



April 10-11, 2021 Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Bible Passage: Hosea 1–14

Main Point: God loves people when they do not deserve it.

Bible Verse: Return to the LORD your God. He is gracious. He is tender and kind. He is slow to get angry. He is full of love. Joel 2:13

**YOUNGER/OLDER
LARGE GROUP**

 **PLAY** Opening Video & Countdown

 **PLAY** Worship Songs

Worship leaders sing two songs with the children and collect the offering.

 **SAY LEADER** Script: Opening

Welcome boys and girls! Today we are going to be talking about the story of Hosea (hoh ZAY uh) and Gomer (GOH muhr). Hosea accepted the difficult challenge of loving someone who didn't love him back. This is just like God's love for us. Just like every Bible story we have heard, today's story points to God's great love for us and His plan to save and rescue us from our sins.

If a friend asked you what God is like, how would you answer? [Allow kids to answer] God is so many things, but today we are going to focus on just a few of His qualities. Listen closely to the story of Hosea to discover how God is slow to get angry, kind, and loving.

 **PLAY** Big Idea Video

 **SAY LEADER** Script: Recap *Big Idea*

K-5th Recap:

This story sure doesn't sound like any love story I've ever read about in books or seen in the movies. God wanted to send a message to His people through Hosea. God used Hosea's life to show His great love for His people. God had a message for His people in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. But God didn't want Hosea to just tell the people about God's message; He wanted Hosea to show them. Hosea showed the people what God is like. What is God like? God is slow to get angry, kind, and loving.

Let's see how well you remember what happened in the story of Hosea...
[Ask the following review questions. Call on kids to answer.]

1. What was the name of the woman Hosea married? (Gomer, Hos. 1:3)
2. How were the people of Israel like Gomer? (Gomer was not faithful to Hosea. In the same way, God's people turned away from Him; Hos. 3:1)
3. True or false? Hosea gave up on Gomer and allowed her to run away. (false, Hosea kept chasing after Gomer and bringing her back; Hos. 3:2)

Even though Gomer kept running away, Hosea kept forgiving her and bringing her back. He even paid to get her back! God hated His people's sin but, just like Hosea paid a high price to get back his wife who did not love him, God had a plan to get His people back at a very great cost to Himself. God loves people when they do not deserve it.

Hosea told the Israelites to return to the Lord and strive to know the Lord (Hos. 6:1,3)
You know, we are just like the Israelites. We have turned away from God by sinning. Our sin separates us from God. That's the bad news. But God came after us. He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the highest price for us. Jesus gave up His own life by dying on the cross. He took the punishment we deserve for our sin. When we trust in Him, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life. That is very good news!



PLAY *Bible Verse* Video

Bible Verse: Return to the LORD your God. He is gracious. He is tender and kind.
He is slow to get angry. He is full of love. Joel 2:13



SAY LEADER Script: Prayer and dismiss to small group

[Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.]

So we know that God is slow to get angry, kind, and loving. Let's pray to Him.

"God, thank You for Your love. Thank You that it never stops. You never give up on us and love us even though we sin against You. Thank You that Jesus died so we could have eternal life. Help us to live our lives in ways that glorify You."



**OLDER
SMALL GROUP**

April 10-11, 2021
Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Bible Passage: Hosea 1–14

Main Point: God loves people when they do not deserve it.

Bible Verse: Return to the LORD your God. He is gracious. He is tender and kind. He is slow to get angry. He is full of love. Joel 2:13

Welcome:

Instruct kids to think of words that describe God. Invite kids to share their words. Challenge kids to think of words others have not yet mentioned.

Say • Those were some great words to describe God. We could sit here all day and never fully describe our mighty God. Today our big picture question is, What is God like? Are you ready to find out?

Activity: Pick and Choose

Materials Needed: None

Guide kids to line up in the middle of the room. Give them two choices. Kids should move to the left side of the room if they love the first choice more and the right side of the room if they love the second choice more.

Include these choices: ice cream or pizza, the ocean or pool, going to the movies or going to a concert, people who love you or people who do not love you.

Allow kids to explain their decisions.

Say • Doesn't that last option seem strange? People who love us are easy to love. Today we heard about a man named Hosea. God used Hosea to show that He loves us, even when we do not love Him back.

Activity: God's love never gives up

Materials Needed: paper, 3 pieces per kid, pencils or pens, trash can or recycling bin

Give each kid a pencil or pen and three pieces of paper.

Say • What are three sins you struggle with? Write those three things on your pieces of paper, and then crumple them up.

Lead kids to hold onto their paper wads and sit in a circle. Position a trash can in the middle of the circle.

Say • In today's Bible story, Hosea's relationship with Gomer reminded us of God's relationship with the people of Israel and with us. Even though God's people were unfaithful and loved other things more than God, God still loved them. We have sinned and loved other things more than God, too. But God still loves us.

God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin and bring us back to Him. That's amazing love!

So as you hold some pretty bad things in your hand, remember nothing that we do will cause God to stop loving us. He loves us so much He wants to rescue us from our sins.

Invite kids to each toss one paper wad into the trash can. Guide them to say today's main point together: God loves people when they do not deserve it. Play three rounds to discard of all the paper, repeating the main point each time.

Say • In today's Bible story, we heard how God answered Hezekiah's prayer. God might not always answer our prayers right away or in the way we hope, but we can trust that He knows what is best. God does everything for His glory and our good.

Pray

Pray for the children. Remind kids that God loves people when they do not deserve it.

Say • Let's pray. Lord God, Your love never gives up. Thank You for loving us even when we don't deserve it. Father, help us to love others who have been unloving to us. Give us a love that never gives up. Help us show Your love to the world by loving others well. Thank You for Jesus. We love You. Amen.