**Hosea 5**

**Guilt of the Religious & Political Leaders**

**Lesson 20**

1. **Reflect on the past week. When did you feel closest to God? OR, was there a particular verse or message from this week’s lesson on Hosea that you found inspiring in some way?**
2. **Check for footnotes on the places mentioned in verses 1 and 2, Mizpah, Tabor, and Shittim. What is the significance of these places?**
3. **Bring your Bible to this class. Compare translations of verses 1 and 2 with others in your group. There may be differences even between the NAB and NABRE. Do the differences in translation make a significant difference in meaning?**
4. **Read verses 3-4. Why would it be impossible for Ephraim and Israel to return to God?**

**Hosea 5:3-4**

I know Ephraim,  
    and Israel is not hidden from me:  
Now, Ephraim, you have practiced prostitution,  
    Israel is defiled.  
**4**Their deeds do not allow them  
    to return to their God;  
For the spirit of prostitution is in them,  
    and they do not know the Lord.

1. **Reflect on how our actions or lack of actions become bad habits in our lives in general.**

**How difficult is it to change habitual behavior that has lasted a lifetime?**

**When it comes to our spiritual life, what are the consequences of bad habits or spiritual neglect?**

1. **Read verses 5-7. Look for footnotes for clues to the meaning of the terms “new moon” and “illegitimate children”. How do these terms suggest pagan practices that have isolated the Israelites from YHWH?**

**Hosea 5:5-7** (NABRE)

The arrogance of Israel bears witness against him;  
    Israel and Ephraim stumble because of their iniquity, and Judah stumbles with them.  
**6**With their flocks and herds they will go to seek the Lord, but will not find him;  
    he has withdrawn from them.

**7**They have betrayed the Lord, for they have borne **illegitimate children**;  
Now the **new moon** will devour them together with their fields.



1. **The sins that have so angered God are explained in 2 Kings 15:13-20. What are the offences noted there?**

**2Kings 15:13-20 13Shallum,** son of Jabesh, **became king** in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah, king **of Judah**; he reigned one month in Samaria. **14Menahem,** son of Gadi, came up from Tirzah to Samaria, and **struck down Shallum**, son of Jabesh, in Samaria. **He killed him and reigned in his place**.

**15**As for the rest of the acts of Shallum, with the conspiracy he carried out, these are recorded in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel. **16**At that time**, Menahem attacked Tappuah, all its inhabitants, and its whole district as far as Tirzah, because they did not let him in. He attacked them; he even ripped open all their pregnant women**.

*Reign of Menahem of Israel.* **17**In the thirty-ninth year of Azariah, king of Judah, **Menahem**, son of Gadi, **became king over Israel** for ten years in Samaria. **18**He did what was evil in the Lord’s sight as long as he lived, not desisting from the sins that Jeroboam, son of Nebat, had caused Israel to commit. **19Pul,[**[**c**](#fen-NABRE-9948c)**] king of Assyria, came against the land.** But **Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver to have his help in holding onto his kingdom**. **20Menahem paid out silver on behalf of Israel, that is, for all the people of substance, by giving the king of Assyria fifty shekels of silver for each one**. So the king of Assyria went home and did not stay in the land.

1. **How long will God’s wrath and punishment last for Ephraim, Benjamin and Judah? See versed 13-15.**

**Hosea 5:13-15.** For I am like a lion to Ephraim, like a young lion to the house of Judah; It is I who tear the prey and depart, I carry it away and no one can save it. **15**I will go back to my place until they make reparation and seek my presence. In their affliction, they shall look for me.

1. **Reflection. What do these verses tell us about the justice of God? How does it confirm our beliefs in the necessity of repentance**?