



**FAITH  
& LOVE**

Church of God in Christ

Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C.  
Sunday School

Lesson 7 January 18, 2026  
AN UNFAITHFUL BRIDE

# SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



Reaching  
People



Teaching  
People



Ministering  
to People



Assimilating  
People



Building  
People



Involving  
People



## SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
**Psalm 119:105**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

**Superintendent/Teacher:** Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

**School/Class:** He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

**Superintendent/Teacher:** Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

**School/Class:** As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**2 Peter 3:18**

## Lesson 7 January 18, 2026

### AN UNFAITHFUL BRIDE



- Bible Basis: Hosea 1
- Bible Truth: Israel's alienation from God and His plans for restoration is experienced in the marriage of Hosea and Gomer and their children.
- Memory Verse: "The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD" (Hosea 1:2)
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: LEARN how God commanded Hosea to marry Gomer as a model for His love for Israel, despite their unfaithfulness; REFLECT on the meaning of marriage and unfaithfulness and God's desire for the restoration of broken relationships; and DEMONSTRATE faithfulness to God through a commitment to maintain faithful friendships, relationships, and marriages.
- Background Scriptures: [Hosea 1-3](#) & [Psalms 89:24-29](#) – Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

## **Hosea 1 KJV**

**1** The word of the Lord that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

**2** The beginning of the word of the Lord by Hosea. And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord.

**3** So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

**4** And the Lord said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel.

**5** And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel, in the valley of Jezreel.

**6** And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away.

## **Hosea 1 KJV**

**7** But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the Lord their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

**8** Now when she had weaned Loruhamah, she conceived, and bare a son.

**9** Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.

**10** Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.

**11** Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

## LIGHT ON THE WORD

**Hosea.** Hosea, son of Beeri, was likely a native of the Northern Kingdom (Israel). He lived about the middle of the eighth century B.C., and his ministry appears to have begun around the same time as the prophet Amos. Hosea ministered for almost 40 years-prophesying throughout the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah of Judah and Jereboam II of Israel. Not much is known about Hosea outside of what we learn about him in the book which bears his name.

## LIGHT ON THE WORD

**The Covenant.** In ancient times, "cutting" a covenant was essential to life. Parties would covenant together for many reasons: to protect their land or possessions, to show honor or earnestness in a business deal, to seal a marriage arrangement, and so forth. All people in biblical times understood how a covenant worked. It was more than just a contract; it was a pledge of loyalty and the giving of your entire life. God's covenant with Israel, given to Moses on Mt. Sinai, was well-known to the people of Israel. It contained very specific blessings and curses, each tied to a specific point in the Law of Moses. If they disobeyed a specific law, God would curse them with a specific curse. If they obeyed a specific law, God would bless them in a specific way.

## LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

**AIM:** We will know that unfaithfulness in covenant relationships leads to brokenness and alienation.

# INTRODUCTION

## The Defeat of Israel

The valley of Jezreel was located in an area of central Israel that is today often called Megiddo. During the ministry of the prophet Elijah, Jezreel came to be a significant place. It was the place of Naboth's vineyard, which was coveted by King Ahab ([1 Kings 21](#)). Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab, so Ahab's queen Jezebel had Naboth murdered. The prophet Elijah reprimanded Ahab and Jezebel and foretold that their demise would take place on the very same land they had schemed to acquire.

# INTRODUCTION

## The Defeat of Israel

Later, King Jehu did indeed defeat Ahab at Jezreel and began to rid the land of the blatant idolatry brought to the nation by Jezebel. By the time of Hosea, the third generation of Jehu's descendants, Jereboam II, was on the throne. At this time, Israel appeared to be prosperous, vigorous, and strong. They had won back much of the territory previously stolen by their enemies. The house of Jereboam II was in power during the first three chapters of the book of Hosea. After that, we see a sad, quick succession of six kings in 25 years given by God to Israel in anger and punishment.

## BIBLE LEARNING

**AIM:** We will see how God rebuilds the broken places  
in our lives as we seek and live in His faithfulness.

## **I. THE PROPHET'S CHALLENGE**

Hosea 1:1

The prophets would often use demonstrative examples or imagery to convey a message to the people. In the book of Hosea, the life of the prophet himself serves as the example of God's message to the people of Israel and Judah. When God speaks His Word through the prophet Hosea, He gives him a startling command: marry an adulterous woman. Hosea obeys and marries a woman named Gomer. There is some debate over whether Gomer had adulterous tendencies or if she actually practiced prostitution when Hosea married her, but regardless, she was known to be sexually unfaithful.

