

October 13, 1996

Hosea Chapters 1-3

4's, 5's & K

3HOS06PK

God Is Faithful to His Children.

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - *Hosea*

The Principle - *God is faithful to His children.*

The People - *Israelites living around Samaria*


God's Attribute - *God is faithful.*


Aim Questions:


1. What is the job of a prophet? (Take God's Word to the people)
2. What prophets have we learned about so far? (Obadiah-Edom-loyal; Jonah-Nineveh-mercy; Nahum-Nineveh-slow to anger; Amos-Israelites living around Samaria-righteous)
3. Who was the prophet we learned about today? (Hosea)
4. Why did God ask Hosea to marry a wife who would not be faithful? (To show how He feels when His people are not faithful to Him.)
5. What did Gomer do that was not faithful? (Loved someone else more than her husband, wasn't happy or satisfied with what she had, ran away from home, didn't keep promises)
6. What does faithful mean? (Loyal, loves no matter what) Is God faithful to His children?

 Hook:

- Play House Center:** Designate children to be in a pretend family. Tell the mom to have her meals ready for her hungry baby and for Dad to come right home after work for dinner. Dad could promise a bike ride after work and he is faithful to his promise. Today we will learn about how important it is to faithfully keep our promises. God is always faithful to His children.
- Picture Hunt:** Find pictures in magazines of families doing things together. You could make a collage of a family on a paper plate or glue the pictures on a large piece of paper as a mural. Talk about being faithful to each other and keeping your word to go on a trip, a bike ride, a fishing trip, visiting Grandma and Grandpa, etc. Talk about God being faithful to His Word, the Bible.
- Play Dough Center:** Using play dough and gingerbread boy and girl cookie cutters, make brides & grooms (husbands and wives). Role play with them, emphasizing the idea that God wants them to stick together and be faithful to each other.
- Dress Up Center:** Have baskets of pretend wedding clothes for the kids to try on and admire in the mirror. Some examples would be a veil, pretty scarves, pearls, high heeled shoes, suit coat, top hat, bow tie, etc.
- Puppet Center:** Using happy and sad puppets, role play different situations where people are faithful or not faithful. Does that leave them feeling happy or sad? God is always faithful to His children and we can trust Him. That makes us happy inside.

 **Bridal Center:** Cut pictures from bridal magazines of brides and grooms. Paste each to a tongue depressor or popsicle stick. Talk about weddings and the meaning of making promises before God and friends. Keeping those promises means being faithful to each other every day.

 **“Who Is God?” Center: (3HOS05PKGF7)** Ask the Children's Department to provide the Velcro covered sponge you used in teaching Obadiah. Tape the pictures of Hosea, Gomer (his wife), the children of Jacob living around Jerusalem, and the Israelites living around Samaria at random onto a large piece of felt cloth. Today's Bible story teaches that God is faithful. The word faithful has almost the same meaning as the word loyal. It means God sticks by you. It also means God loves you no matter what. He is faithful. Let the children throw the sponge at the piece of cloth. Have the children identify the picture if the sponge lands near one. Reinforce the words faithful and loyal. After the game is played for the last time, the pictures can be removed and the piece of cloth can be re-used. Return all supplies to the Children's Table.

 **Get the Wiggles Out and Transition Time:** Sing and act out the following song to the tune of "Mulberry Bush."

This is the way we wake up in the morning (stretch and yawn),
Wake up in the morning, wake up in the morning.
This is the way we wake up in the morning on a Sunday morning!

(Other Verses)


Wash our face, comb our hair, give thanks for food, eat our cereal, put on our coats, pick up our Bibles, close the door, get in the car, drive to church, pray to God, etc.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

 Have Velcro to demonstrate a faithfulness that sticks!

 Use **3HOS06PKGF1**, **3HOS06PKGF2**, and **3HOS06PKGF3** as you talk about Hosea and Gomer being married.

