

Unit 14 • Session 2
October 5-6, 2019
K-1 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 an unfaithful wife. 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](#)

Option 1 - 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.

Option 2 - 4 Corners

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!

- NOTE that when you get down to 4 or less kids, instruct them that they have to choose separate corners. When you get down to 3 or less kids, consider closing off some corners altogether to save time.
- Reverse Variant: If you have a very large number of kids, consider reversing the rules where the corner chosen is the "winning" corner and the other 3 corners have to sit down.

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 • Hey there, friends! 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

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

Review activity (5 minutes)

Allergy Alert for balloon, balloon 1 per group

Inflate a balloon and provide it to the kids. Ask the kids to share something they learned from the Bible Story each time they bop the balloon. See if kids can say something new without letting the balloon hit the floor. After a few minutes, ask them to be seated for discussion.

SAY • God used Hosea's life to show His people what a never-gives-up kind of love looks like. It would have been easy for Hosea to give up and say, "Enough! God wanted to show us that He will never stop wanting a relationship with us. *Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.*

What are some things we love more than God? *Guide kids to talk about our tendency to put other things, like toys, friends, or video games, before God in our lives. We sometimes worship these things as the most important, when God is really most important.*

Why do you think it's good to obey God? *Help kids think through what it says 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 grace and love toward us help us want to love Him, and our love for God will 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.

Stamp recall

rubber stamps and Ink pad, 1 per group

Ask kids if you can give them a stamp on the backs of their hand. After each kid has a stamp, select one kid and politely request that he or she give back the stamp. Give the kids a few moments to discuss the impossibility of such a task.

SAY • **God is faithful to His people even when they do not love Him.** Just as you cannot give back a stamp once it's stamped on your hand, we cannot give back our salvation to God once we accept it. One wonderful thing about salvation is that it can never fade or get wiped away like a stamp can. God is patient with people and desires that all of us would love and obey Him. We only need to accept that gift once! After we are saved, we are saved forever.

Connect with parents/influencers

Activity page/Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid, crayons

Make sure to send home the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning. Make time for prayer requests and pray with your group. Then allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.

