



# HOSEA, PROPHET TO ISRAEL



## THE BOOK OF HOSEA

### **Instructions**

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

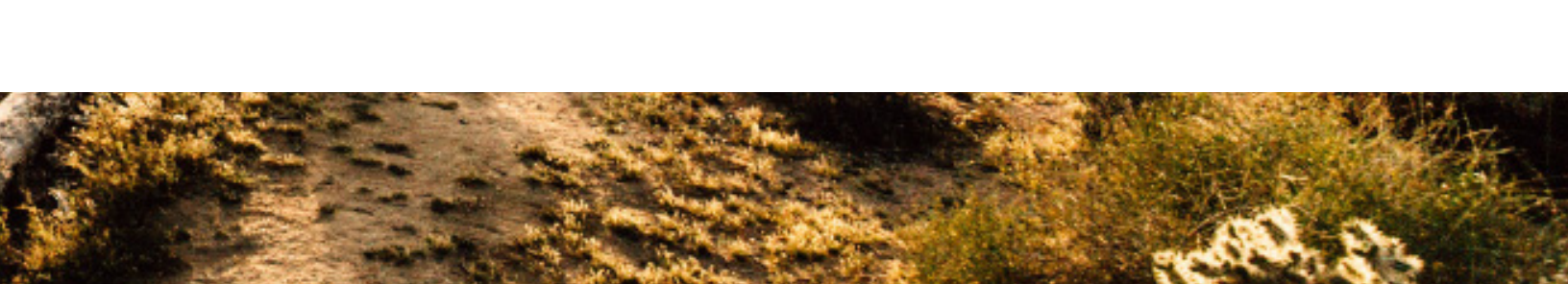
### **Tell the Bible Story**

God wanted to send a message to His people. So God gave instructions to the prophet Hosea. "Marry a woman who will not be faithful to you," God said. "Be a father to her children."

God was going to use Hosea's life to show His people in Israel what God's love for them was like. Hosea's wife would love other men instead of Hosea, just like the people of Israel loved and worshiped other gods instead of the one true God.

God was telling Hosea to do something very difficult. It is hard to love someone who doesn't love you back! But Hosea obeyed God. He married a woman named Gomer.

Gomer had three children: Jezreel, Lo-ruhamah (LOH-roo HA muh), and Lo-ammi (lo- AM igh). Each child's name had an important meaning. Jezreel was the name of a city, so this name was warning to Israel that God was going to punish Israel. They would be defeated by their enemies.



Lo-ruhamah, which means “No Mercy,” let Israel know that God was not going to show them mercy anymore. They would get the punishment their sin deserved.

Lo-ammi, which means “Not My People,” told the Israelites that they were no longer God’s people. They had broken their covenant to love and worship God.

Gomer was not faithful to Hosea. She often ran away. In the same way, God’s people turned away from Him. They worshiped false gods. God told Hosea to go after his wife. So Hosea found Gomer and paid to get her back.

“Stop being unfaithful,” Hosea said. Gomer had not loved her husband like a wife should, but Hosea loved her anyway. God gave Hosea a love that would never give up. God wanted the people of Israel to understand that they were like Gomer. The Israelites did not love God like they should, but God loved Israel anyway.

Hosea warned the Israelites that God was going to judge them for their sin. He pleaded with Israel to turn back to God. “Come, let us return to the Lord,” he said. “Let us strive to know the Lord.”

God was going to punish the people for turning away from Him, but He would keep the promise He made to Abraham. Abraham’s family would be a big family, and one day Jesus would come from Abraham’s family. 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 no matter the cost.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

*God used Hosea’s unfaithful wife to show the people of Israel that they were unfaithful to Him. God gave Hosea a deep love; Hosea was willing to buy back Gomer even after all she had done. God’s love is deep, and it never gives up. He goes after His people and paid a great price to get us back.*



## Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Hosea. Remind kids that Hosea was a prophet to Israel. Explain that during the time Hosea shared God's message with Israel, the kingdom went through several more bad kings—from Zechariah to Hoshea (hoh SHEE uh). Ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

1. What does it mean to be faithful? How is God faithful to us?

*Help your kids understand faithfulness as loyalty to someone or something. Someone who is faithful is trustworthy and reliable. Emphasize that God is faithful to us; His love never gives up on us.*

2. What price did God pay to rescue people from sin?

*Lead your kids to see how Hosea's paying to get Gomer back after she ran away reminds us that God paid a great price to rescue us. God sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might have life through Him.*

3. How can we love people who are difficult to love?

*Point out that Hosea didn't love Gomer because he was really good at loving people; rather, God gave Hosea a love that would never give up. Remind your kids that we were enemies of God, but He loved us and sent Jesus to take away our sin. Because God loves us so much, we can love others—even when they don't love us well. We can ask God for power to love without giving up.*

## SAY:

*King Solomon failed to lead God's people perfectly. God divided Israel into two kingdoms because Solomon sinned. But Solomon's failures didn't ruin God's plan. What does God know? God knows everything about the past, present, and future.*

## Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help kids find the Book of Hosea. Explain that Hosea is part of the Minor Prophets, but that only means it is a short book when compared to the Major Prophets, not that it is less important.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:



1. How many children did Gomer have?

*three, Hosea 1:3-8*

2. What did their names mean?

*Jezreel would see trouble, God would no longer have compassion on Israel, and God would no longer treat Israel as His people; Hosea 1:3-8*

3. Was God going to give up on His people forever?

*No, God would punish them but then He would restore them; Hosea 6:1-2*

4. How do we know God has stayed faithful to His people?

*Guide your kids to talk about the Bible, God's Word. Lead them to understand that it tells us of all the ways God restored His people, including sending Jesus to make the ultimate sacrifice for sin.*

5. What are ways we are unfaithful toward God?

*Guide your kids to talk about our tendency to put other things, like money, fame, or comfort, before God in our lives. We sometimes worship these things as the most important, when God is really most important.*

6. If God remains faithful to us no matter what, why do you think it's good to obey God?

*Help your kids think through what it communicates to God and the world when we disobey God. Help kids see that God loves us and wants us to love Him. Explain how God's mercy, grace, and love toward us awakens our hearts to love Him, and our love for God will naturally lead us to obeying Him.*

## SAY:

*God's love for us never gives up or fades away. It cannot be used up or run out. God is faithful to His people even when they do not love Him. He sent Jesus to save us and the Holy Spirit to help us obey.*