



## Hosea's Wayward Wife - Hosea 1:1-3:5

### Open It

1. If someone were to select a spouse for you, whom would you trust to make the best choice?
2. What qualities do you cherish about the person who loves you most?

### Explore It

1. Who was Hosea? (1:1)
2. What was the symbolism of Hosea's family? (1:2-2:1)
3. What did the Lord plan to do to win Israel back to himself? (2:14-15)
4. What commands did the Lord give Hosea? (3:1)
5. What would happen after Israel's period of isolation? (3:5)

### Get It

1. How do you tend to deal with a loved one who has wronged you in some way?
2. How is God's faithfulness to us an example of the way we should treat others?

### Apply It

How can you show love and acceptance to someone in your church in desperate need of forgiveness or affirmation?



## Israel's Sinfulness - Hosea 4:1-5:15

### Open It

1. If you were treated unjustly by someone in your community, how would you want to respond?
2. If you were to write your local newspaper about a thorny social problem, what would you write about and how would you like the issue resolved?

### Explore It

1. What charge did God bring against Israel? (4:1-2)
2. How had God's people sinned? (4:11-14)
3. What would God withdraw because of Israel's unfaithfulness? (5:6-7)
4. How had the process of judgment against Israel already started? (5:11-14)
5. What was the ultimate purpose of the Lord's judgment on His people? (5:15)

### Get It

1. How is our society like rebellious Israel?
2. In what way might the Christian church be partly responsible for the breakdown of morality in our culture?

### Apply It

This week what can you do in your community to show the love and righteousness of the Lord?



## Israel's Punishment - Hosea 6:1-10:15

### Open It

1. What are some childhood friendships that went sour by the time you were an adult, and what drove you apart?
2. When do you usually like to say what you think and show your feelings, and when do you prefer to keep your thoughts and emotions to yourself?

### Explore It

1. How would a penitent Israel respond to the Lord? (6:1-3)
2. What were Israel's crimes against the Lord? (6:11-7:16)
3. How did God's people show that they had forgotten Him? (8:1-14)
4. What were the consequences of Israel's idolatry? (9:10-17)
5. Why did God hold out the possibility of repentance and blessing? (10:12)

### Get It

1. Why is God's mercy and grace important?
2. How would you describe your walk with the Lord in the past few weeks?

### Apply It

How can you work on improving your closeness and devotion to the Lord this week?



## God's Love for Israel - Hosea 11:1-14:9

### Open It

1. What is one good way to express angry feelings?
2. Would you prefer to be known as "loving" or "just"? Why?

### Explore It

1. How did God express His love for Israel? (11:1-4)
2. How did God show that He was torn between love and justice? (11:8-11)
3. What lessons from history did God mention? (12:3-6, 12-13)
4. What was the promise of restoration? (14:4-6)
5. What final challenge did Hosea leave the people? (14:9)

### Get It

1. How has God shown fatherly love to you?
2. Why is justice an important part of being a Christian?

### Apply It

What gifts, talents, abilities, or resources can you use to show Christian love and justice toward others?





# The Day of the Locusts, the Day of the Lord - Joel 1:1-3:21

## Open It

1. If you lived in an area known for natural disasters—earthquakes, brush fires, flooding, or the like—how would this knowledge affect you?
2. When have you most enjoyed the world of nature?

## Explore It

1. Who was Joel? (1:1)
2. Why was the locust plague meaningful? (1:15-20)
3. What was significant about the coming Day of the Lord? (2:1-11)
4. What was the nation's only hope against utter destruction? (2:12-14)
5. What would mark Israel's ultimate restoration? (3:18-21)

## Get It

1. If Joel were to preach an ominous sermon about the impending Day of the Lord, how would your congregation likely respond to his words?
2. In terms of Joel's imagery, how would you describe the spiritual condition of your church: about due for an invasion of locusts? prepared to fast, mourn, and wear sackcloth? ready for a ripe harvest and an outpouring of the Lord's Spirit?

## Apply It

When can you take time to fast and pray for your church?

Notes

Handwriting practice lines for notes.

# Announcement of Judgment - Amos 1:1-2:16

## Open It

1. What line of work would you like to be doing three years from now?
2. If you had the opportunity to work in the criminal justice system, in what position would you be most effective?