Bible Adventure -

We have some new names to remember today. One person you will get to know is Hosea and the other is Gomer. They were married. Guess which one is the husband. Hosea. Today we will hear about Hosea, Gomer, the Israelites living around Samaria, and what God told them. Hosea loved God very much and when God spoke to him, he listened with all his might and obeyed with his whole heart. When you really love God, it is like being married to Him. Hosea was a neat guy. If He were alive right now, you would want him for a friend and you would love to go to his house and spend time with him. Hosea lived and prophesied about the same time as Amos. Hosea knew that the Israelite children of Jacob living around Samaria had been worshiping idols and taking from needy people. They were still disobedient even after Amos talked to them and warned them that the Assyrians would take them captive. God was going to use Hosea and Gomer's marriage as a message to His unfaithful people.

When two people love each other and want to get married, they make promises to each other. They promise to stay together forever. They promise to be loyal and stick together just like this Velcro. God helps married people faithfully love each other and stay together for their whole lives. Loving someone and sticking with them is called being faithful to them. Your Dad and Mom love you. They are faithful to give you a warm bed and food to eat when you are hungry. If you have a pet fish at home, you have to be faithful to feed it or it will die. If you have to be gone, you have a friend come over and feed your fish. You are loyal to it. You are faithful to feed your fish.

If you have visited Yellowstone Park, maybe you have seen the Old Faithful geyser. Old Faithful got its name because it is faithful to spew hot water and steam about every 2 hours. You can count on it. It is always on time. It does what God set it up to do. God was faithful to love the Israelites, the children of Jacob. He was loyal to them. He was always there for them. They made wrong choices of worshiping idols and hurting needy people by taking their money. They were not being loyal and faithful to God. It hurt God's heart and made Him sad when His chosen people loved something else more than they loved Him.

God said to Hosea, "You know how I feel about the Israelites and what they are doing. I want you to **show** them how I feel. You will marry a woman who will run away from home. When she runs away, it will hurt you deeply. This is how I feel when the Israelites love idols more than me."

Hosea obeyed God and married Gomer. Gomer was not a happy person. She didn't love God nor want to be faithful to Him. She wasn't satisfied with her husband or the things he did for her. She got bored with doing laundry and cooking for Hosea. She was a grump and kept thinking about what she wanted that wasn't hers to have. She wanted more excitement and fun. So, one day, Gomer got dressed up, put on fancy rings and jewelry and left home to have fun. She sneaked out of the house at night. When morning came, Hosea was concerned about her. He looked everywhere. He called for her and was worried about her. Was she all right? Who was she with? Who was taking care of her? Gomer didn't come home that night or the next morning or the next night. She stayed away from home. Hosea was very sad in his heart that his wife didn't love him and left home. He thought, "I gave her everything she needed. I gave her food, clothes, a home and my love." It hurt Hosea that Gomer wasn't thankful for his love and kindness. It hurt him that she wasn't faithful to him. It hurt him that she wanted another man.

God designed marriage to be for one man and one woman for life. That means they stay together and are faithful to each other. They keep their promise to love and stay together. God designed His heavenly family to stay together forever and be faithful to love each other, too. God is always faithful to His children. Are we faithful to love and thank Him?

Gomer had three children, a baby boy first, then a baby girl and then another baby boy. Faithful mothers take care of their children and love them. Do you think Gomer was a faithful mother? No, she wasn't faithful to them either. She left her children while she went looking for fun. It made Hosea so sad when his wife didn't care about her children. Hosea took care of his children and loved them. He was always there for them. He was a loyal, faithful dad. He stuck by his children and did what was best for them.

What was Hosea going to do about his wife who wouldn't come home? Most men would get so angry that they would say, "I can't take it anymore! Those other men can have her! I don't want her anymore. We can make it without her." What did God want Hosea to do? God said to Hosea, "I want you to go show your love to your wife even though she has run away and has been unfaithful to you. Love her the way I love the Israelites. Though they have turned to idols and love them, I keep faithfully loving them." Wow! That is a special kind of love, isn't it? That is the kind of love only God can give us in our hearts for others.

