



Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

Learning the Old Testament books of the Bible.

The Prophet - Hosea

The People - The Northern Kingdom of Israel

The Prophecy - You are like an unfaithful wife.

The Principle - God is faithful, even when His people are not.


Aim Questions:

1. What did God tell Hosea to do that did not seem like a wise decision?
2. What was important about the way in which Hosea named his children?
3. What did Hosea's wife do to him?
4. What was God trying to teach the Israelites through Hosea's marriage?
5. What can you learn from Hosea's marriage that would be helpful if you ever get married?
6. If *I* is the faithfulness of Hosea's wife, and *10* is the faithfulness of God to His people, where do you rate in your faithfulness to God?

Hook:

- Name Books.** Bring to class some books that give the meanings associated with people's names. Have the Bible students find their names and make a special name tag today. Write the definition instead of their name. For example, Sarah is defined "Princess," Zarah is defined "the Dawn." If some names cannot be found in your resources, look for a similar name or the origin of the name. If there is time, look up your parents' or siblings' names. Write down what they mean to share with them later. (*In today's lesson, some people are given special names as a message to the people. Listen to the Adventure and find out what their names meant.*)
- Map Skills.** Bring in several different maps (*World map, Bible maps, Globes, Continental maps*). Have the Bible students locate Israel on these different maps. What continent is Israel on? What countries are near Israel? Find the northern region of Israel. Today's minor prophet is giving a message to the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- Marriage Discussion.** Use the "Top 10 Hurts" list with your students as a discussion starter on marriage. In the book of Hosea, God uses a very hurtful marriage to show Israel how they were treating God. First, have students select what they think are the 10 most hurtful things that can happen in a marriage. Next, use the discussion starter to focus students on how marriages that do not follow God's design can be very hurtful. This is a solid lead in to the book of Hosea, but do not be surprised if some very painful things are shared by students whose parents are no happily married. **3HOSO6JR.GFI**

Book:
Presentation Ideas -

 **Ten Commandments.** Randy Bemis created this illustration of the 10 commandments. The Children of Israel had broken their covenant with God by not keeping His commands. Like an unfaithful wife, Israel had broken its trust and commitment with God. God told Hosea to marry a woman who He knew would be unfaithful. Hosea's marriage demonstrated to the people how they had broken their covenant with God by disobeying His commands. Use this illustration of the Ten Commandments when discussing unfaithfulness. 3HOSO6JRGF2 In your manual there is an explanation sheet to clarify the 10 commandments drawing. You may wish to make a transparency or a poster to use with your entire class.

Bible Adventure -

Hosea was the last of what we call the "minor prophets" of God. His message was the last we find in the Old Testament to the Children of Israel. Hosea's message was unique because God allowed him to go through some painful experiences in order for Hosea to better understand God's point-of-view. When God began to speak through Hosea, He told him to go marry a woman who would be unfaithful to him. Just imagine if you were old enough to get married, looking forward to spending the rest of your life with someone special, loving them and having them love you. Then God tells you to marry someone who will abandon you! How would you feel? I'm sure Hosea had many questions in his heart as he went ahead and married Gomer, the woman God had told him to marry.

While Hosea and Gomer were married, they had three children. God even used the names of these children to deliver His message to Israel. The first son was called Jezreel, which means, "God Scatters." God was warning His people of His coming judgment when God would allow His people to be captured and taken away from their country. The second child, a daughter, was named Lo-Ruhamah, which means, "not loved." God does not mean by this that He hates His people, but that they no longer have the close, special relationship they had at the first. Then Gomer had another son. God said, "Call him Lo-Ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God." Why would God say such things about His own people? Remember, God is slow to anger, but there always comes a time when He deals with sin. God had come to this point with Israel. So He has Hosea marry Gomer, gives their children names with special meanings, but for what purpose? Hosea soon finds out.

