. **Promise of Healing and Restoration (Hosea 14:4-7)**
 - God promises to heal Israel's waywardness and bless them with renewal and fruitfulness if they repent.

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- Application Question 1: What does God's promise to heal and restore teach us about His character?
- Application Question 2: How can we experience spiritual renewal and fruitfulness in our own lives?

3. Assurance of God's Protection and Guidance (Hosea 14:8-9)

- God reassures Israel of His protection and care, emphasizing that His ways are righteous and lead to life.
 - Application Question 1: Why is it important to trust in God's guidance and protection?
 - Application Question 2: How can we learn to walk in God's ways and find true peace and security?
-

Possible Activities

1. **Memory Verse Challenge:** Memorize Hosea 14:4, "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them." Discuss how this verse reflects God's forgiving nature.
 2. **Role Playing Activity:** Have students act out a scene where Israel repents and God responds with forgiveness and blessings. Discuss the impact of true repentance and the joy of restoration.
 3. **Discussion Activity:** Lead a discussion on the importance of repentance and God's desire to restore. How can we apply these principles to our relationships with God and others?
-

Quiz

1. What does God call Israel to do at the beginning of Hosea 14?
 - A. Rejoice
 - B. Return and repent

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- C. Build more idols
- D. Seek alliances
- 2. What will God do if Israel returns to Him?
 - A. Ignore them
 - B. Heal their waywardness and love them freely
 - C. Destroy them
 - D. Send them into exile
- 3. What does God promise to remove from Israel?
 - A. Their wealth
 - B. His anger
 - C. Their crops
 - D. Their enemies
- 4. What kind of blessings does God promise to those who repent?
 - A. Destruction
 - B. Renewal and fruitfulness
 - C. Punishment
 - D. Confusion
- 5. What does God compare His care for Israel to in this chapter?
 - A. A harsh judge
 - B. A nurturing gardener
 - C. A distant king
 - D. A roaring lion
- 6. How does God describe His ways at the end of Hosea 14?
 - A. Confusing
 - B. Unpredictable
 - C. Right and righteous
 - D. Irrelevant
- 7. What is the main theme of Hosea 14?
 - A. Judgment without hope

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

- B. Repentance and restoration
 - C. Wealth and power
 - D. War and conquest
8. How does God show His love for Israel in this chapter?
- A. By ignoring their sins
 - B. By sending them away
 - C. By offering forgiveness and healing
 - D. By rewarding their enemies
9. What does God promise will happen to Israel if they follow His ways?
- A. They will fail
 - B. They will be punished
 - C. They will find life and security
 - D. They will be forgotten
10. What does Hosea 14 encourage believers to do?
- A. Ignore God
 - B. Trust in idols
 - C. Return to God and walk in His ways
 - D. Seek power through war

Answers: B, B, B, B, B, C, B, C, C, C

Fill in the Blank

1. God calls Israel to _____ and repent for their sins.
2. If Israel returns to God, He promises to _____ their waywardness and love them freely.
3. God assures Israel that His _____ has turned away from them.
4. God promises _____ and fruitfulness to those who repent.
5. Hosea 14 emphasizes the importance of walking in God's _____ to find true peace and security.

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Observe, Interpret & Apply

Answers: return, heal, anger, renewal, ways

Vocabulary Words

1. **Repentance (תשובה)** - The act of turning away from sin and returning to God; a central theme in Hosea 14.
 2. **Waywardness (משובה)** - Straying from the correct path or turning away from God; God promises to heal Israel's waywardness if they repent.
 3. **Renewal (חדוש)** - The act of making something new again; God promises renewal and fruitfulness for those who return to Him.
 4. **Fruitfulness (פרייה)** - Being productive or bearing fruit; symbolizes spiritual prosperity and blessings from God.
 5. **Forgiveness (סליחה)** - The act of pardoning someone for their mistakes or sins; God offers forgiveness to Israel if they repent.
-