What do you think Hosea did? He obeyed God. He was very sad. He went walking and looking for his wife all over town. He asked people, "Have you seen my wife?" He would go down another street and say, "Is Gomer around here anywhere?" People felt sorry for Hosea because his wife didn't love him. Finally, Hosea came to the right house and there she was. Hosea spoke very kindly to Gomer. He spoke to her like God talks to us when we have been wrong. Remember, God is full of mercy and he is slow to anger. To bring Gomer home, Hosea even had to pay money for her. He said to her, "I will live with you again but you must stay home this time." Hosea did the right thing. He loved and cared for his wife. He loved her the way God loved her. He was a faithful husband.

Next week, we get to hear more about this family and God's faithful love.

Prayer: Dear God, You are faithful and loyal to Your children. Thank You for sticking by me every day. I want to be faithful like You. Amen.



Look:



Bride and Groom Family Center: Using toilet paper tubes, make bride and groom couples.

Decorate with tissue paper, lace, glitter, etc. Stick them together with a piece of Velcro. Talk about faithful husbands and wives sticking together. Let the bride and groom promise to be faithful to each other. The bride can say, "I will be faithful to respect you each day." The groom can say, "I will be faithful to love you and take care of you each day for as long as we live."

Hosea and Gomer Coloring Paper: (3HOS06PKGF4) Let the children color the picture that recaps today's story. Review the Aim Questions. Use small amounts of glue stick to add sequins to the dress if you like. The teacher or adult helper should add a small amount of glue to the paper and let the child put the sequin in place.

Bible Adventure Book: (3HOS06PKGF5) This little book retells the Bible Adventure story. Have the children's workers make copies. The children can color the pages in the book on class day. To assemble the book without using any staples, simply fold the paper in half lengthwise. Fold so that the pictures are on the outside. Fold again and let the children tell the simple story.

Snack Center: Provide Rice Krispy treats. Talk about how all of their krispies are stuck together and how being faithful means we stick together. A fun idea is to cut the squares into thin slices lengthwise. The children can cut heart shapes with cookie cutters to remind them that God's kind of love is faithful forever.

Game Center: Play with a boomerang outside. Talk about the fact that when you throw a boomerang it always comes back. This should be the same with husbands and wives; they remain faithful and always come back.

Three Legged Race: Host a three-legged race with your class. Have the kids pretend their partner is their "husband" or "wife" and that they must stick together to be a team. Talk about how God is faithful to them and will not let them go.

Faithfulness Charades: Have children pair up and pick a situation out of a jar. The children will try to act out the way of being faithful to one another in that situation.

Play Red Rover together. Emphasize sticking together as a team and the importance of being faithful to your team.

Songs:

Great Is Thy Faithfulness (Teach the chorus only and review it throughout the next weeks.)
Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

God Is Faithful to His Kids (To the tune of "London Bridge")
God is faithful to His kids, to His kids, to His kids.
God is faithful to His kids, always and forever. (or, "every single day")
(Second Verse: Sing the question:)
Who is faithful to His kids, to His kids, to His kids?
God is faithful to His kids, always and forever. (or, "every single day")

Whisper a Prayer in the Morning
Whisper a prayer in the morning
Whisper a prayer at noon
Whisper a prayer in the evening
To keep your heart in tune.

God wants us faithful in the morning
God wants us faithful at noon
God wants us faithful in the evening
To keep our hearts in tune.

I will be faithful in the morning
I will be faithful at noon
I will be faithful in the evening
I'll keep my heart in tune.

