

October 20, 1996

Hosea 4 - 14

4's, 5's & K

3HOS07PK

God Is Faithful to His Children.

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - *Hosea*

The Principle - *God is faithful to His children even when they are unfaithful.*

The People - *Israelites living around Samaria*

God's Attribute - *God is faithful (loyal, loves unconditionally).*

Aim Questions:

1. What prophets have we learned about so far? (Obadiah-Edom-loyal; Jonah-Nineveh-mercy; Nahum-Nineveh-slow to anger; Amos-Israelites around Samaria-righteous; and Hosea-Israelites living around Samaria-faithful)
2. What did Hosea's wife do that made Hosea sad? (She ran away from home.)
3. What were the Israelites doing that made God sad? (They ran from God by worshiping idols.)
4. How did God treat the Israelites? (He was slow to anger but would punish their sins.)
5. What did the Assyrian soldiers do to the Israelites living in Samaria? (Smashed the idols and altars, took the Israelites as slaves)
6. How would God be faithful to the children of Jacob? (When they cried to Him for help, He would bring them back home to Israel.)
7. What did we learn about God this morning? (God is faithful and I'm thankful!)

 Hook:

- Puppet Review:** Using the Prophet Puppets, review the first Aim Question.
- Calling for Help:** Pretend to go on a hike. Using a whistle or flashlight, call for help as danger approaches. Talk about an S.O.S. signal and how it is used by someone in danger.
- Play Dough Center:** Using play dough and gingerbread boy or girl cookie cutters, create brides and grooms. Stick them together and talk about what we learned last week about God's design for husbands and wives.
- Dress-Up Center:** Let the children pretend to be brides and grooms with different articles of clothing you bring for dress-up. Provide a full length mirror for them to see themselves. Talk about the significance of the promises brides and grooms make to each other to faithfully stay together.
- Help the children decorate a balloon to be either a bride or a groom. Rub the balloons on a blanket or sweater to create static electricity. Then stick the balloons together. Remember last week's teaching on faithful Hosea and unfaithful Gomer. Faithful husbands and wives stick together.
- Get the Wiggles Out and Transition Activity:** Do a military march around the room, sometimes saluting, sometimes tiptoeing, sometimes clapping, etc. Finally, the teacher shines the flashlight on two children at a time, sending them a signal to go to their chairs. God sent a signal to the Israelites

to warn them of coming danger. God sent the prophet Hosea to tell the Israelites to faithfully love God rather than idols.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



Show a picture of Hosea and Gomer in a broken heart.



Use happy and sad puppets as you tell the review of last week.



(**3HOS07PKGF1** and **3HOS07PKGF3**) Show the pictures of the Israelites being taken away as prisoners and Hosea buying back his wife.

Bible Adventure -

Last week we learned that Gomer broke Hosea's heart. Hosea was sad because his wife didn't love him and wanted more fun and more men. Hosea was a faithful husband. He loved only one woman, his wife. He took care of her and gave her food, clothes and a home. That's what God says faithful husbands do for their wives. Gomer was not a faithful wife. God asks wives to respect their husbands and follow their lead in the home. Gomer didn't submit to God's way. She ran away from home and didn't ask for God's help. She wasn't thankful for Hosea, his faithful love and care.

What were the Israelite children of Jacob doing? Who remembers? They had been taught that God loved them faithfully and that He wanted them to worship Him only. Instead, the Israelites had made calf idols by shaping metal to look like a calf. They would pray to these man-made idols as though they could help, but they were nothing but metal or wood. The Israelites had forgotten how God had taken care of them in the past. He had fed them with manna from heaven when they were hungry in the wilderness. He had given them water when they were thirsty in the desert. God had protected them in all their travels to the Promised Land. When their land produced good crops, the Israelites didn't thank their heavenly Father for their food. They were proud of themselves and thought it was their own hard work that had given them their food. They forgot to thank God for all the ways He fed and cared for them. Gomer wasn't thankful to Hosea for his love and care. She left him. The Israelites were not thankful to God and left Him, going their own crooked way.