## Explore It

1. When did Amos, the shepherd, reveal his visions? (1:1)
2. How would Tyre be punished for her sins? (1:9-10)
3. How had Israel sinned? (2:6-8)
4. How would God deal with Israel's sins? (2:6-16) How would God deal with Israel's sins? (2:6-16)
5. Who would be affected by God's severe punishment? (2:13-16)

## Get It

1. If you were to speak out against social injustice, what would compel people to listen to you?
2. What types of social and religious corruption do you see in Christian circles?

## Apply It

Starting today, what practical steps can you take toward letting the Holy Spirit soften your heart toward the Lord and bring renewal to your spiritual life?



## Reasons for Judgment - Amos 3:1-6:14

### Open It

1. What one family relationship would you consider very unique and rewarding?
2. If suddenly you inherited a lot of money, what would you do with it?

### Explore It

1. Why did God speak out against Israel? (3:1-2)
2. What were the injustices of Israel? (3:9-10)
3. What were the Israelites accused of? (5:7, 10-13, 21-22, 25-26).
4. What were the Israelites accused of? (5:7, 10-13, 21-22, 25-26)
5. What did Amos say to those who enjoyed affluence and comfortable living? (6:1-7)

### Get It

1. In what ways do you think you need to be less attached to money, things, material comforts, and status?
2. What is the prevailing attitude in your church toward money, possessions, and status?

### Apply It

How can you share some of your resources with those who are needy or oppressed?



## Visions of Judgment - Amos 7:1-9:15

### Open It

1. If you had to tell a friend some bad news, how would you choose to do it?
2. If you were in the business of fixing things, what kinds of things would you be interested in repairing or restoring?

### Explore It

1. What three visions did the Lord reveal to Amos? (7:1-9)
2. Why did Amos appeal to the Lord? (7:1-9)
3. Why would there be unprecedented mourning in the land? (8:4-10)
4. What did Amos see in his fifth and final vision? (9:1-10)
5. How did Amos describe the restoration after judgment? (9:11-15)

### Get It

1. How can you pray for your community?
2. In what ways does your church need renewal?

### Apply It

When can you meet with a group of Christians to pray for forgiveness of sins and an outpouring of God's grace and mercy on your church community?





## Edom and Israel - Obadiah 1:1-21

### Open It

1. If you were to live in a remote, mountainous region, in what geographical location would you want to live?
2. On which of your material possessions do you most depend?

### Explore It

1. What message did the Lord give Obadiah? (1:1)
2. What would happen to Edom's pride? (1:2-4)
3. How would Edom's wealth be destroyed? (1:5-7)
4. Why did God condemn Edom? (1:10-14)
5. How would Israel be delivered? (1:17-21)

### Get It

1. What happens when Christians reject God's Word and grace?
2. Based on God's dealings with the Edomites, how can we expect Him to judge nations today that rebel against Him, dominate others, or trust in their own strength and possessions?

### Apply It

In all your activities and interactions this week, how can you show more trust in the Lord and less reliance on yourself and your possessions?



## **Jonah Forsakes His Mission - Jonah 1:1-2:10**

### **Open It**

1. What is your idea of the perfect "get away from all your troubles" location?
2. When have you been rescued from a difficult situation?

### **Explore It**

1. What did God tell Jonah to do? (1:1-2)
2. How did Jonah respond to God? (1:3)
3. How did the sailors appeal to Jonah? (1:11)
4. Once inside the fish, how did Jonah respond to God's rescue? (2:1-9)
5. How did God finally deliver Jonah? (2:10)

### **Get It**

1. How has God pursued you when you have tried to avoid Him?
2. When have bad circumstances turned out for your good?

### **Apply It**

How do you want to thank the Lord right now for all the remarkable ways He has delivered you?



## Jonah Fulfills His Mission - Jonah 3:1-4:11

### Open It

1. When things don't go your way, how do you tend to respond?
2. What most easily moves you to compassion?

### Explore It

1. How did Jonah respond to God's instructions? (3:3)
2. What did the king do? (3:6)
3. How did Jonah respond to God's goodness to the Ninevites? (4:1)
4. What was the attitude of Jonah's prayer? (4:2-3)
5. What did God want Jonah to understand? (4:9-11)

### Get It

1. God was very gracious to Jonah, a pouting, reactive type. How does God deal with your prickly side?
2. Jonah wanted Nineveh, Israel's enemy, destroyed. When have you wanted revenge rather than restoration in a relationship?