I'll Obey and Serve You

Trust and Obey

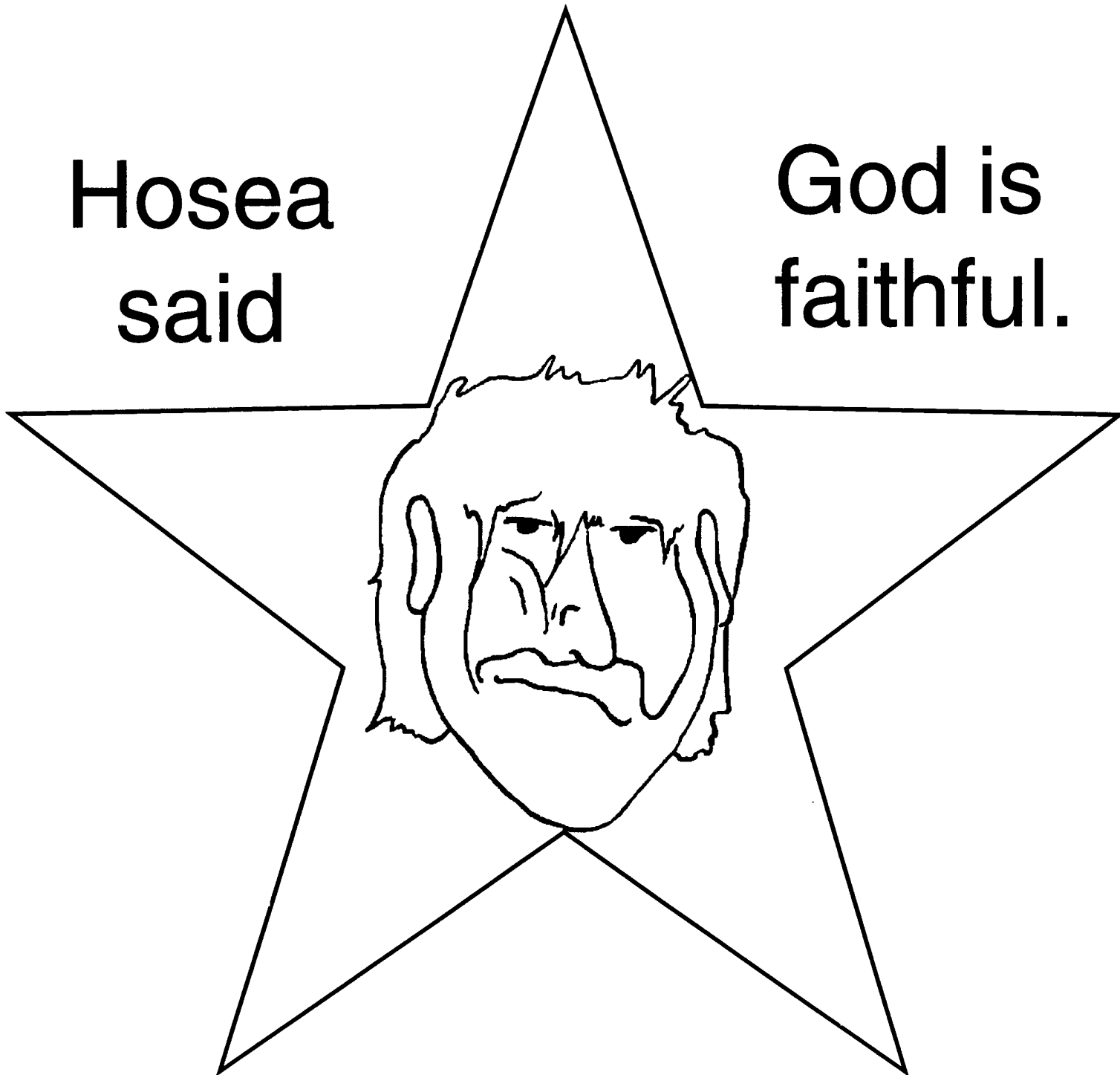


