

**Unit 14 • Session 2**  
**October 5-6, 2019**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson**  
**Hosea, Prophet to Israel**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:**  
Hosea

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

**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**  
(10 minutes)

**Large Group**  
(30 minutes)

**Small Group**  
(20 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 a prostitute. 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.



# KID CONNECT

## Welcome time

[Intro Music](#)

Play intro music and 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?

## Transition to Large Group

# LARGE GROUP

## Countdown

[VIDEO: Countdown](#)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

## Large Group Game

[SFX: Game Intro Music](#)

[SFX: Shark Music](#)

## Cross the Ocean

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.

## Worship

[VIDEO: Raise Your Hands High](#)

[VIDEO: Alive](#)

Leader • Let's worship God!

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

leader attire, Bible

[CG: Theme Background](#)

*[Leader enters wearing a rain poncho.]*

Leader • Welcome to the docks of Port Gnome! I'm Captain [*your last name*]. It's good to see you again. If you weren't here last week, it's nice to meet you! I've been out on the sea with a crew of mariners. We had calm seas the last few days, but a storm is expected to roll in tomorrow. Something I've learned in my years as a captain is that sometimes the best way to teach people the right way to run a ship is to show them. I can tell them with my words, but they seem to understand so much better when they see me living it out myself.

*[Hold up the Bible.]* That's kind of like what happened in the Bible story I want to share with you today. God had a message for His people. Instead of just sending a prophet to tell the people the message, God used the prophet's life to show the people something important. Let's dive in.



## Big picture question (1 minute)

**CG: Big Picture Question**

Leader • Does anyone remember the big picture question and answer? [*Allow kids to respond.*]

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

Those are all great reasons to obey God. When we disobey God, it's often because we've forgotten these truths. We might be tempted to think God does not love us or that His plans are not good. Today's Bible story will show you otherwise.

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**CG: Giant Timeline**

Leader • You see, Hosea was a prophet during a time when the Northern Kingdom of Israel was wandering further and further from God. The kings of Israel were evil, and each one led the people to disobey God more than the last king had. God sent many prophets to warn the people about their sin. Hosea was one of them. God planned to use Hosea's life to show what God's love for His people looks like.

## Watch the Bible story

Bible

Show the Bible story video "Hosea, Prophet to Israel."

**VIDEO: Hosea, Prophet to Israel**

**CG: Bible Story Picture**

**CG: Story Point**

Leader • What an unusual story! This sure doesn't sound like any love story I've ever read about in books or seen in the movies. God didn't want Hosea to just tell the people about God's message; He wanted Hosea to show them. God used Hosea's life to show His great love for His people.

Hosea married Gomer, and she was not faithful to stay with him. Hosea went after Gomer and paid to get her back. 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.

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.** 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.

Hosea urged the Israelites: "Come, let us return to the Lord. ... Let us strive to know the Lord" (Hos. 6:1,3).

## Christ connection

**Note:** You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

**CG: Big Picture Question**

Leader • 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. When we believe that Jesus died for our sins and rose again on the third day,



God forgives our sins and gives us new hearts that love Him. Our new hearts give us the power and desire to obey Him. *Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.*

## Key passage

Bible

**CG: Key Passage**

Show the key passage slide. Lead the kids to read together 2 Peter 3:9.

Leader • Our key passage reminds us that God is patient with us when we turn away from Him. God wants all people to love and obey Him. When we turn from making wrong choices and follow Jesus, we get a new life from God.

## Pray and dismiss to small groups

### 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 or weapons, nothing scary, and please keep it kid friendly!



## SMALL GROUP

Session Title: Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Bible Passage: Hosea

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

Key Passage: 2 Peter 3:9

### Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Key Passage Poster, Allergy Alert for balloon, balloon 1 per group, tape (optional)

Inflate a balloon and provide it to the kids. Display the Key passage poster and refer to the slide. Repeat the Bible verse with the kids several times. Kids must say the words of the key passage each time they bop the balloon. See if kids can say the entire key passage without the balloon hitting the floor.

**SAY** • Great job working on our Key Passage! 2 Peter 3:9 reminds us that the Lord keeps His promises and He is patient with us.

### Discussion questions

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.*

How can we love people who are hard to love? *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.)

### Reverse charades

Paper 5 per group, marker

Before the session, write several expressions of love on separate sheets of paper. Suggestions: *encourage someone; help or serve someone; spend time with someone; listen to someone; warn someone of danger*

Choose a kid to be the guesser. Guide him/her 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/type of love?

How can we show love to others in this way?

Make time for prayer requests and pray with your group. If you have additional time, allow kids to complete the Activity Page provided with this session.

### Connect with Parents/Influencers

Journal/Activity Page 1 per kid, crayons

Make sure to send home the Activity Page for families to interact with during the week.

