

## Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Hosea

### Why do Christians continue to sin?

Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.

It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

Deuteronomy 13:4

### Story Point:

Israel was not faithful to God, but God was faithful to Israel. God is faithful to all who believe in Him.



### PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Starter Activity and Question of the Day
- ☐ 11:00 - Kids Worship



### ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ Lesson Review - Hosea, Prophet to Israel
- ☐ Discussion Questions
- ☐ Group Demonstration: Plant Analogy



### ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Group Game: Faithfulness Charades
- ☐ Share and Care Prayer Time
- ☐ Group Activity - Faithfulness Relay
- ☐ Group Activity: Taste and See...

## SHEPHERD GUIDE

This week, we're diving into the powerful story of the prophet Hosea, a vivid illustration of God's faithfulness and unconditional love. Through Hosea's relationship with his unfaithful wife, Gomer, we see how God loves us no matter what, always inviting us back to Him even when we stray. As we explore this truth, we'll uncover that God remains steadfast in His love and that He calls us to reflect that same faithfulness in our own lives.

**God loves us unconditionally.** God used the story of Hosea and Gomer as a powerful demonstration of His unconditional love. Despite Gomer's unfaithfulness, Hosea remained devoted to her, mirroring God's love for us. God's love is not based on our actions, worthiness, or anything we do or don't do. Rather, it is a steadfast commitment to us, regardless of our mistakes. God's love invites us into a relationship where we can experience His grace and forgiveness, reminding us that He cherishes us because we are His beloved children.

**God is faithful even when we turn away from Him.** Hosea's story illustrates how God remains faithful, even when His people stray from Him. Just as Gomer turned away from Hosea, we often find ourselves distracted by worldly things or sin. Despite our shortcomings, God's faithfulness never wavers. He continually reaches out to us, offering redemption and the path back to Him. This unwavering faithfulness reassures us that no matter how far we wander, God's grace is always waiting for us if we turn to God in repentance.

**God calls us to a life of faithfulness.** Through the narrative of Hosea, we learn that God desires us to reflect His faithfulness in our own lives. He calls us to remain committed to Him and to others, living out our faith in practical ways. When we embrace this calling, we not only grow closer to God but also participate in building God's kingdom by impacting the world around us in positive ways.

This week, guide the kids to understand that God loves us unconditionally, and He remains faithful even when we turn away. Help them embrace the invitation God gives us to live lives of faithfulness. Remind kids that no matter how they have sinned or how far away from God they have walked, He is always ready to welcome them back to Him with open arms.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.



# GRADES 3-4

## KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW

October 12, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Service

### MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- \*KNOW that God loves them no matter what!
- \*BE faithful to God, even in their simple, everyday actions.
- \*TURN back to God when they wander away.



*As you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.*

*Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.*

*When most kids have arrived for 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.*

*\*Option - Pen Pal Kit!!*



### PREPARE HEARTS

#### Starter Activity

Welcome and  
Question of the  
Day

#### Question of the Day:

***What does it mean to be faithful?***

To be faithful means to be loyal and committed to someone. God wants us to be faithful to Him, but we often go astray.

We've been learning about the nation of Israel and how it was divided into two kingdoms: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Even though God had been with His people, providing for their needs for generations, they were still unfaithful to Him. They continually worshiped false gods—statues that they would bow down to. Today we will hear a story about the prophet Hosea and how God gave His people a message through Hosea.

Our Bible story comes from the Old Testament book Hosea. There are 39 books that make up the Old Testament, and they are put into different categories. The book of Hosea is in the Minor Prophets division, not because it's less important, but because it's a short book. Let's turn there now and learn together from God's Word.



**KIDS  
WORSHIP**

**11:00**

**Take children to LG2 for combined Pre-K -4th grade worship time.**



## ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

### Hosea, Prophet to Israel

Bibles,  
Review Video –  
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to Hosea . You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

#### KIDS SERMON OUTLINE

**God loves us unconditionally (Hosea 1-2):** God still loved Israel, even though they worshiped other gods and disobeyed Him.

**God is faithful even when we turn away from Him (Hosea 3-7):** Gomer's unfaithfulness to Hosea was like Israel's unfaithfulness to God. But God still loved Israel and promised to forgive their sin if they would repent and return to Him.