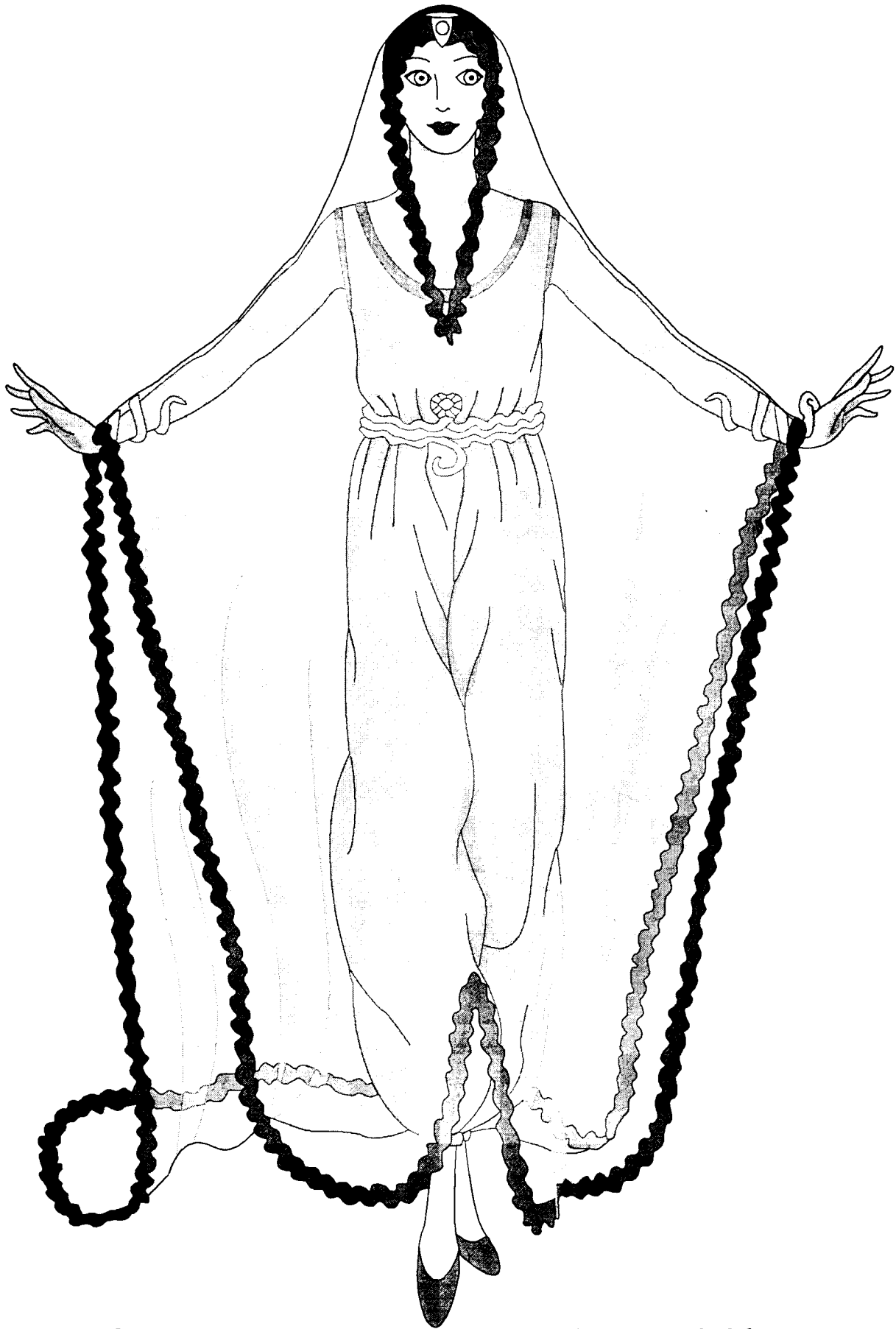
Took:

