

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

GOMER

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

Lesson 25 • May 1, 2013

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Esther** has been helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Hosea 1

2. a) In **V1-2**, what command did the LORD give to Hosea, and how did this reflect the spiritual condition of Israel?
- b) From **V3**, how was the LORD's command fulfilled?
3. a) According to **V4-5**, what was the son's name, and why did the LORD give him that name?
- b) For insight on why God pronounced judgment on the house of Jehu:
- Read **2 Kings 9:6-7**. What house was Jehu commanded to destroy and why?
 - Read **2 Kings 9:27** and **10:11-14**. Which additional people did Jehu massacre in his zeal?

For background: By the time the book of Hosea was written, the 10 tribes in the northern kingdom of Israel had been exiled by Assyria.

4. a) In **V6-7**, what is Gomer's daughter's name, and what does it mean?
- b) What did this name reveal about the LORD's plans for Israel **and** Judah?
5. a) Gomer gave birth to a third child; what was the meaning of his name in **V8-9**?
- b) What did his name reveal about the spiritual condition of the people of Israel at that time?

6. What promises of restoration do you see in **1:10-2:1**?

1:10 _____

1:11 _____

2:1 _____

SECTION II: Read Hosea 2

7. a) Read how Gomer is described in **V2-5**. How is this a picture of Israel's unfaithfulness?
- b) What literally is implied about Hosea's children in **V4-5**, and what is spiritually implied for Israel?
8. From **V6-13**,
- a) List some of "the bad and ugly" details about Gomer.
- b) Describe the LORD's punishment of Israel because of its unfaithfulness to Him.
9. Put in your own words why unfaithful Israel returns to the LORD, according to **V7**.
10. Pinpoint the sins exposed in **V-8**.
11. a) What touches your heart about the ways God restores His relationship with the people of Israel?
- V14** _____
- V15** _____
- V16** _____
- V17-18** _____
- V19-20** _____
- b) What do you notice as you track the word "will" in **V21-23**, and what profound blessing does God ultimately promise?
12. If you have a story of restoration and blessing authored by the LORD, as Gomer did, share that story. If you seek that kind of restoration in your life, share that longing.

SECTION III: Read Hosea 3

13. In **V1**, what did the LORD ask of Hosea regarding Gomer?
14. a) In **V2-3**, what acts of obedience and love does Hosea show to Gomer?

14. b) Given the cost of a common slave was thirty shekels (**Exodus 21:32**), what does this tell you about Gomer's condition (and perhaps her self-worth)?
15. What do **V4-5** say about the consequences of unfaithfulness and the eventual return of Israel?
16. Gomer's "bad and ugly" choices force us to ask the hard questions:
- a) When and in what ways do you tend to look for love in all the wrong places?
 - b) Where would God say you (or our culture) are guilty of unfaithfulness, like Gomer and the people of Israel?
17. Come trembling to the LORD who loves you and be transparent before Him. Begin that prayerful exchange here.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Although we are unfaithful, the LORD pursues us with His relentless love. Drink in the truth of these verses and identify an aspect of God's love in each of them:

Deuteronomy 33:12 _____

Psalm 23:6 _____

Psalm 36:7-8 _____

Jeremiah 31:3 _____

John 3:16 _____

Ephesians 3:17b-19 _____

2. God displayed His relentless love to Gomer amid all of her sexual sins. If you are wrestling with sexual sin or have had a history of it, what practical help or fresh hope do you find in the following steps:

- a) Admit the sin: **1 John 1:9**
- b) Remove yourself from the temptation: **1 Corinthians 6:18a**
- c) Find 1 or more believers to hold you accountable and pray for you: **James 5:16**
- d) Identify key Scriptures to strengthen you: **Psalm 119:9-11**
- e) Believe God can give you victory: **Romans 8:37**
- f) Believe God can redeem the scars of past sexual failure: **Psalm 103:2-5**

3. Suggested Memory Verse: **1 John 3:1a**

