

## Healing in Marriages Hosea 1

God created marriage: Genesis 2:18

Story of Hosea and Gomer

1. An unusual marriage
2. Three symbolic children
3. An unfaithful wife

We can learn some lessons from Hosea:

1. Marriage is a covenant that should be modeled after God's covenant with Israel.
2. We see the depth of love needed to keep a marriage together.
3. At times, even though we have been wronged, we may need to seek reconciliation, even when it costs us.
4. Never give up on our marriage.
5. If we are the party that has wronged the other, be willing to do whatever it takes to be reconciled.
6. If we are the party that has been wronged by the other, be willing to forgive and unconditionally love.

How can we have strong and successful marriages?

- Don't give up
- Remain faithful
- Focus on the other person
- Put God first

Ephesians 5:

- Husbands: love your wives
- Wives: Respect your husband.

When marriages fall apart

- Hold on to hope
- Seek reconciliation
- Forgive
- Bring restitution & show your sincerity

Some lessons:

1. Marriage is worth it.
2. Marriage takes work, investment, time.
3. Make your love unconditional.
4. Build bridges of trust.
5. Be realistic with your expectations