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### I. THE PROPHET'S CHALLENGE

Hosea 1:1

#### Hosea 1

1 The word of the Lord that came unto Hosea, the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

The superscription in verse 1 opens with the formulaic "The word of the Lord" found in other prophetic books. It introduces the prophet to whom the Lord spoke – in this instance Hosea – and the time the messenger's ministry took place. The introduction looks back to the time of kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah, and the reign of Jeroboam II, king of Israel. This would place Hosea's ministry in the eighth century BC.

## II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

Hosea 1:2-9

Hosea obeys God and marries Gomer. Just as God had once made a binding covenant with the people of Israel, Hosea is now bound by a covenant to Gomer, and just as God loves His people, Hosea loves his wife. She soon bears a son, whom God instructs to be named Jezreel. As noted above, Jezreel was the name of a place of significance in Israel's history, and means "God scatters." By instructing Hosea to name his son this, God sends a clear message to the Israelites that judgment is coming.

## **II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN**

Hosea 1:2-9

Hosea continues to proclaim God's warning, but the Israelites pay no attention. Soon, Gomer bears a daughter. As instructed by God, Hosea names the little girl "Loruhamah," which means "not loved" or "not pitied." This is a stronger warning than the first, clearly conveying that if Israel continues in their idolatry, God will no longer love nor forgive them. Israel still refuses to listen. Their worship of other gods reveals a flagrant and wanton disregard for God's love, which ultimately leads to their alienation from Him.

## II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

Hosea 1:2-9

After she weans Loruhahmah, Gomer gives birth to another son. His God – given name is Loammi, which means "not my people." Sadly, this child's name sums up the break in the covenant relationship between God and His people that He had warned would come. God's heart still longs for His people, but they will not turn back to Him.

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## II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

### Symbols of God's Fate

Hosea 1:2-9

#### Hosea 1

2 The beginning of the word of the Lord by Hosea. And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord. 3 So he went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim; which conceived, and bare him a son.

Hosea 1:2-9 is written as a third person, biographical account of Hosea's marriage and children, which symbolize Israel's fate. It is important for the modern reader to understand that the Old Testament prophets used socially and culturally relevant situations and examples to convey their messages. They were concerned with making real that which is invisible. The marriage metaphor was a way of using a common social institution, such as marriage and the ancient Israelites' views of the roles of husbands and wives, to describe the breach in the covenant relationship between the Lord and Israel. Hosea used demonstrative signs to communicate what was viewed as an act of prostitution committed by Israel against the Lord.

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### II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

#### Symbols of God's Fate

Hosea 1:2-9



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In verses 2 and 3, Hosea recalls the Lord's command for him to take a wife of "whoredoms" and children of whoredoms. The Hebrew noun *zenunim* (zeh-noo-NEEM) translated whoredoms in the KJV is also translated "promiscuous woman" (NIV) and "harlotry" (NASB). Traditionally, commentators have interpreted this as a command for Hosea to marry a prostitute. However, a more accurate interpretation of *zenunim* would be to marry a woman who is sexually promiscuous or had sexual relations outside of marriage ([Deuteronomy 22:25](#)). In a culture that placed a high value on women being sexually pure at the time of their marriage, or being faithful in marriage, to the point of threat of death ([Deuteronomy 22:20-21](#)), all the Israelites would be shocked to be likened to a promiscuous woman.

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### II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

#### Symbols of God's Fate

Hosea 1:2-9



#### Hosea 1

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Hosea shows that by entering into this marriage, he is performing a sign, act symbolizing the state of Israel's relationship with the Lord. The people, personified as the wife of promiscuity, have betrayed the Lord, figured as her husband. Thus, the Lord accuses the nation of Israel of infidelity or apostasy, turning from worshiping the Lord alone to seeking other gods. Hosea does as the Lord commanded and takes a woman named Gomer as his wife.

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## II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

### Symbols of God's Fate

Hosea 1:2-9

#### Hosea 1

4 And the Lord said unto him, Call his name Jezreel; for yet a little while, and I will avenge the blood of Jezreel upon the house of Jehu, and will cause to cease the kingdom of the house of Israel. 5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel, in the valley of Jezreel.