True to God's prediction, Gomer runs away from Hosea and her own children and becomes involved with other men. Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea, just as Israel had become unfaithful to God. When a man and a woman marry, they make promises to one another to love and care for each other for the rest of their lives. When God made a covenant with Israel at Mt. Sinai, He made a promise to love and care for Israel, and Israel promised to love and follow God. But Israel, like Gomer, didn't keep that promise.

The people had watched Hosea marry Gomer. They knew that she would run away from him. Many of them probably thought that Hosea was making a big mistake by marrying her. When Gomer left Hosea and her children, the people must have seen how sad that made Hosea. He and his children must have been very upset to know that their mother had run away to be with other men. God told Hosea to marry Gomer so that Hosea and all of God's people could see and understand that Israel was like an unfaithful wife. Like Hosea's wife, Israel broke her promise to God and ran away, forgetting all about her promise to love and honor Him. They had run to other gods, and done all kinds of evil things worshipping them. God was grieved by what Israel had done. He used Hosea's marriage to Gomer to show them how much they had hurt God by running away.

God is not pleased when we turn our backs on Him. Think of all God has given you--good health, food to eat, clothes to wear, money, family, friends and time to enjoy it all. Are you like the Israelites, taking all God has given you and spending it on yourself? Do you follow Jesus until the going gets tough then abandon Him? If so, then Hosea's message is for you, too. As we will learn when we look at the rest of Hosea's message, God's love for us is too deep to understand. Though we grieve Him when we abandon Him, He remains faithful and open to our approaching Him. Aren't you glad to know such a God?

Look:

Match ‘Em Up. Can you match up these real and pretend married couples? In today’s Adventure, God has Hosea marry an unusual type of woman. Find out whom he chooses and why! *(If you have extra time, see if the Bible students can stump each other by thinking of married couples. Have them name half the couple, the man or woman. The class tries to name their counterpart.)*
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Word Search. Find Hosea’s missing wife and 10 other words from the book of Hosea in the word search. 3HOSO6JRGF4

Introducing “Hosea”. Using the Prophet Flash Cards, introduce the book of Hosea. it will be important this year to review the four P’s of each book so that students will be able to remember more than a list of strange names from the Old Testament.

The Prophet: Hosea

The People: Israel the Northern Kingdom

The Prophecy: You are like an unfaithful wife.

The Principle: God is faithful even when His people are not.

Find These Words In Hosea. There are five picture on the front if this sheet. In groups or as a class, figure out what these words or phrases are. (Answers: 1. Unfaithful wife, 2. My anger burns against them, 3. The house of Israel, 4. Long-suffering, 5. Forsaking, 5. Hosea) Turn the page over and record your answers and discuss the questions under each of your discoveries. **3HOSO6JRGF5**

Took:

Jump Rope. Get a long jump rope and have the Bible students take turns trying to run in. When a Bible student jumps in, start saying the 4 P’s. *(Hint on running in...listen to the rope hitting the ground. When you hear it hitting the ground, run in and jump!)* Happy jumping.

The Prophets name’s Hosea

The People, northern Israel

The Prophecy - like an unfaithful wife

The Principle - God is faithful, even when - - - His people are not

These are the 4 P’s

Got ‘em from Hosea

But, now it’s time - - - to lump out.

(If your Bible students are unable to “jump in,” start them by standing next to the rope.)