### Apply It

What is one way you can extend God's love and mercy toward others, particularly those who don't deserve it?



## The Trial of the Capitals - Micah 1:1-2:13

### Open It

1. What one infectious disease would you most like to avoid having? Why?
2. If you inherited valuable land, what would you do with it?

### Explore It

1. What was the message for Samaria and Judah? (1:2-7)
2. What were the sins of the people? (2:1-5)
3. What were the sins of the false prophets? (2:6-11)
4. What were the sins of the false prophets? (2:6-11)
5. Who would lead God's people? (2:13)

### Get It

1. In what ways have Christians perpetuated social injustice?
2. What does God's standard of justice require of us?

### Apply It

How can you become a more effective Christian witness in matters of social justice?





## The Trial of the Leaders - Micah 3:1-5:15

### Open It

1. What volunteer social service project would best suit your talents and interests?
2. Who, in your view, is one of the greatest leaders of our time?

### Explore It

1. How did the unjust leaders treat the people? (3:1-3)
2. How would the Lord deal with the leaders? (3:4)
3. How did Micah describe the characteristics of the kingdom? (4:1-8)
4. What happened to the ruler of Israel? (5:1)
5. What was the work of Israel's ruler? (5:3-15)

### Get It

1. How would you characterize the leadership of your church?
2. If Micah were here today, how might he evaluate the church on matters of helping the disadvantaged and suffering people?

### Apply It

This week what initiative can you take to do acts of mercy and justice on behalf of those in need?



## The Trial of the People - Micah 6:1-7:20

### Open It

1. If you had to take part in a public debate, what position would you like to defend?
2. When faced with difficult circumstances, on whom can you most depend for help?

### Explore It

1. What was God's indictment against Israel? (6:1-5).
2. What did God desire from His people? (6:8)
3. Since Israel did not meet God's requirements, what was God compelled to do? (6:9-16)
4. What was Micah's prayer? (7:14)
5. In conclusion, what did Micah affirm about God? (7:18-20).

### Get It

1. What does it mean to act justly? love mercy? walk humbly with God?
2. If all Christians were spiritual people who always obeyed God faithfully and acted justly, how might our society be different?

### Apply It

What steps can you take to act justly, show mercy, or be humble toward your coworkers? your family? your neighbors?



## **Nineveh - Nahum 1:1-3:19**

### **Open It**

1. When you are troubled, what are some of the most comforting words a friend can say to you?.
2. When have you been enraged with someone else?

### **Explore It**

1. How did Nahum describe the ways of the Lord? (1:2-8)
2. What had Nineveh done against the Lord? (1:9-11)
3. How would Judah's affliction end? (1:12-15)
4. Why did God judge Nineveh? (3:1-7)
5. How would people respond to Nineveh's destruction? (3:19)

### **Get It**

1. How has God cared for you?
2. The name Nahum means comfort. How can Christians be a comfort to others in troubling circumstances?

### **Apply It**

To whom can you be a comfort or help? How?

# Notes

Lined area for taking notes, consisting of multiple horizontal lines.

## **Habakkuk's Complaints and Prayer - Habakkuk 1:1-3:19**

### **Open It**

1. If you could talk with one prominent person, whom would you choose and what would you discuss?
2. When someone says nice things about you, how do you tend to respond?

### **Explore It**

1. About what was the prophet distressed? (1:2-4)
2. What did God tell Habakkuk to do? (2:2)
3. In his prayer, how did Habakkuk describe the person of God? (3:1-3)
4. What did the prophet say about God's power? (3:4-7)
5. On what note of faith did the prophet conclude his song of praise? (3:17-19)

### **Get It**

1. If your earthly sources of satisfaction and security were stripped away, how would you continue to hope in the Lord?
2. What prayer of rejoicing and praise can you offer to God, your Savior?

### **Apply It**

How can you start expressing your faith and hope in the Lord in refreshing, creative ways (such as in songs, poetry, or art)?