The Lord instructed Hosea a second time, telling him to call his firstborn son Jezreel, which is Hebrew for "God sows." The naming of Hosea's son was a continuation of the sign-act. The idiom "reap what you sow" is applicable in verse 4. The Lord will sow or bring upon the dynasty of Jehu what its owed in spilling the blood of the house of Ahab in Jezreel. Jehu, the grandfather of King Jeroboam son of Joash (cf. v. 1), killed Joram, son of King Abab of Israel, along with his mother, Jezebel, and every family member and supporter of the Omride dynasty when he was an army commander, for their idolatry (see [2 Kings 9-10](#)).

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## II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

### Symbols of God's Fate

Hosea 1:2-9

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Although the Lord had anointed Jehu king of Israel and commanded him to put an end to the house of Ahab, the Lord may have denounced the brutality with which Jehu carried out the assault. Moreover, Jehu himself was guilty of forming political alliances with other nations that were condemned by the Lord. Jehu's dynasty came to an end just as predicted in 747 B.C. with the assassination of King Zechariah.

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## AN UNFAITHFUL BRIDE

### II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

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The parallel pronouncement that the house of Israel would end was more than a prophecy about the end of a particular king's rule-it also declared the fall of Israel to the Assyrians in 722 B.C. The Israelite monarchy was severely weakened following the downfall of Jehu's dynasty, leaving Israel vulnerable to an invasion by Assyria. The idiom "break the bow" meant that the Lord would cause Israel to fall in a military defeat. Ironically, the destruction of Israel would lead to the scattering of the tribes of the Northern Kingdom, perhaps also symbolizing Hosea's son's name.

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### II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

#### Symbols of God's Fate

Hosea 1:2-9

#### Hosea 1

6 And she conceived again, and bare a daughter. And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away. 7 But I will have mercy upon the house of Judah, and will save them by the Lord their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword, nor by battle, by horses, nor by horsemen.

Gomer conceives once more and gives birth to a daughter, whom the Lord instructs Hosea to name Loruhamah (lo-roo-khaw-MAW), Hebrew for "without compassion," "not pitied," or "not loved." She is to be called such because she is a sign of the Lord's Word to Hosea that when Israel fell, the Lord would show no mercy on them. The meaning of the parallel phrase in Hebrew is difficult to interpret; two interpretations are "I will annihilate them completely" or "I will certainly not forgive them."



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### II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

#### Symbols of God's Fate

Hosea 1:2-9

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Some scholars contend that verse 7 is a later addition due to the focus on Judah instead of Israel, and disagree whether it should be attributed to Hosea or a later editor. The message, in contrast to verse 6, is that the Lord would have compassion on Judah and spare it from Assyrian devastation. However, the Lord would deliver Judah from the Assyrians, but not by military might. Instead, the record shows that Judah managed to avoid being overtaken by the Assyrians by paying tribute to King Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria in 732 B.C. ([2 Kings 16:5-9](#); [Isaiah 7:1-16](#); cf. [2 Chronicles 28:5-21](#)), and later King Sennacherib of Assyria stopped short of destroying Judah in 701 B.C.



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## AN UNFAITHFUL BRIDE

### II. THE PROPHET'S CHILDREN

#### Symbols of God's Fate

Hosea 1:2-9

In the ancient world, as well as some places today, children were nursed until around the age of three. Therefore, verse 8 provides the reader with chronological information that is not provided elsewhere. The reader can infer that there were approximately three years between the birth of Loruhamah and her younger brother, whom the Lord told Hosea to name Loammi (lo-amMEE): "not my people." The marriage metaphor, from the accusation of adultery in verse 2 to the estrangement in verses 4-7, is taken to its final conclusion in verse 9, with the Lord announcing that the relationship between the Lord and Israel is ending in divorce. The declaration "You are not my people, and I am not yours" is a reversal of the covenant the Lord made with Israel that they would be God's people and He would be their God ([Exodus 6:7](#)). It is also thought to be the words written on the bill of divorce required by the Torah ([Deuteronomy 24:1](#)).



## **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

### **Punishment for the Northern Kingdom**

God instructed Hosea to prophesy that the strength of the Northern Kingdom would again be defeated at Jezreel, this time by the brutal Assyrians, because of the Israelites' continual desertion of God and turning to idolatry. They took their military victories for granted and worshiped the false gods of Baal, Ashtoreth, and Molech.