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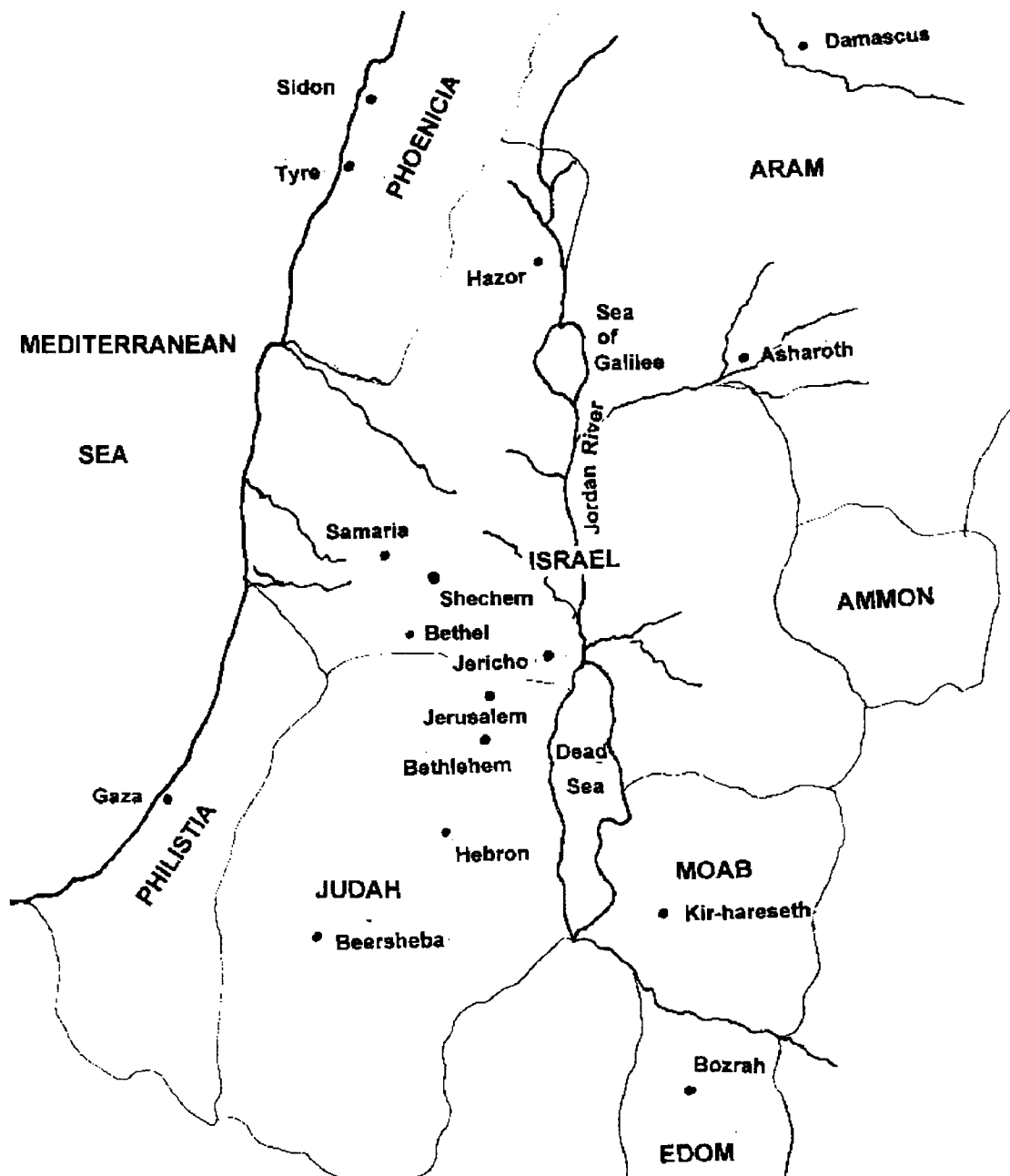
Aim Questions. A set of aim questions has been placed in combination with the word search. This is in case you want to opt out of jumping rope. Physical exercise is good for you!!!
3HOSO6JRGF4

Prophet Page. This is a half sheet of paper for the Bible students to fill out. This Prophet Page will also help with the memory work. If these pages are all saved, the Bible students will have a book on

the minor prophets that they have put together. 3HOSO6JRGF6


PROPHET SONG. The Family Fun Sheets have been giving verses to the prophet song. It is to the tune of O' Suzanna. Look back at your last three fun sheets, and sing the verses for Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Amos and Hosea together.