## **Days of Wrath and Hope - Zephaniah 1:1-3:20**

### **Open It**

1. What did the prophet summon the people to do? (2:1-3)
2. What in your life brings you the most joy?

### **Explore It**

1. What was prophesied concerning Judah and Jerusalem? (1:2-18)
2. What did the prophet summon the people to do? (2:1-3)
3. What did Zephaniah say about Jerusalem's doom? (3:1-7)
4. How would the nations be renewed? (3:9-10)
5. How would God remove sorrow from His people? (3:18-20)

### **Get It**

1. When have you experienced restoration and rejoicing after a period of rebellion?
2. In your life as a Christian, what do you look forward to most?

### **Apply It**

How can you remind yourself (or others) this week of the future hope that God has planned for His people?



## Rebuilding the Temple - Haggai 1:1-2:23

### Open it

1. When do you procrastinate?
2. When do you tend to own up to your mistakes, and when do you find it easier to make excuses for yourself?

### Explore it

1. What excuse did the people make for not rebuilding the temple? (1:2)
2. Why did the Lord rebuke the people of Judah? (1:3-6)
3. How did the people react to the prophetic message? (1:12-15)
4. What contrast was made between God's punishment up to that point and His future blessing? (2:11-19)
5. What final promise did God make? (2:23)

### Get it

1. If a respected church leader reprimanded you for your lack of commitment to ministry, how would you respond?
2. How has God's discipline influenced your life?

### Apply it

What do you want to remember the next time you are rightly confronted with a need to change?



## **Zechariah's Night Visions - Zechariah 1:1-6:8**

### **Open It**

1. If you were asked to help in a historic preservation project, what type of project would interest you and what role would you like to play?
2. What would you consider to be a successful assignment or undertaking of yours that grew out of an insignificant beginning?

### **Explore It**

1. What word from the Lord did Zechariah bring to Israel in his call to repentance?
2. What was the Lord's response in the first vision? (1:14-17)
3. What did God show the prophet in the vision of Joshua the high priest? (3:1-10)
4. What was the explanation given concerning the golden lampstand and the two olive trees? (4:1-14)
5. How did Zechariah describe the vision of the four chariots? (6:1-8)

### **Get It**

1. From what small beginnings in the life of your church do you expect God to accomplish great things?
2. What ministry project are you involved in that you would like to see completed?

### **Apply It**

What small steps can you take to be obedient to the Lord in new ways this week?



## The Sinful Priests - Malachi 1:1-2:9

### Open It

1. When you are displeased about something, how do you express yourself?
2. When have you felt taken for granted or treated with disrespect?

### Explore It

1. What did God claim for Israel? (1:2)
2. What was God's complaint against Israel? (1:6-14)
3. What was the attitude of the priests in Malachi's day? (1:12-13)
4. What was the warning to the priests? (2:1-4)
5. How had the priests failed in keeping and applying the law? (2:5-9)

### Get It

1. Israel was guilty of giving God leftovers. In what way do we sometimes give God leftovers in our worship? in our finances? in our time?
2. How does God deal with you when you give Him less than your best?

### Apply It

What would it take for you to start giving God your best in your worship, your finances, and your time?





## The Sinful People - Malachi 2:10-3:15

### Open It

1. How would your closest friend describe the kind of friend you are?.
2. When do you feel most thankful for your blessings?

### Explore It

1. How had God's people broken faith with Him? (2:10-12)
2. What was additional evidence of a broken covenant? (2:13-16)
3. How had Israel wearied God? (2:17)
4. What did God require of Israel? (3:7-12)
5. How had Israel challenged God? (3:13-15)

### Get It

1. What is the extent of the price we pay, and possibly cause others to pay, when we knowingly disobey God?
2. In what ways do we try to rationalize our sins?

### Apply It

Starting this week, when can you set aside a few minutes in prayer with another believer, asking the Lord to help you become more faithful, obedient, and trustworthy in each of your relationships?



## The Faithful Few - Malachi 3:16-4:6

### Open It

1. To whom are you most loyal?
2. What social events do you usually dread or not enjoy?

### Explore It

1. What assurance was given to those who were faithful to the Lord? (3:16)
2. What promise did God give to His people? (3:17)
3. What would the day of the Lord hold for God's remnant? (4:2)
4. Why did the prophet tell the people to recall the law of Moses? (4:4)
5. What major theme of the prophets did Malachi's last words reflect? (4:6)

### Get It

1. How submissive to the Lord are you?
2. To what blessings and promises of the Lord do you look forward?

### Apply It

What can you do this week to demonstrate unswerving loyalty to the Lord?