**God calls us to a life of faithfulness (Hosea 11-14):** God is faithful to all sinners who repent and trust in Jesus, and He invites us to be faithful to Him in return.

Israel was not faithful to God. They worshiped other gods, sinned by disobeying Him, and looked to other nations to help them in times of trouble.

God wanted to show His people a picture of how much He loved and wanted to be with them, even though they had been unfaithful to Him. He spoke to His prophet Hosea, saying, "Go and marry a woman who will not be faithful to you, and be committed to her."

Hosea followed God's direction and married a woman named Gomer. They had three children together. Sadly, Gomer was not faithful to Hosea and left the family.

Gomer's unfaithfulness to Hosea was like Israel's unfaithfulness to God. Israel had taken the grain, oil, silver, and wine that God had given to them, and had used it to worship Baal. They pursued false gods and looked to other nations to save them. But God still loved Israel and forgave them for their lack of faithfulness.

To show Israel how much He loved them, God told Hosea to go get Gomer back. "Show love to Gomer, even though she hasn't shown love to you, just as I have loved the Israelites."

Hosea obeyed God. He paid back what Gomer owed others and brought her back to live with him, and she agreed.

Hosea pled with the Israelites to come back to God, just as Gomer had come back to Hosea. Hosea reminded Israel of how God had loved Israel like a child, providing and caring for their every need. But he also told the people that there would be consequences for their sin. He said, "Come, Israel, return to the Lord, for you have stumbled in sin. Repent and turn away and return to the Lord. Ask him for forgiveness and praise him. No one else can save us but God."

Through Hosea, God promised to be faithful to Israel. God also said that one day His people would seek the Lord their God. "I will heal them," said God, "I will love them. I will not be angry with them anymore."

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Israel was not faithful to God, but God was faithful to Israel, just as Hosea loved his wife even when she didn't love him. God is faithful to all who believe in Him.

This seems like a sad story. **What was the problem we heard about?** [Allow responses. Read Hosea 4:1-2.] Israel was not faithful to God, but God was faithful to Israel, just as Hosea was faithful to his wife even though she was not faithful to him. God warned Israel of their unfaithfulness and showed His faithful love through the prophet Hosea. God's children rejected Him over and over again. **Did God stop loving them?** No! But God also wasn't pleased with how they were living. God wanted something better for His children. He wanted to bless them and for them to experience the joy and peace that comes from being connected to Him.

The words of Hosea are important for us today. We may not be worshiping false gods like Baal, but our hearts do tend to wander from the one true God. God has given us hope for the way to be restored to Him through Jesus. Jesus came into the world to defeat the power of sin and evil. He took the burden of our sin on His own shoulders, and He died on the cross to set us free. God is faithful to all those who have trusted in Jesus even though we have been unfaithful to Him. In response to what God has done for us, and the love He has shown us, we can work toward being faithful to Him every day!



### Discussion

Discussion questions listed here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**What does it mean that God is faithful?** Share that the word faithful means steadfast, dedicated, dependable, and worthy of trust. God is always faithful because He never changes. God is faithful to His character. He will keep His promise to forgive sin for those who trust in Jesus. And He will be faithful to punish those who do not trust in Jesus.

**Is every person unfaithful to God? Why?** Tell kids that yes, every person is unfaithful to God. We all sin, choosing to reject God and His ways. Discuss how we sometimes willfully disobey God, knowing what is right but choosing to do what is wrong. Share how we also sin by not being able to perfectly live up to God's standards, even when we try our very best. Remind kids that through Adam and Eve, sin has spread to all people. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:12.)

**How can we be faithful to God?** Discuss how we can only be faithful to God by trusting in Jesus, who was always faithful. Tell kids that we will never be perfectly faithful until Jesus returns, but through Jesus, we are counted as righteous because His faithfulness is given to us. Remind kids that the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and helps us to follow God's ways. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Thess. 5:23-25.)

**How has God shown faithfulness to you, even when you've sinned?** Answers will vary. Remind kids that God is faithful, and He has shown perfect faithfulness through Jesus. Discuss how God's promises will never fail. Those who have trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord can know that God will accomplish everything He has promised: salvation from sin, eternal life, peace, joy, wisdom, provision, goodness, and so on. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 1:9.)