Family Fun Sheet. In this week's Family Fun Sheet there is reference to a chart titled "Track The Prophets Chart". You may wish to use an enlarged version of this chart as a teaching tool. Each prophet has a sticker that can be placed on the maps to help families know of where they spoke.





Top 10 Hurts


- 
- Lying
 - Shouting at each other
 - Hitting
 - Never coming home on time
 - Dating other people
 - Running away
 - Calling names
 - Not fixing dinner
 - Going on separate vacations
 - Refusing to talk
 - Not spending time together
 - Saying bad things to people about mate
 - Throwing things at mate
 - Never helping with kids
 - Doing nothing but watching TV
 - Not sharing money
 - Forgetting birthdays
 - Forgetting anniversary
 - Slapping face
 - Hogging the car
 - Not helping around the house
 - Getting over weight and out of shape
 - Not being loyal
 - Never laughing
 - Always running back to mom or dad
 - Never dressing nice

Discussion

1. What things from your top ten list are things that cannot be changed or worked on???
2. Marriage is a friendship. Look at the hurt that you chose as number one. Has a friend ever done that to you? What was it like?
3. Look at you number ten. Have you ever done that to a friend? Why or why not?

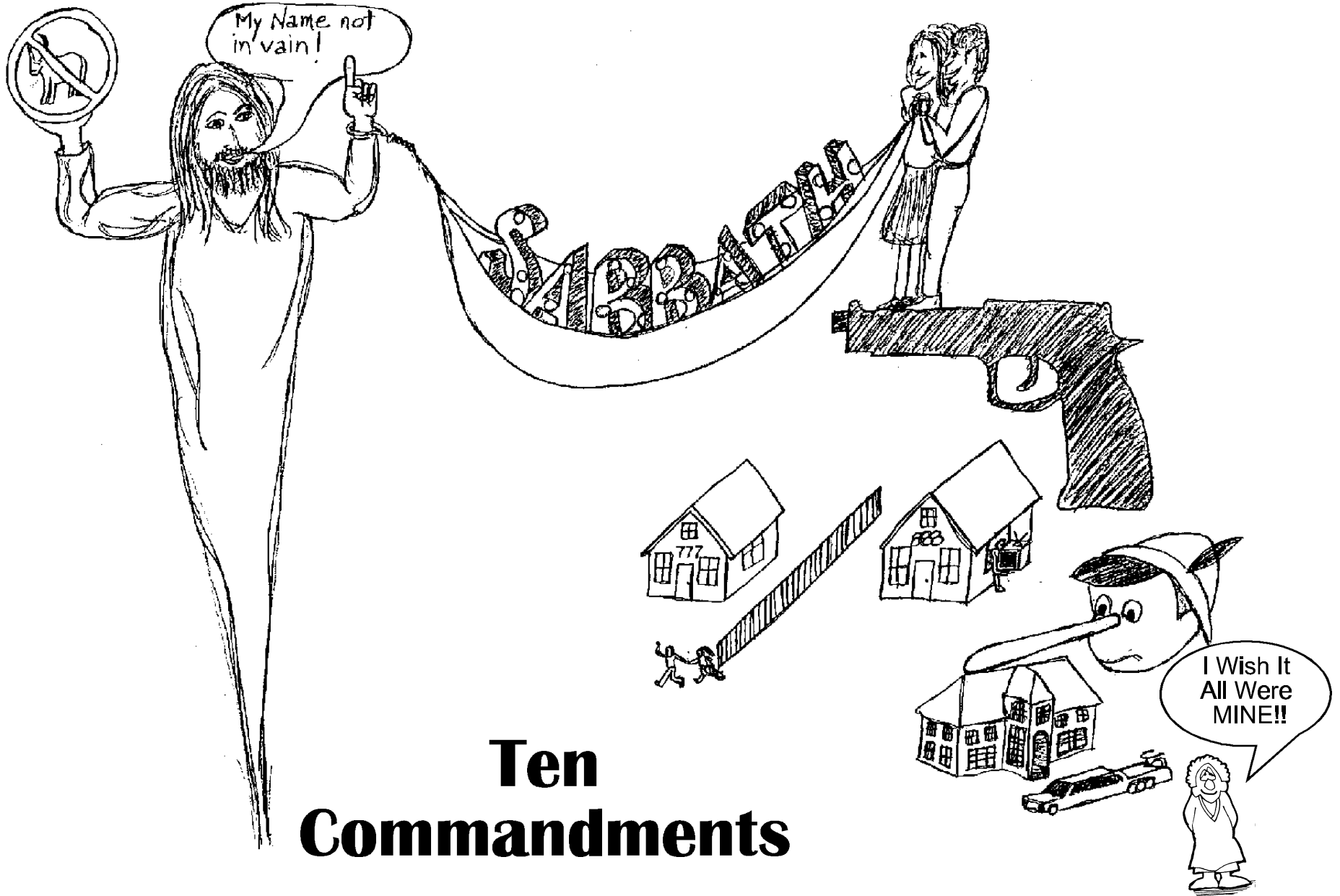


Top 10 Hurts

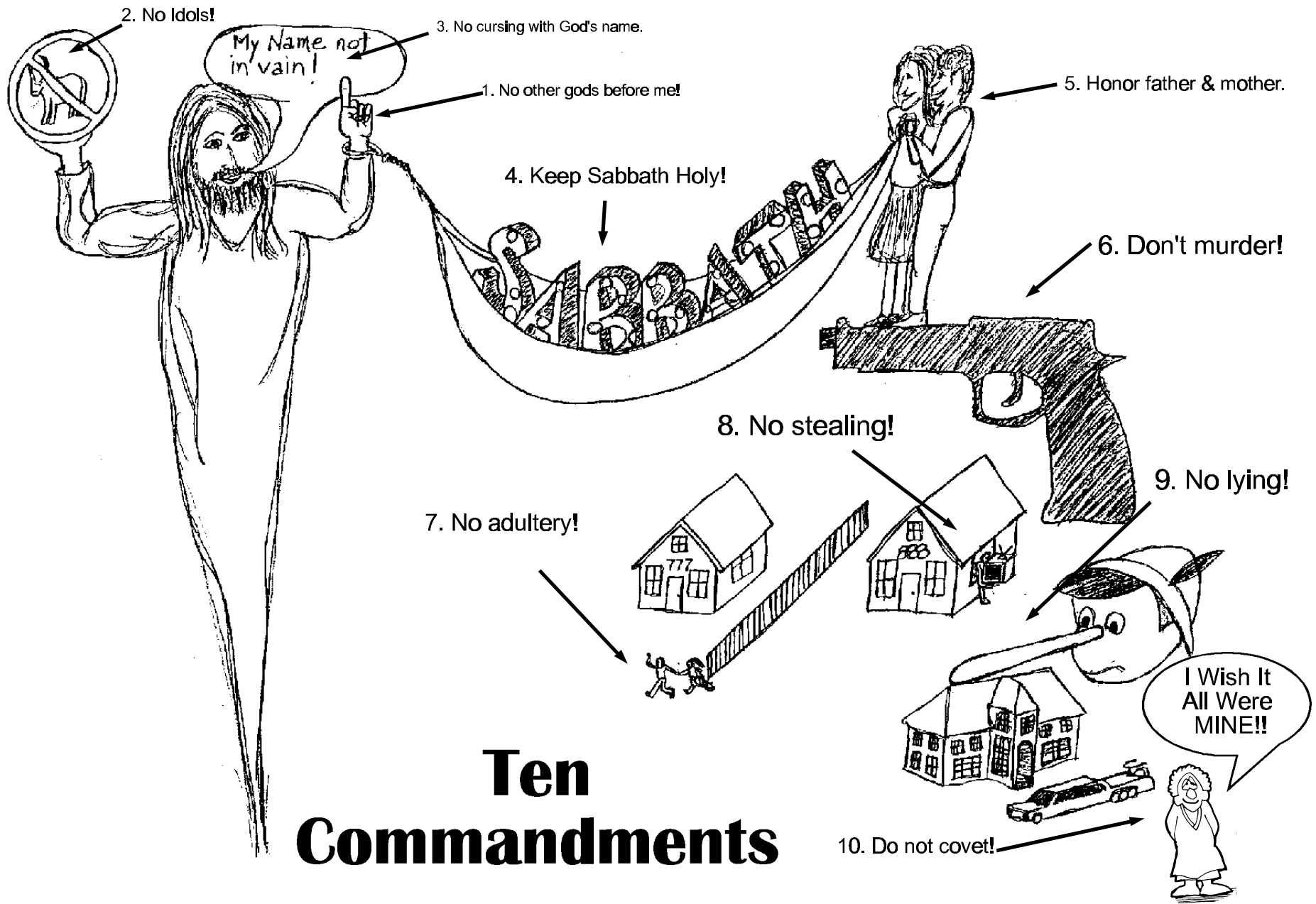
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Ten Commandments



