



Unit 14, Session 2  
October 5-6, 2019

4th-5th Lesson

## Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Hosea

**Story Point:** God is faithful to His people even when they do not love Him.

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*Tell the story from the following Bible story script.*

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 not be faithful to 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 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. 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 pleaded with Israel to turn back to God. “Let us return to the Lord,” he said.

God was going to punish the people for turning away from Him, but He would keep the promise He made to Abraham. 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.*



# Kid Connect

## WELCOME TIME

**Intro Music**

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about a time someone was kind to them when they didn't deserve it. How did it make them feel?

**CG: Countdown**

## Large Group

### Large Group Game:

#### Option 1: Cross the Ocean

**SFX: Game Intro Music**  
**SFX: Shark Music**

Choose 2 kids to be the "sharks", the rest of the kids are "fish". The sharks sit in the middle of the room and the fish stand on one side. The sharks yell: "cross the ocean!" and the fish have to run to the other end of the room and avoid being tagged by the sharks. If they are tagged, they become "seaweed" and have to sit down and wiggle their arms, mimicking the way seaweed moves in the water. The game ends when there are 2 fish left and they become the sharks in the next round.

#### Option 2: 4 Corners

**SFX: Game Intro Music**

We are going to play 4 Corners! Everyone up on your feet. I need 1 volunteer that is a Small Group Leader. Choose one Small Group Leader and have them join you on the stage. Ok, [Small Group Leader's name] is going to turn their back on everyone and each of you will have 15-20 seconds to run to one of the four corners in here. Take a moment to name each corner according to number or name (if there is a theme) so everyone understands each one. Then [Small Group Leader's name] is going to call out one of the corners and if you are in that corner, you are OUT and have to sit down. Then we'll give the rest of you another 15 seconds to choose again and we will keep playing it until one of you wins! Everyone ready? Let's play 4 Corners!

## Worship

**VIDEO: Raise Your Hands High**  
**VIDEO: Alive**



## Large Group

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

God sent prophets to warn the people that God would punish their sin if they didn't turn back to Him. God sent the prophet Hosea to tell the people of Israel an important message. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

### Use the Bible Story Script

**CG: Story Picture**

**CG: Question 1**

**CG: Question 2**

- What does this story teach us about God?

Over and over—generation after generation—the Israelites turned away from God. God would have been right to just say, “Enough! I’m done with you!” But **God is faithful to His people even when they do not love Him.**

- How are we like the people of Israel?

**We have turned away from God by sinning.** Our sin separates us from God. That’s the bad news. But God came after us. God’s love is deep, and it never gives up. He goes after His people and paid a great price to get us back.

### 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.*



## Large Group

CG: Big Picture Question

### Big Picture Question

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

### PRAY

### Halloween Costume Announcement!

**Leader** • Before we head to small groups, I want to let everyone know that KidCity wants you to wear your Halloween costume to church on the weekend of October 26-27. It's going to be a lot fun! Please remember a few things: No masks, nothing scary, and please keep it kid friendly!

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## THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FORME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



**GOD RULES.** Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



**WE SINNED.** Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



**GOD PROVIDED.** Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



**JESUS GIVES.** Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



**WE RESPOND.** Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



## Small Group

### Big Picture Question

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

When we disobey God, it's often because we've forgotten that God made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

- Does God ever stop loving us? How do you know?
- What verses or stories from the Bible remind you of God's love?

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Hosea. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Hosea 14:1-2. God is faithful to His people even when they do not love Him. He is ready to forgive those who turn back to Him. God's love is deep, and it never gives up.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Hosea 14:1-2 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

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

*Help 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. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 118:1-4.)*

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

*Lead 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. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:16.)*

**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 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. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 5:43-47.)*



## Small Group

### KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

*Supplies: Bibles*

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to 2 Peter 3:9. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Choose one kid to clap once and say the first word of the key passage. The kid to his right should clap once as he says the next word of the key passage.

Kids will continue around the circle, clapping once per word, until they say the entire key passage. Then play again. Explain that at any time, a player saying a word may clap twice. In that case, movement reverses and the player to the left will say the next word. If a player claps once, the key passage continues in the same direction.

### PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for His faithful love that never gives up.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Reverse charades

*Supplies: paper, marker*

Before the session, write several expressions of love on separate sheets of paper. Suggestions: *encouraging someone; helping or serving someone; spending time with someone; listening to someone; warning someone of danger*

Choose a kid to be the guesser. Guide him to stand with his back to the group. Show the rest of the kids a sheet of paper that describes what they should act out.

Instruct the guesser to turn around. The rest of the kids should silently act out the expression of love. Kids may work with a partner to act out the expression. The guesser should try to figure out what they are doing. Allow a minute or two for the guesser to guess.

Before playing another round, discuss these questions:

- How does God show us that expression of love?
- How can we show love to others in this way?