



Materials | Need:

Memory Work:

Learning the Old Testament books starting with Isaiah

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. Briefly tell what you know about Hosea the prophet.
2. What were some of the awful sins that the Children of Israel were committing?
3. What nation was God going to use to punish the Northern Kingdom of Israel?
4. Will they repent someday? How does God use Hosea's family as an illustration?
5. Can you see any similarities between The Children of Israel and our world today?

3 Hook:



Hidden Sin. On gold-colored paper, write some of the ways The Children of Israel ran from God. Hide them around the room before class begins. After the students arrive, explain to them that some of Israelite's sins are hidden around the room, and some are even obvious. Give the Bible students three minutes to discover as many sins as they can. Save the sins you have discovered for the Adventure today. *When it is time to reveal them, call on the Bible students to read what they've discovered.* 3HOS07JR.GF1



Telephone. Seat the students in a circle on chairs or on the floor. Tell the Bible students that you are an operator, and you need to get a message to the person sitting on your left. The circuit is busy so you need to send it around the circle circuit you have created. Whisper the people/prophecy to the person on your right. Did the message make the circuit? Did it make sense to you? Try sending the Principle around. Is your success any better? **Were the Israelites so roofed in their sin that they just weren't getting the message?!**



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



Hidden Sin. Utilize your Bible students during the Adventure today. Have them share with the class some of the Children of Israel's sins that they found in the hunt. Thank them for their help.

Bible Adventure -

Last week we learned about Hosea, God's prophet and the message God sent to the Northern Kingdom of Israel through him. God asked Hosea to do a very unusual thing. Does anyone remember what that was? (*To man-y Gomer, who would be an unfaithful wife.*) Why did God ask Hosea to do that? (*Allow children time to answer.*) That's right. God wanted the Children of Israel to see that they had become

like an unfaithful wife to God. They had broken their promises to love God and give Him first place in their lives. Not only that, but like Gomer, who ran from her husband to be with other men, the Children of Israel ran from God to false gods and idols. They decorated these idols with gold and silver and built sacred altars and pillars. They worshipped these false gods in place of the One True God. The Children of Israel were enjoying a time of wealth and good harvests. Instead of giving God the credit, they thanked their idols and asked them to provide even more wealth. In Hosea 10:1 it says that the more wealth The Children of Israel obtained, the more sacred altars were built. They became proud, trusting in their own strength to keep them safe. They became a nation of liars, deceiving each other so much that people were in court constantly suing one another. Brother even sued brother. God called them a field of poisonous weeds. He even compared The Children of Israel to Gibeah, a city well known throughout the land as extremely evil and violent.

God had been watching The Children of Israel for years, and His anger slowly built against them. God now told them through Hosea what would happen to them. Rejecting God would have horrible consequences for The Children of Israel. God told them that Assyria, the empire of the people from Nineveh, would invade them and carry them away as captives. Their sacred altars would be smashed and destroyed. Their false gods would be unable to protect them, and they would be powerless to stop the invasion. Mothers and children would be murdered, and even their king would be destroyed. It's a frightening picture, isn't it? But that is what it would take to convince the Israelites that their false gods were worthless and that God was their only help and protection.

Because of the hugeness of people's sin and betrayal of God, He would have been totally justified in wiping them off the face of the earth. However, Hosea 14 tells us of God's great love and passion for His people. Again He used Hosea to illustrate His point. After Gomer left Hosea, Hosea would have been justified in never having anything to do with her again. But God told Hosea to go get Gomer, and so he did. Just as Hosea tenderly pleaded for Gomer to return to him, God pleaded with The Children of Israel to return. He asked them to come to Him and ask His forgiveness. He asked them to turn away from their false gods and admit that only God could keep them safe.

I wish I could tell you that The Children of Israel responded to God's loving pleas, but they did not. Because God must punish all rebellion against Him, He allowed the judgment against the Israelites to go forth. Everything He warned The Children of Israel about came to pass. The Children of Israel were made to see her unfaithfulness to God and where it had brought her. But there is hope in Israel's future. Hosea went and got Gomer, just as God will go get The Children of Israel. God promises that when His people repent of their sin and turn from their idols, He will restore them. This has not happened yet, but it will take place in the future, in a period of time called the millennium. God paints a beautiful picture of a land blossoming like a lily under His care and a time of God's blessing and prosperity. Even though The Children of Israel received this judgment, God gave the future hope not only of a healed land, but also the promise of a coming Savior who would be their King.

Can you see any similarities between The Children of Israel and our world today? There are lots of them, and we can be thankful that we have God's warning through Hosea and the evidence of history to use as a warning to us. A nation which turns its back on God and pursues other gods is in danger of the same kind of judgment. But through the words of the Scripture, we can be assured that God's love for His people never fails. We can know that if we trust only in Him, He will work His plan out for our lives. He has already thrown us a lifeline by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to provide a way for us to become a part of His forever family. Have you turned away from following after the false gods of fame, money and popularity? Are you trusting in God alone to save and keep you? If you have, you are showing true godly wisdom. God said it this way at the end of Hosea "Who is wise? He will realize these things. Who is discerning? He will understand them. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them." When we trust God, we can't lose!



Look:



Hard Hearts. Collect some flat rocks to make paper weights. These rocks will serve as a reminder of Hosea. Paint a heart or several hearts on top of a rock to remind you of the Israelites' hard hearts. Another option is to use a paint pen or permanent marker to write the principle of Hosea. Look at Hosea 7:14 with the class. What is God wanting them to do?