## Group Demonstration: Plant Analogy

- Plant
- Cup of soil
- Cup of water
- Flashlight

Show the plant and ask the kids what it needs to thrive.  
Show the cup of soil, cup of water, and flashlight (to represent the sun).

**SAY: What does this plant need to survive?** [Allow responses.] Plants need water, sunlight, oxygen, and good soil. **What would happen if we were to remove the plant from the things it needs?** [Allow responses.] The leaves would wilt and turn brown, and eventually the plant would die.

Let's think back to our story. God wanted His people to understand their great need for Him. He had given the Israelites everything they needed for a flourishing life. But they didn't appreciate what He had given them. Instead, they kept worshiping the false gods of the nations around them. In a way, they cut themselves off from life with God.

**What happens to people when they try to live without God?** [Allow responses.] God is our source of true joy, peace, and hope. He created us to know, love, and worship Him. When we live a life connected to God, we will flourish. Apart from Him, we will not live up to the potential He created us for.

**What are some ways we can stay connected to God?** [Allow responses.] We can get to know God by reading the Bible. After all, it's His Word, and in it He shows us who He is and what He is like. We can talk to God through prayer. Prayer is like a conversation, and it's a two-way street. That means we can tell God what's on our heart, and we can listen for what He wants to say to us. When we pray it's good to practice listening! God loves us so much, and He wants us to experience that love every day!



## Faithfulness Charades

- Slips of blank paper
- Paper bag
- Pencils

Lead the kids to sit or stand in a circle.

Decide on a theme related to faithfulness, such as Acts of Kindness or Ways to Show Love to God. Invite the kids to write out one action related to the theme (e.g., helping someone, praying, sharing).

Put all the cards in a paper bag.

One at a time, kids will draw a card and act it out while the other kids try to guess what it is.

Once they guess correctly, the next child takes their turn. Continue until everyone has had a chance to act out an idea.

**SAY:** You all came up with some great ideas of ways to show kindness and love to people this week. During Jesus' time on earth, He taught people what life in God's kingdom is all about. He said that we are to love God and love people. While it seems simple, it's not always easy. We won't love God or people perfectly, but God's love for us never ends. He is always ready to forgive us when we turn to Him, and He will help us grow in godliness.



## Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Groff Family**)
- Ask for specific prayer requests that any of the kids have to share about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Groff Family.



## Faithfulness Relay

- 4 baskets
- Beanbags

Form two teams and designate a basket for each, placing it on the opposite side of the room from where the teams will line up.

- Place beanbags in each basket.
- On Go the first kids on each team will run to the basket, grab a beanbag, yell God is faithful! and place the beanbag on their head, returning to their team. *If they drop the beanbag, they must run back to the basket and start again.*
- Play continues until all kids have run down and back.

**SAY** Great job! Sometimes it was hard to balance the beanbag on your head, especially when you felt the pressure from your teammates! What did you have to do when you dropped it? That's right, you returned to the basket and started over. We know that in this life we will still sin. Why do Christians continue to sin? Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him. When we sin, we can always return to God, and He will forgive us and restore us to Himself. Just like dropping the beanbag was frustrating, sin can be frustrating, too. We struggle against our sin nature, but we want to do things God's way. God understands the struggle we face, and His love for us doesn't change when we mess up. This is the message of the Bible! Our sin has broken our connection to God, and there's nothing we can do to repair it. Only God can heal that brokenness and bring us into His family through faith in Jesus. God doesn't want us to hide from Him in shame when we sin. He wants us to come to Him, just like a little kid runs to his parents when he is hurt. God loves us more than we can imagine, and He wants us to experience His amazing love.



## Taste and See...

- Bibles
- Ice cream scoops worksheet
- Ice-cream bowl sheet
- Heart stickers
- Colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Scissors

Pass out a sheet of ice cream scoops to each child.

Talk about the verses and statements that are on each. Assign groups of 3 or 4 to an ice-cream scoop to look up the verse and share it with the class, discussing as you go.

Then, have the kids will color, cut and glue scoops of ice cream to create their very own "Sweet Truth Sundae". Give each child a heart sticker as their "cherry" on top.

Talk about how God's love is forever and that we can "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8) in all these ways.

Have the children take their finished ice-cream bowls home so that they have a list of encouraging Bible verses they can return to over and over again.