### **III. GOD'S GREAT MERCY**

Hosea 1:10-11

Though the Israelites persist in their wicked ways, God foresees a time when His people would repent and return to Him. In His great mercy and love, God reveals that their punishment would only be for a time. He has a plan for renewal and blessing. God, through Hosea, tells the people of Israel that one day they will be restored to God, and in the very place where He had said, "You are not my people," they would be called the "sons of God." This is in great contrast to verse 2, where the people of Israel are called "children of whoredoms."

### **III. GOD'S GREAT MERCY**

Hosea 1:10-11

God would not only restore His covenant with Israel, but He promises that Israel and Judah will someday be reunited into one nation. Though we are not told the eventual outcome of Hosea and Gomer's marriage, we can clearly see the promise of blessings and joy that result when reconciliation takes place between God and His chosen people.

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### III. GOD'S GREAT MERCY

#### When God is Dissatisfied

Hosea 1:10-11

#### Hosea 1

10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God. 11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.



Verses 10 and 11 ([Hebrews 2:1-2](#)) conclude this chapter with a series of speeches by the Lord strikingly different from the message above. The use of "yet" as a conjunction here conveys that the Lord's disaffection toward Israel will not last forever. The people's infidelity results in the destruction of the land and their removal from it, yet the Lord promises that the land of Israel will be repopulated with its people, and they will be too numerable to count. This is reminiscent of the promise to Abraham that his descendants would be more numerous than the sand on the shore ([Genesis 22:17](#)). Those whom the Lord once declared were children of promiscuity and "not my people" will be called children of the living God.

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## AN UNFAITHFUL BRIDE

### III. GOD'S GREAT MERCY

#### When God is Dissatisfied

Hosea 1:10-11

#### Hosea 1

10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God. 11 Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel.

The reversal of Israel's fate will result in Israel and Judah being united under a single "head" or leader, as in the days of David and Solomon before the kingdom split in two. Moreover, the unification implies the restoration of the covenant and the security and blessings that accompany it. Metaphorically, the people are again in the land of Egypt before the Lord entered into covenant with them; yet, the Lord would symbolically bring them up from Egypt to the wilderness where they once declared their loyalty to Him. Now Jezreel, which stood for judgment, destruction, and scattering (1:4-5), represents a place where redemption and restoration will occur.



# **LIGHT ON THE WORD**

## **Hosea's Faithfulness**

God asks Hosea to be a living example to vividly point out the unfaithfulness of His people. By their continued and blatant idolatry, God's people had committed adultery, breaking the covenant relationship they had with Him.

## **BIBLE APPLICATION**

**AIM:** We will accept that God is a God of relationships, who extends a deep love for us to embrace.

## **BIBLE APPLICATION**

Unfaithfulness in relationships leads to brokenness and alienation. The tragedy of divorce, the ugliness of a breach between lifelong friends, or the pain of separation between siblings or other family members are all too common. Yet God longs to bring reconciliation to those relationships. He also desires for believers to develop empathy and compassion for others who have been hurt in relationships. When we experience restoration and forgiveness in our relationship with God, we can learn to extend that same grace to others.

## **BIBLE APPLICATION**

It can be hard to extend grace when we have unresolved issues in our own lives from past relationships. Many who are unaware of the significance of the hurt and pain they have incurred from these relationships have become toxic in their current interactions with others. This results in more unhappy marriages and families, and ultimately it affects society overall, as the foundation of society – the family – is in need of serious repair.

## **STUDENT RESPONSES**

**AIM:** We will learn that God is a God of reconciling relationships.

## **STUDENT RESPONSES**

Knowing that God is a God of reconciliation means we can be optimistic and hopeful even during trying circumstances of a difficult or broken relationship. Ask God to show you your part in forgiving or asking for forgiveness. Make a commitment to God that you will do your best to maintain faithfulness in all relationships.

# Prayer

Dear God,

Your faithfulness is truly a gift that You give to all of Your creation. Your faithfulness is a blessing each and every day. Forgive us of our faithfulness and allow us another chance to direct our desires and work for You and to building Your kingdom.

In Jesus' Name we pray,

Amen.

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Next Sunday  
January 25, 2026  
Lesson 8  
A Wedding in Cana  
John 2:1-12