- Show your wedding photos if you are married. Tell how you know your spouse is faithful. Show your wedding ring. Have the children review the meaning of the word faithful and the memory work from today's story. Bring a play ring or two for the children to take turns wearing. The one who is wearing the ring can recite the prophet, people, principle, and place. Make a ring out of metallic pipe cleaner if you do not have a play ring.
- Memory Work Review: The Four "P's" Review Map: (3HOS06PKG6)** Using the review map and the review symbols from all the lessons so far, have the children match the symbols and repeat the names of the prophets, people, place, and principle. You may still need to tell them what to say, but the children will be able to match the symbols. Continue to pray that these facts will make a difference in these young lives.
- Know and Do:** We KNOW God is faithful; we DO want to stick by Him. One of the ways you can learn to stick to God is through prayer. Use this time to explain that when we pray, we can tell God how we feel, what we think, and that we love Him. God likes to hear our prayers. If you have guidelines in your classroom for prayer times, explain these to the children now. Be sure to tell them why you think these guidelines are important. Then pray together as a class, singing, "Whisper a Prayer in The Morning."
- Place a sticker on one child's hand or shirt. Explain that this sticker will come off after a while when something brushes against it. Some stickers stick longer than others but they all come off sooner or later. God is faithful and never goes away. As you place a sticker on a child, he or she can pray, "Thank You, God, for being faithful to stick by me."
- Using the bride and groom popsicle stick puppets from HOOK, let the children play with them on a pre-made mural. This mural can be a piece of butcher paper with a house, car, church, grocery store, beach, etc., drawn on it. We are reinforcing the idea that mommies and daddies are faithful (stuck together) to one another everywhere they go.

