

# PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



OCTOBER 19, 2025

## HOSEA, PROPHET TO ISRAEL

HOSEA

### 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 save all sinners who repent and trust in Jesus.

# LEADER DEVO

Although God had been faithful to the people of Israel, they were not faithful to God. The Israelites continued to disobey God, following worthless idols and acting wickedly. Israel even turned to other nations during times of trouble, trusting in the power of men over God. God warned Israel of their unfaithfulness and showed His faithful love through the prophet Hosea.

Though Israel was far from Him, God wanted to show a picture of His great love and relentless pursuit of His people through Hosea's life. God instructed Hosea to marry a prostitute named Gomer, explaining that she would not be faithful to him. Yet, God told Hosea to remain committed to her.

Hosea obeyed God and married Gomer. As God said, she was unfaithful to Hosea and left their family. In the same way, the Israelites were unfaithful to God, worshiping idols, acting corruptly, and loving violence. However, God's love did not relent, and He promised a day when He would forgive and restore them (Hosea 14:4-9).

To show the Israelites the depth of His love, God told Hosea to show love to Gomer, even though she had chosen a life of adultery (Hosea 3:1). Again, Hosea obeyed God. He paid the debts Gomer owed and brought her back home to their family.

On the cross, Jesus paid our debt of sin, restoring our relationship with God so we might be with Him forever. When we repent and turn to Jesus, He brings us into His family. Even when believers act unfaithfully, Jesus continues to be faithful and show unending love.

Encourage boys and girls to ask Jesus for forgiveness and praise Him for His unfailing love. God promised to be faithful to Israel, and He continues to be faithful to us. Point children to God's promises to Israel and the way these words of hope echo into Jesus' promises to followers of Christ to heal them, love them, and not be angry with them (Hosea 14:4).

# ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

### THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

*Deuteronomy 13:4*



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

**OCT 26**

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

### THIS MONTH'S TOOL: POST-IT NOTES

Write the verse out on a Post-it note and put that note somewhere you'll see it often, like a bathroom mirror, the fridge door, etc. Every time you see the note, read the verse aloud 2-3 times. Consider making multiple notes for multiple spots!

# LESSON

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 save all sinners who repent and trust in Jesus.

# SMALL GROUPS

## OUR GOAL

**To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.**

## ICEBREAKERS

### **QUESTION: FOOD TRUCK**

If you owned a food truck, what kind of food would you sell and what would you name your truck?

### **ACTIVITY: PAPER AIRPLANE COMPETITION**

Give everyone one sheet of paper and give them two minutes to make the best paper airplane they can. Make a starting line and have everyone throw their airplanes across the room or down the hall to see whose flies the farthest!

# SMALL GROUPS

## DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

1) Sometimes God's prophets spoke God's word through actions in their lives, requiring faith and sacrifice on their part. Does God still ask His followers to sacrifice things?

See also: Romans 21:1, Luke 14:24-33, Mark 10:29-30

2) What was the purpose of having Hosea marry a woman who would continuously be unfaithful to him? In what way does Hosea represent God and Gomer represent Israel?

3) Read Hosea 2:18-20. What does this tell us about God's character and love for His people?

4) What does it mean that God is always faithful?

5) How does the story of Hosea point us to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

6) Read 1 John 4:8. What does it mean that God is love? How do we see that love in the story of Hosea?

7) Personal reflection (don't have to share with the group unless they want to): How have you shown unfaithfulness to God? In what ways have you let sin lead you away from God?

8) How can you be faithful to God this week?

### PRAYER

**Take time to ask your group for any prayer requests or praises they have for this upcoming week. Invite kids to pray for each other and/or pray as a group for all the requests.**

# PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids.

Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

# CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

# THANK YOU FOR SERVING!