Ten Commandments

MATCH EM UP



GEORGE WASHINGTON



SNOW WHITE



THURSTON HOWELL



BLONDIE



JOSEPH



EVE



DAGWOOD BUMSTEAD



HILLARY



ADAM



MARTHA



MR FLINSTONE



ALICE



ABRAHAM



GOMER



PRINCE CHARMING



LOVEY



BOAZ



JILL



MR MITCHELL



MARY



TIM TAYLOR



SARAH



PRESIDENT CLINTON



WILMA

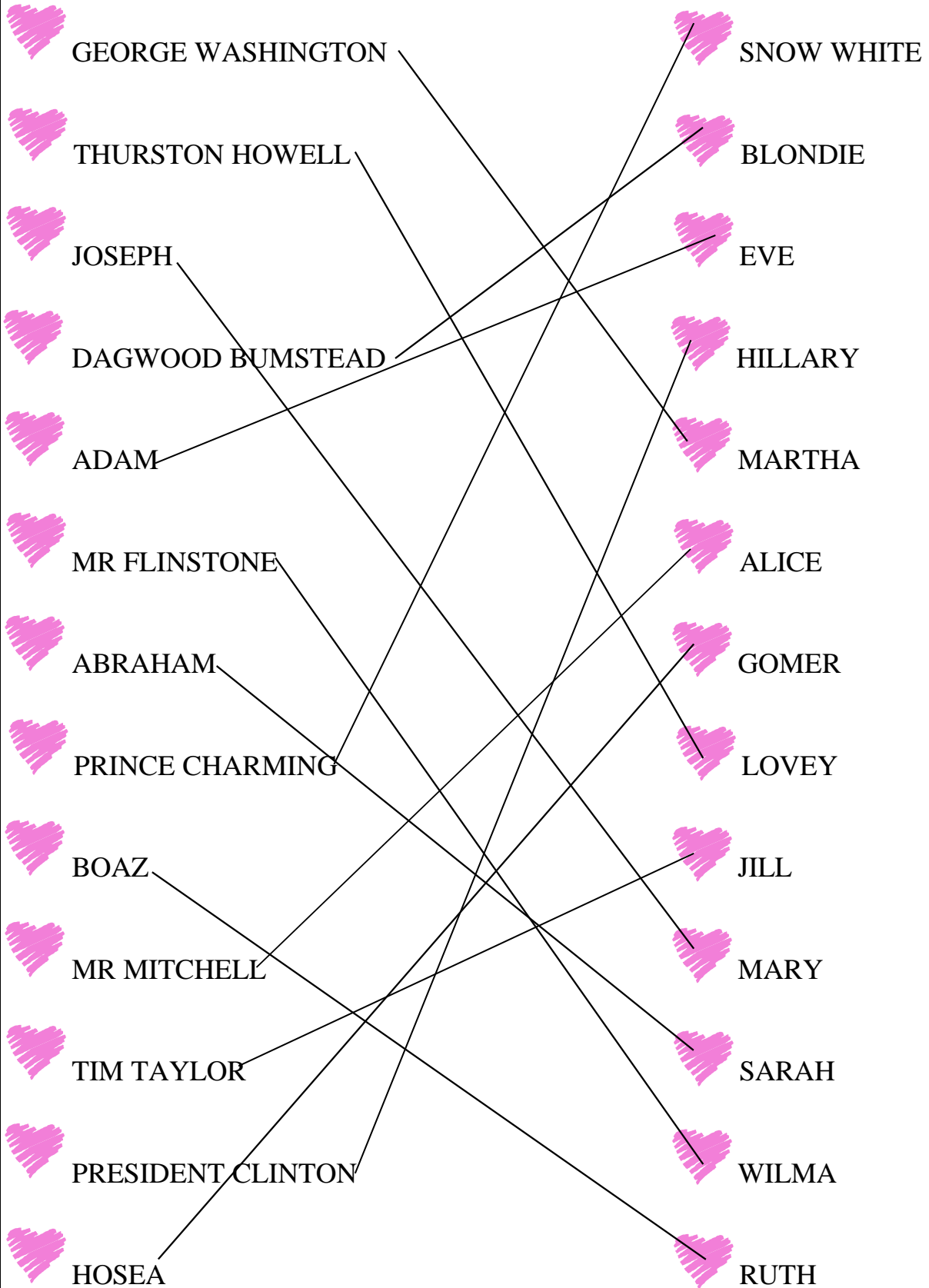


HOSEA



RUTH

MATCH EM UP



E M P C A F
 R U F V H U D C O G
 P M Z N Z Z W A B O V A
 D T J L Q F V T E B B D P F U J
 T N E M D N A M M O C A E S O H W
 G E L P I C N I R P A N I K W J M
 E I H M D I A I T P H D R X B K K
 Z B P U N Y G E H P O R P R W
 P A Q I G O V R F N A E N
 H P X R P H B A D U M S H
 L A L P H L A H O L U