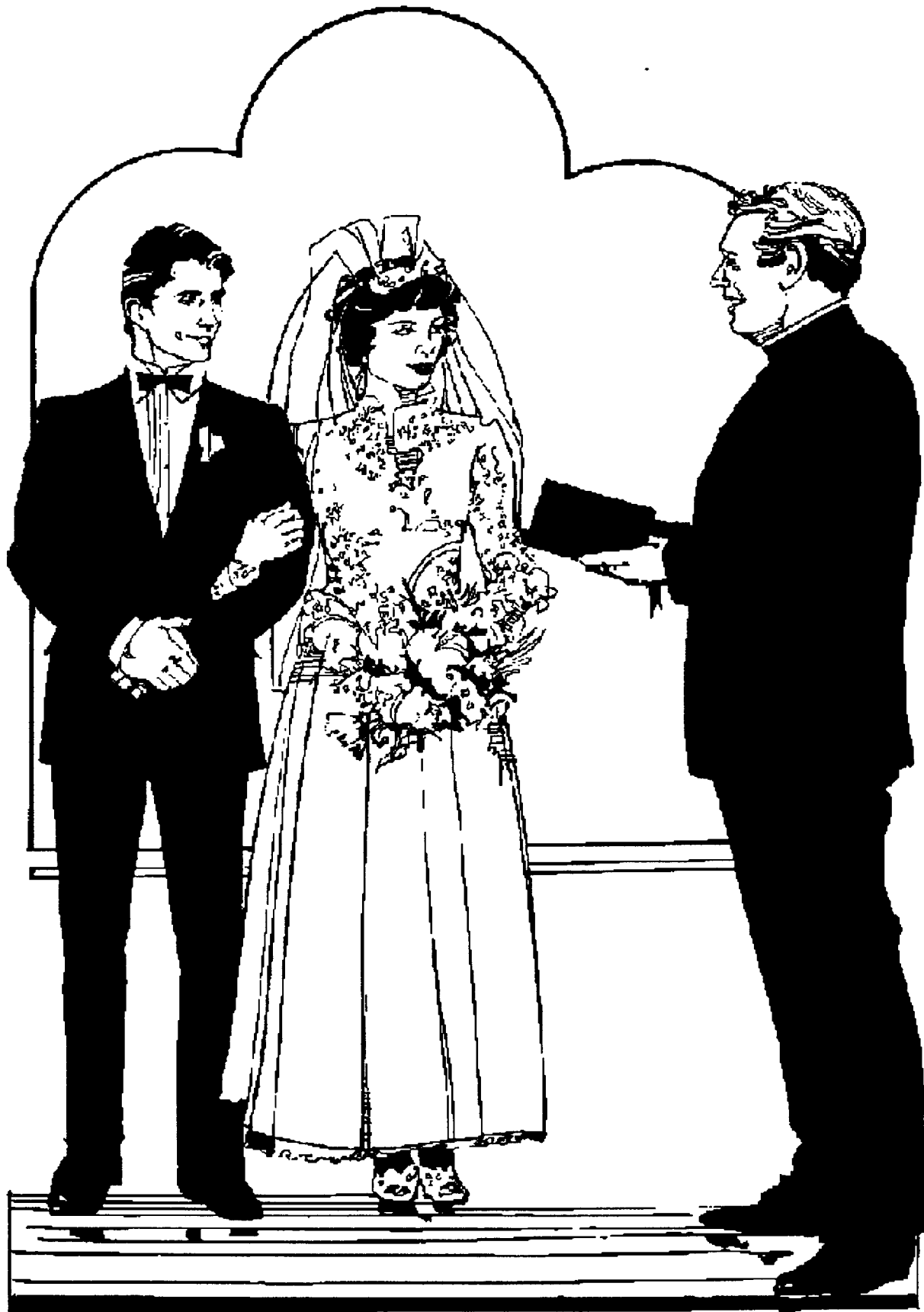
**Hosea
said**

**God is
faithful.**





*Gomer was not faithful to her husband, Hosea.
She ran away from home.*

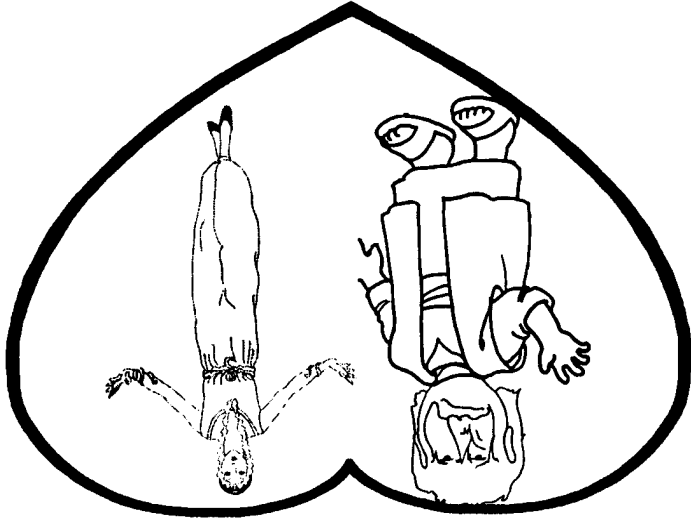


God wants husbands and wives to be faithful to each other for as long as they live.

*Faithful Hosea
watches as his
unfaithful wife
leaves home.*

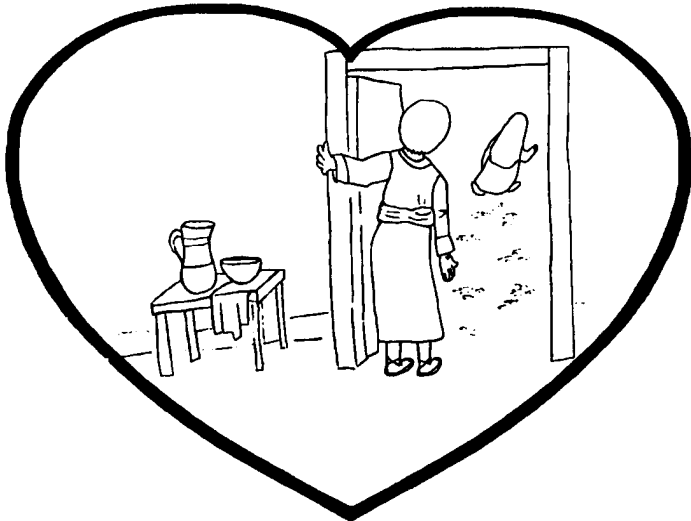


God is faithful!



