

Unit 14 • Session 2
October 5-6, 2019
2-3's Lesson
Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Bible Passage:
Hosea

Story Point:
God loves people who do not love Him back.

Key Passage:
2 Peter 3:9

Big Picture Question:
Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

Kid Connect
(30 minutes)

Large Group
(15 minutes)

Small Group
(15 minutes)

LEADER Bible Study

Hosea was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom of Israel for at least forty years. God sent Hosea to tell Israel of God's hatred toward sin and of His coming judgment. (See Hos. 4:1,6.) God also sent Hosea to bring a message of love—a love that never gives up. (See Hos. 11:7-9.)

To get the message across to the Israelites, God used Hosea's own life to show Israel what a never-gives-up kind of love looks like. Hosea obeyed God's instructions to marry an unfaithful woman. Hosea loved Gomer as his wife, even though he knew she would not be faithful to him. Gomer gave birth to children who were conceived with other men. Can you imagine Hosea's grief each time he realized his wife's unfaithfulness?

It would have been easier for Hosea to end his marriage covenant—to throw up his hands and say, "Enough! I'm done with you!" Yet God's people were no different than Gomer. They were spiritual adulterers. Their hearts chased after other lovers by loving and worshiping idols.

It would have been easier for God to end the Mosaic covenant—to throw up His hands and say, "Enough! I'm done with you!" But God's love never gives up. God gave Hosea a love for his wife that compelled him to buy her back from the slave market after all she had done. In the same way, God sought after His unfaithful people even after all they had done. God paid a high price—the life of His Son, Jesus—to bring them back to Himself.

Remember to present the story of Hosea in an age-appropriate way. God used Hosea's unfaithful wife to show the people of Israel that they were unfaithful to Him. Even when God's people worship false idols, He is ready to forgive those who turn back to Him. God's love is deep, and it never gives up. He goes after His people and loves them back to Himself.



The BIBLE Story

Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Hosea

God wanted to teach His people about His love for them. So, God told the prophet Hosea, “Go and get married. But your wife will not love you with her whole heart.”

God was going to use Hosea’s life to teach the people of Israel what God’s love is like. Hosea’s wife treated Hosea like the people of Israel treated God. The people did not love God with their whole hearts; they loved other things and people more than they loved God.

It isn’t easy to love someone who doesn’t love you back, but Hosea obeyed God. He married a woman named Gomer. Gomer had a baby boy. God told Hosea to name the baby Jezreel.

Then Gomer had a baby girl. God told Hosea to name the baby “No Mercy.” God was not going to show mercy to the people anymore.

Awhile later, Gomer had another baby boy. God said, “Name him ‘Not My People.’” For a long time, the people of Israel had been God’s people. He had promised to take care of them if they obeyed Him. But God’s people did not obey Him. So, God said, “You are not My people.”

Gomer did not love Hosea like she should. She ran away from home. The people also did not love God like they should. They ran away from Him.

What do you think Hosea did when Gomer ran away? She had done many things to hurt him. Did he let her go? No! When someone you love goes missing, you go after them! Hosea found Gomer and paid money to bring her back. Hosea loved his Gomer no matter what. Hosea would never stop loving Gomer.

Hosea said to the people, “Turn back to God. He still loves you.” God loves His people with a love that never gives up. God had a plan to get His people back.

Christ Connection: Gomer did not love Hosea with all her heart. She made Hosea sad, but Hosea still loved Gomer. God’s people do not love God with all their hearts. We do things that make God sad, but God still loves us. He showed us His love by sending Jesus to rescue us from sin.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Listen for the word *love*** : Give children a red paper heart. Encourage children to hold up the heart anytime they hear the word *love* in the Bible story.
- **Use props:** Display a stuffed heart and binoculars to “look” for someone. Use Gomer and Hosea puppets. Hold up each item at the appropriate moment in the Bible story.



KID CONNECT

Welcome time

[Arrival Music](#)

favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Find the hearts

4 construction paper hearts

Hide four different colored hearts around the room. Tell children to look for the different hearts and tell you when they find each one.

SAY • You found all of the hearts! Hearts remind me of love. God loves us with His whole heart. He wants us to love Him with our whole hearts, too. In our Bible story today, we will hear about a husband who loved his wife with his whole heart even though she did not love him in the same way. Listen to the Bible story to hear how this husband's love for his wife teaches us about God's love for us.

Transition to Large Group

[VIDEO: Countdown](#)

Show the countdown video to gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Large Group.



LARGE GROUP

Worship

Sing the key passage song, “You are Good” and “Return.”

[VIDEO: You are Good](#)
[VIDEO: Return](#)

Introduce the Bible Story

Bible

Bookmark

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

Place a bookmark at Hosea in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is the most important book there is because the Bible is God’s Word. All of God’s words are true. Today’s Bible story is in the Old Testament in the Book of Hosea.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind the children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

Tell the Bible story

Red paper hearts for children, red stuffed heart, binoculars, puppets for LGL

Use the bolded version of the Bible story as a script.

[CG: Bible Story Picture](#)

[CG: Story Point](#)

SAY • God told Hosea to marry Gomer and to love her even when she did not love Hosea back. When Gomer ran away, Hosea found her and brought her home. Hosea’s love for Gomer shows us how God loves us. We do things that make God sad, but God still loves us. **God loves people who do not love Him back.** He showed us His love by sending Jesus to save us.

Practice the key passage

Bible

Key Passage Marker

[CG: Key Passage](#)

Place the key passage marker at 2 Peter 3:9. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage.

Read the key passage aloud. Lead preschoolers in using different voices to say the key passage such as happy, sad, loud, quiet, and so forth.

SAY • God’s people loved other things more than they loved God. God was patient with them. He used Hosea’s life to teach them what His love is like. God is patient with us too. He wants us to love and obey Him.

Learn the big picture question

[CG: Big Picture Question](#)

SAY • Can you say our big picture question with me? *Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.* We can trust that the rules He gives us are for our good.

Pray and transition to small group



SMALL GROUP

SESSION TITLE: Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Bible Passage: Hosea

Story Point: God loves people who do not love Him back.

Key Passage: 2 Peter 3:9

Big Picture Question: Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

Care for a baby

“Baby Care Photos” printable, baby dolls (optional), baby care items such as a diaper bag, blankets, bottles, empty baby powder container, baby wipes, and extra doll clothes (optional)

Tip: Be sensitive to family situations.

Display the “Baby Care Photos” printable. Encourage children to play with the dolls and care for them. Comment that parents feed their babies, wash them, and take care of them because they love them. Talk about what the parents are doing in each of the baby care photos.

SAY • You took good care of the babies! Mommies and daddies take care of their children because they love them! We do things that make God sad, but God still loves us and He takes care of us. **God loves people who do not love Him back.** He showed us His love by sending Jesus to save us.

Practice “turning back”

Play follow the leader as you walk in a circle. After a few moments, say “Turn back,” and walk the other direction. Repeat several times.

SAY • The people of Israel would not obey God. God gave us the Bible story from today to show us that He wanted us to turn back to Him.

Review

SAY • Gomer was the woman in our Bible story today. God told a man named Hosea to marry Gomer. Gomer went away, but Hosea brought her back. Jesus brings us back to God.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

Who made you? (*God*)

What do you do when you lose something you love? (*You go look for it.*)

Who should we obey? (*God, our mommies and daddies.*)

Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

Connect with Parents/Influencers

Big Picture Card

At pickup or drop off, hand this week’s Big Picture Card to each child’s influencer. Encourage them to discuss the *Big Picture Question & Answer* with their preschooler this week.