 E D R R R O G I X
 Z M N G N
 Z V K
 G

ABANDON
 COMMANDMENT
 GOD

GOMER
 HOSEA
 MARRIED

PEOPLE
 PRINCIPLE
 PROPHECY

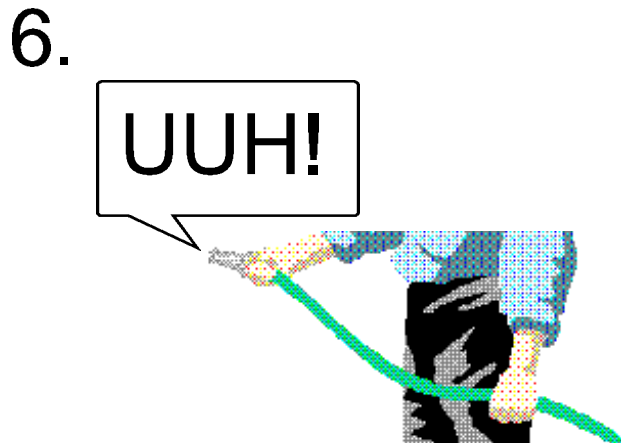
PROPHET
 UNFAITHFUL

Find These Words In Hosea

The following pictures represent words and ideas from the book of Hosea. All but two have been taken directly from the Bible in the new American Standard Version. After you have figured out the meanings, be prepared to discuss what these ideas meant to Hosea, and what they mean to you.



5. Saking
saking
Saking
Saking



BOOK: _____

PROPHET: _____

PROPHECY: _____

PRINCIPLE: _____

PEOPLE: _____

Notes.

BOOK: _____

PROPHET: _____

PROPHECY: _____

PRINCIPLE: _____

PEOPLE: _____

Notes.