Code. Gomer ran from Hosea. How did The Children of Israel run from God? Break the code and find out. 3HOS07JR.GF2

Aim Questions. Review the aim questions to get a clearer view of Hosea. 3HOS07JR.GF2

Did You Listen? Use this quiz to help students measure if they understood today's lesson. This will be good evaluation for teachers, also. After the quiz is complete, go back and clarify the points that students may have been confuse about from Hosea. 3HOS07JR.GF3



Took:

Jump Rope Jingle. 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 jump out.

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

Prophet Page. Give out a prophet page to anyone who hasn't received one yet. Help them fill it out or, better yet, have a fellow Bible student lend a hand! 3HOS07JR.GF4

Faithful Jump Rope. You will need a large space and jump rope to play this game. How to play: The students make-a circle, and the teacher stands in the middle. The teacher-begins turning in circles, and the Bible students must jump the rope as it comes to them or find themselves wrapped/or tripped up in sin like the Israelites. If you get caught, the consequences put you on the sideline. Play this game several times. Avoid consequences of sin and walk in the ways of the Lord! Take time after this activity to debrief the kids so that they will know exactly what you were trying to illustrate.

1. What did it feel like when you were trying to jump the rope?
2. What did you fell when you were caught up by the rope, and had to sit out?
3. The rope in this game was an illustration of the sin that the Children of Israel had chosen to get caught up in. How was the rope like sin?
4. How hard was it to avoid the rope? How hard is it to avoid sin?
5. What kind of help would have been the best for you not to get caught in the rope?
6. What kind of help would be best to keep you from sin?
7. Did any of you just give up and let the rope hit you?
8. Do people give up and let sin trip them? Why?
9. How can you help other people not be like the Children of Israel?
10. How was Hosea trying to help the Children of Israel not get caught up in the rope?

Small Groups. Each group gets a piece of paper and a pencil. Each group needs to write a message about what they just learned. Nobody can talk. The first person in the group can only write one word, the second person writes the second word and so on. Have all of the groups continue until all their members have added a word. They may continue if they want, but you will need to set a time limit. (*2 minutes is more than adequate.*) Read each group's message. Reward the team with the message that matches today's lesson the best! Reward that team with a round of applause.

Family Fun Sheet. Students should have been filling in the "Track The Prophets Chart" for seven weeks now. Please check on their progress. See how many have actually been doing it.



Review Hosea. Using the Prophet Flash Cards, introduce the book of Hosea. If you have not started doing this yet, please do. Review is the mortar of long term learning.

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.

Hosea 7:13

Woe to them, because they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, because they have rebelled against me! I long to redeem them but they speak lies against me.

RAN TO FALSE gods

Decorated Idols w/ gold

Built sacred altars

Decorate Idols w/ silver

Built sacred pillars

Worshipped false gods

Became Proud

Trusted in their own strength

Nation of liars

Suing one another

Fields of poisonous weeds

CODE HOSEA

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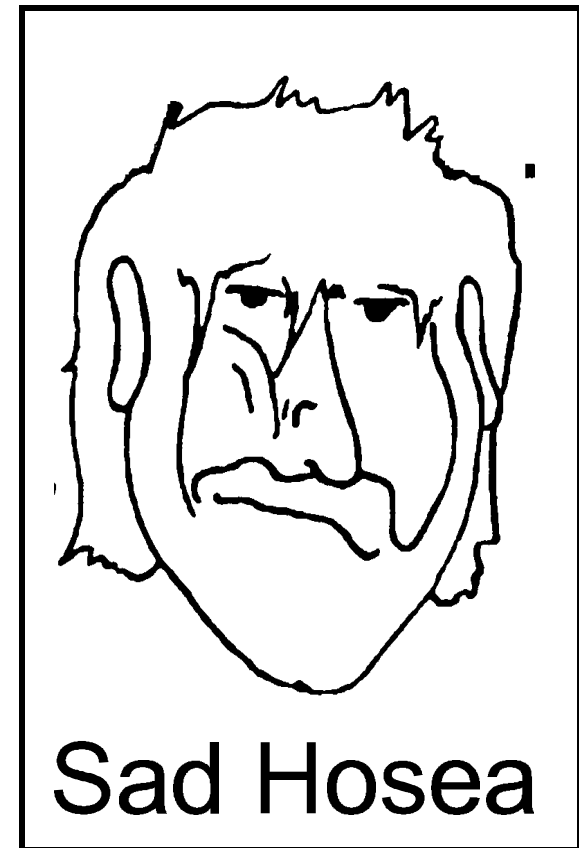
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AIM QUESTION REVIEW

1. Briefly tell what you know about Hosea the prophet.
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4. Will they repent someday? How does God use Hosea's family as an illustration?
5. Can you see any similarities between The Children of Israel and our world today?

Did You Listen?

This is not a group activity. Keep your eyes on your paper, and ask your teacher if you need help.

1. Hosea was the prophet to _____.
Jerusalem
Northern Kingdom of Israel
Nineveh
2. The Children of Israel were worshipping _____.
Men
Money
Idols
3. Hosea's run-away wife's name was _____.
Sarah
Gomer
Olive
4. Hosea's marriage was to show the Israelites that they were _____.
Unfaithful
Hateful
Greedy
5. Because of their unwillingness to repent, God was going to send an army from _____ to take the Israelites captive.
Judah
Assyria
Egypt
6. Some day in the future, God is going to _____.
Bring Hosea back to Nineveh.
Call the Israelites Christians
Send a Savior to call Israel back to Himself

Count up how many you answered correctly. Multiply that number by 10. Put an "X" below where your score was, and read the results.

- ___ 60 points - **Expert** You listened well, Well done!!
- ___ 40-50 points - **Smart** Read carefully next time.
- ___ 30-40 points - **Whoa!!** You can do better than that!
- ___ 10 - 20 points - **Something's Wrong** Either your hard of hearing or your heart is not open to God's word.
- ___ 0 points - **Gomer** Are you unfaithful to God?

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