



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."



**YOUNGER
SMALL GROUP**

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Welcome:

As kids arrive, ask them about a time they were kind to someone who was rude to them. Was it easy? Did they want to be kind?

Say • Today, our story is about a man named Hosea. Hosea was a prophet of God, but his message to Israel was more than just words from God; it was his whole life! He showed God's love to the people in a very difficult way, but we'll learn more about it later.

Transition to Large Group / Transition back to Small Group

Activity Page:

Materials Needed: Activity pages, pencil or marker

Invite kids to complete the "Looking for Love" activity page. They will compare the pictures and try to find differences between the two.

SAY • Hosea was a prophet to Israel. His wife did not treat him with love or respect. But he loved her anyway.

Activity: I love...

Materials Needed: None

Form a circle of chairs in the center of the room, enough for each kid to sit. All but one kid will sit in the chairs, and the remaining kid will stand in the center. She will call out "I love ..." and then name something or someone she loves. Then she will attempt to sit in the empty chair. All other kids will shift to fill the chair she is trying to sit in. When she manages to sit in an empty chair, the player to her right will stand in the center and start over by naming someone or something he loves. Play as time allows.

Say • What do you think it means to love someone? Sometimes, we use love to mean really like. But love is more than just liking something a lot. Today we are going to learn about God's love by what happens to a husband whose wife did not love him.

Pray

Pray with the kids to ask Jesus to help them love others the way God does.

Say • We know that God's love never gives up, and that God loves people when they do not deserve it. When we really love God, He helps us love others. God's love changes us to make us more like His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to redeem us and make it possible for us to love like God loves. Let's pray that we can love like God loves, showing kindness and compassion to people no matter how they treat us.