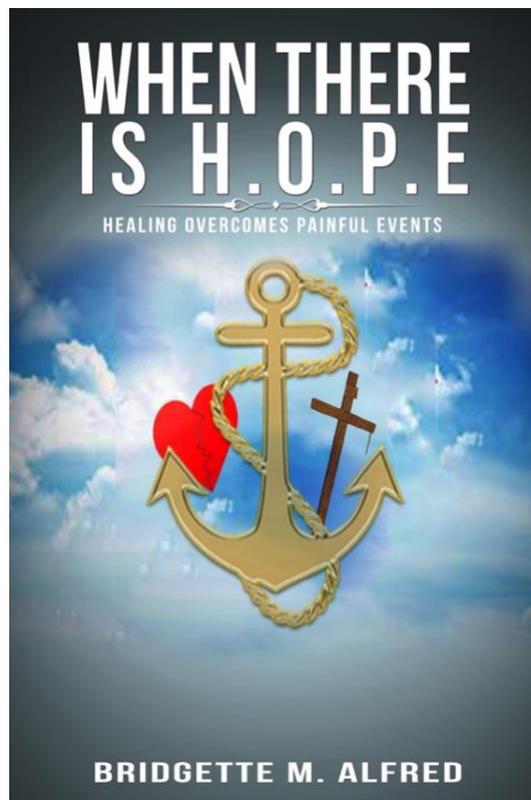


# **When There Is H.O.P.E. (Healing Overcomes Painful Events)**

**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE - Week Four,  
Thursday, July 8, 2021**



## **Joseph, Samson, and Hosea**

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## JOSEPH

**Joseph had his Hope of being able to judge the character of people better than his Uncle James. In this excerpt Joseph is narrating his first sexual encounter and it's consequence.**

During the night, Gwen came into the living room, knelt by the couch, and began to kiss him.

At first, he pushed her away, but she wouldn't stop. He started kissing her back and then they both gave in to their lustful feelings.

The next morning, my father took Gwen back to her hotel. Feeling guilty and ashamed, he told her, "Last night was a mistake. I take full responsibility and I'm deeply sorry for taking advantage of the situation."

"You didn't take advantage of me. I love you."

"Gwen this isn't real love but lust."

Gwen started crying and ran upstairs to her hotel room. She cut the trip short and went back home.

A month later she found out that she was pregnant. She was so scared about what her father would say and do when he found out. Gwendolyn phoned my father at the club to tell him that she was pregnant. He told her not to worry and that he would work things out.

Uncle James explained, "Although I have taught you to always take responsibility for your actions, this is the one time that it is not going to work. Mr. Duplantier is not going to let his daughter marry you, no matter what."

"Uncle James, you're wrong."

"Joseph I've been on this earth a lot longer than you. I've lived in this city all my life. I know what I'm talking about."

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The day came when my father was to meet Councilman Charles Duplantier and he wore his best suit and tie.

With his best smile and holding his hand out to shake, Papa said, “Thank you for meeting with me Councilman Duplantier.”

The councilman just ignored his etiquette. “I am a very busy man,” was his blunt reply. “What is it that you want Joseph Young?”

Papa was not surprised that this man knew his name. “Sir, I am here to ask for your daughter’s hand in marriage.”

With a look of disbelief, he replied, “Why would I even consider letting a shrimp farmer marry my daughter?”

Papa felt the sweat begin to roll down his whole body. He looked directly into his face saying, “Councilman Duplantier, sir, I am an honest and hard-working man. My uncle raised me to always take responsibility for my actions.”

“And what actions are you taking responsibility for?”

“Sir, Gwendolyn is pregnant with my baby.”

Quicker than a bolt of lightning, Councilman Duplantier leapt from his chair, grabbed my father, and started strangling him.

After a few minutes, the councilman calmed down. He looked at Papa with hate in his eyes and with his finger poking in his chest.

“You no good shrimp farmer! You will not marry my daughter! You will not even see my daughter again or the child that she is carrying. These two men will escort you to get your things and you will take the next train out of New Orleans! If you ever try to get in touch with my daughter again, your uncle will have a terrible accident. Do I make myself clear?”

**Reflection:** How do you think one person could cause another person to sin?

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# SAMSON

**Read Judges 14:1-3**

**Reflection:** Do you think Samson's life would had been better if he had listened to his parents?

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**Read Judges 14:14-17**

**Reflection:** Do you think Samson was cruel to give a riddle that no one would guess the correct answer?

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**Read Judges 14:19-20**

**Reflection:** Do you think it is possible that the person who married Samson's wife was already intimate with her to get the secret of the riddle?

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**Reflection:** Describe how Joseph and Samson lives are similar.

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# HOSEA

**Read Hosea 1:2-3**

**Reflection:** Why do you think God had Hosea to marry his wife to represent the state Israel was in?

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**Read Hosea 3:1-3**

**Reflection:** Do you agree or disagree that Hosea taking his wife back represents God's covenant grace towards Israel?

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**Reflection:** Describe how Joseph and Hosea lives are similar.

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