

HOSEA, PROPHET TO ISRAEL

HOSEA



CHRIST CONNECTION: God showed His love to us by sending Jesus to save us.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Follow the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 13:4

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God told Hosea to marry a woman named Gomer.
- Hosea obeyed God. Hosea loved Gomer even when she did wrong things and made him sad.
- The people of Israel were not loving God, but He still loved them. God's love never stops, even when we make mistakes.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Hosea was a man who listened to God. God told Hosea to marry a woman named Gomer. Hosea obeyed God, but Gomer did not love Hosea the way she should. She went away, just like how the people of Israel went away from God. Hosea went out, found Gomer, and brought her back home. He loved her even though she had made him sad. God showed Hosea how the people of Israel were not loving Him as they should either. Hosea told the people of Israel to turn back to God, who still loved them and would take care of them. God's love never stops, even when we make mistakes.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Hosea. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing the following lyrics to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

“Follow the LORD your God,
LORD your God, LORD your God.
Follow the LORD your God,
He loves and cares for you.”

SAY Our key passage phrase says, ‘Follow the LORD your God.’ We can know that God loves us and cares for us because He sent Jesus to save us from our sin.

2 FIND THE HEART

Draw a simple heart on paper and tape it to the floor. Gather a blanket, towel, or fabric pieces large enough to cover the heart. Sit babies in leader’s laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows in front of the heart. Cover the heart. Challenge the babies to find the heart. Help them take the blanket off to reveal the heart.

SAY In our Bible story, the people of Israel were not loving God, but He still loved them. God’s love never stops, even when we make mistakes. God showed His love to us by sending Jesus to save us from our sins.

3 MAKE HAPPY AND SAD FACES

Place babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows in a circle on the floor. Encourage the babies to smile and frown by modeling it yourself. Provide non-breakable mirrors for babies to see their reflections as they make the happy and sad faces.

SAY Hosea obeyed God—that made God happy! Hosea loved Gomer even when she did wrong things—that made Hosea sad. Does it make God happy when we follow Him? Yes! God wants us to love and follow Him! God showed His love to us by sending Jesus to save us.

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Hosea. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 FIND A FRIEND

Assign a leader as "home." Encourage the toddlers to walk around the room while upbeat worship music plays on an electronic device. Stop the music, and encourage the toddlers to find a friend and take them "home." Retell the Bible story. Continue as interest allows.

SAY **“** What did Hosea do when Gomer went away from home? Yes, he found her and brought her back, even though she did wrong things. God loves us, even when we do wrong things too! He showed His love by sending Jesus to save us. **”**

3 LISTEN TO THE WORD

Instruct the toddlers to all sit on the floor in a circle. Tell the toddlers that you are going to whisper a word in each toddler's ear. Whisper one word of the key passage phrase in each toddler's ear. Then point to a toddler, and have him say the one word you said to him. Repeat for all toddlers. Say the key passage phrase aloud.

SAY **“** In our Bible story, did Hosea listen to God? Yes! In our game, did you listen to God's Word? Yes! We can follow the Lord our God by listening to Him and obeying what He says. **”**

4 MAKE A HEART CRAFT

Cut out a heart shape from each toddler's paper. Write God showed His love to us by sending Jesus to save us on each toddler's paper. Allow toddlers to use crayons to color and decorate their papers. Then tape a piece of aluminum foil to the back side of each toddler's paper. Flip over the papers to reveal a heart-shaped "mirror" for the toddlers to see their reflections.

SAY **“** Look in your mirrors. Who does God love? Yes! God loves you! The people of Israel were not loving God, but He still loved them. God showed His love to us by sending Jesus to save us. **”**

5 BRING THEM BACK

Assign one toddler to be "Gomer" and one to be "Hosea." Instruct Gomer to wander around the room. Direct Hosea to go after Gomer and bring her back. Make the game more challenging by instructing other toddlers to gently block Hosea from Gomer. Review the Bible story as the toddlers play. Repeat with different toddlers as time allows.

SAY **“** Hosea went after Gomer and brought her back home. Did Hosea love Gomer? Yes, Hosea loved Gomer. Does God love us? Yes! God showed His love by sending Jesus to save us and bring us back to God. **”**

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY HIDE-AND-SEEK

Choose one toddler to be the “seeker” while the rest of the toddlers hide. Help the seeker count to 10 with her eyes closed, and then instruct her to find the hiding toddlers. Repeat with a new seeker as time allows.

SAY In our story today, Gomer was the ‘seeker.’ Did he always find Hosea? Yes. Even when she went away, Hosea went out and found Gomer because he loved her. The people of Israel were not loving God, but He still loved them. God’s love never stops, even when we make mistakes. „

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing the following lyrics to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”: “Follow the LORD your God, / LORD your God, LORD your God. / Follow the LORD your God, / He loves and cares for you.”

SAY Our key passage phrase says, ‘Follow the LORD your God.’ We can know that God loves us and cares for us because He sent Jesus to save us from our sin. „

3 REMEMBER GOD’S LOVE

Provide heart-shaped papers cut in half. Distribute hearts to the toddlers (two halves per toddler). Allow toddlers to use crayons to decorate their hearts, if desired. Call out situations, and have toddlers show if that situation is a way that shows God’s love (two halves together in a whole heart) or does not show God’s love (two halves apart). Situation suggestions include disobeying parents, being unkind to friends, taking a toy, sharing a snack, giving a hug, and so forth. Repeat for various situations. Review the story.

SAY Does God still love us when we choose to sin? Yes! His love for us never stops, just like Hosea’s love for Gomer never stopped. God showed His love for us by sending Jesus to save us. „

4 FIND PAIRS

Cut out strips of different-colored paper. Cut each strip in half. Write one word from the key passage phrase on each strip half. Place matching shapes on the bottom corner of the strips so toddlers can match up the shapes to pair up the words. Place strips around the room. Encourage the toddlers to find the matches and put them together. Retell the story. Read the phrase aloud.

SAY God told Hosea to marry Gomer. Hosea obeyed God. God loves us and wants us to obey Him too. God showed His love to us by sending Jesus to save us. „

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.