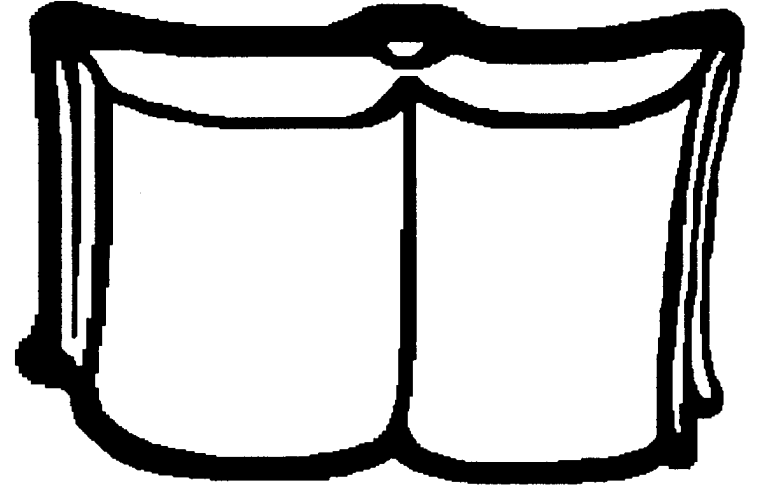
Hosea was faithful to his wife.

Gomer was not faithful.



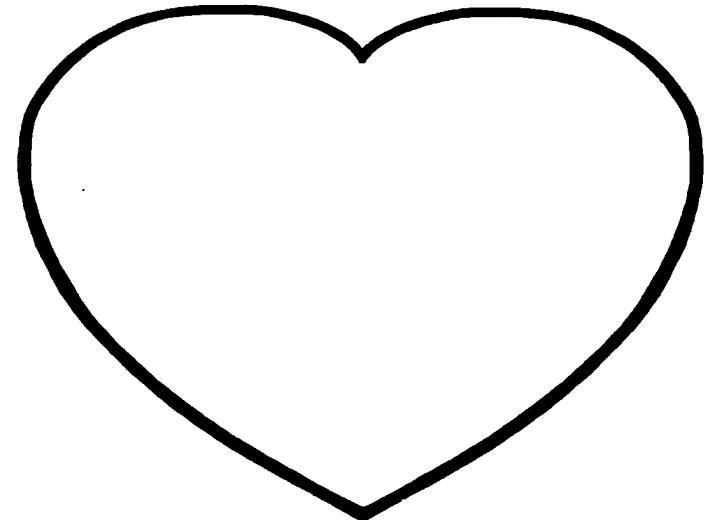
The Israelites were not faithful.

Faithful



God is...

God is faithful



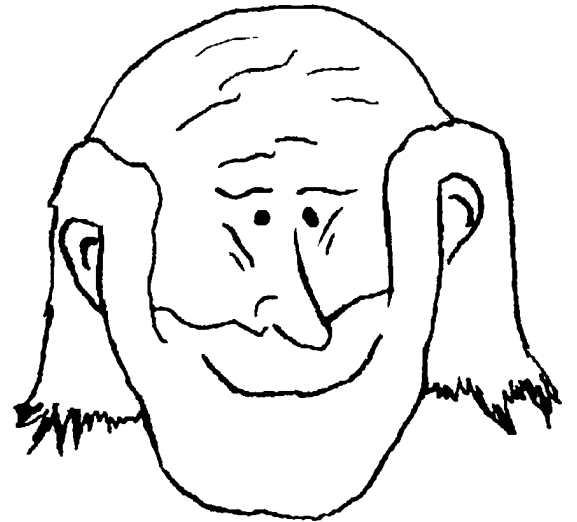
to me!

Memory Work Review

Nahum says God is slow to anger.



Obadiah went to the children of Esau.



Obadiah says God is loyal to His children.

Jonah went to Nineveh.

God is full
of mercy.

Jonah



Amos
said



God is

righteous

Hosea
said



God is
faithful