God tried to get the Israelites' attention by stopping the rain. The Israelites were afraid there would not be enough food, but they didn't pray to the true God for help. They ran to the king of Egypt for help. They ran to the king of Nineveh for help. "Help us! Help us!" was their cry. "We need food. Help us." Was God sad when the Israelites went to other people and idols for help? Yes, He was. God had told the Israelites living around Samaria, through Amos, that there is a right, straight way to live and they were on the crooked, wrong path. God was now warning them through Hosea who said, "You are ruining your lives. You are not faithful to God. You don't love God. You don't talk about God. You don't learn about God. You talk to wooden and metal idols. How can God take care of you if you are stubborn, selfish, sinning and stumbling down your own path? You have strayed away from God. He loves and cares for you. He is faithful but I am warning you that the Assyrians of Nineveh will soon come to destroy your beautiful city. Egypt will not help you. Your idols will not help you. Your chariots will not help you when the Assyrians come to destroy your city. Only God can help you. Pray to the true God. Send an S.O.S. to God and ask for help. Say you are sorry and seek to follow God's right way for you. Throw out your calf idol. God will hear you. He is faithful, will forgive you and help you."

Everything happened as Hosea promised. (722 B.C.) The Assyrian soldiers came and broke through the city walls. The Assyrian soldiers smashed the altars and took the gold, silver and precious stones. They took the Israelites as prisoners back to Nineveh. There were no more celebrations for the Israelites. They had no homes of their own. They were slaves of the mean Assyrians. If you had seen their faces, you would know how very sad they were. They thought to themselves, "Our idols didn't help us. Our soldiers weren't strong enough. Egypt couldn't help us. Only the true God can help us." They remembered what Hosea had said. They began to pray to God for help. They prayed, "Only You can help us, God. You are more powerful than anyone. We are sorry for disobeying. Please help us." Every day the Israelites were praying like this.

Have you ever seen a one-year-old learning to walk? A father holds out his hands to steady his toddler. A mother holds out her hands to catch him when he begins to fall. They are patient, helpful and faithful. As a child grows, the parents are always there in case he strays. That's what God does. He is always there for us. Sometimes we have to tell Him we are sorry. He is faithful to help us when we sin and ask for help.

God would be there for the Israelites just as Hosea was there for Gomer. God heard their prayers and was faithful to forgive them. He would bring them back to their home, Israel, in the land of Canaan. There they would have their own tents and piece of land for a garden and for raising animals. They would thank God every day for their home. They would want to be faithful like their faithful Father God.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, We love You and thank You for this book in the Bible. Thank You for helping us see how much You hate sin and stubbornness. Thank You for being faithful to steer us on the straight path if we will pray and tell You we are sorry for our sin. Thank You for being so faithful to us. Help me be faithful to obey Your word. Amen.



Look:



"S" Words Used in Bible Adventure: "Wrong Way" Words: Sin, sad, stumble, stubborn, shameful, selfish. Right Path Words: Seek God, straight path, say I'm sorry. Write the word "God" on one half of a large piece of butcher paper. On the other side, place a picture of a sad Israelite or the **3HOS07PKGF1** picture. Write the "s" words on the paper. As the teacher reads the words, ask a child to come up and draw a line from it to the coordinating picture.



"Hosea Finds Gomer" Coloring Center: (3HOS07PKGF3) Let the children review the story of Hosea as they color the page. Remind them that Hosea was a very faithful husband, even though Gomer was an unfaithful wife. He went to find her and bought her back. God comes looking for us even though we have done many unfaithful things.



Play **Hide & Seek** with one child or group of children designated as Gomer and the other child or group designated as Hosea. Hosea searches for Gomer, calling to her. The children could use toilet paper tubes as megaphones to call Gomer's name. When they find Gomer, they can give a payment of some sort in exchange for her. They then take "her" home.



Heart Puzzles: (3HOS07PKGF2) Let the children color and cut out the puzzles of broken hearts with the different brides & grooms. Every couple is different and unique but God intends for every married couple to stay together. Assist the children in reuniting the different couples to mend the broken hearts. Families can stick together faithfully if they love God faithfully and look to Him for help.



Create a **Faithfulness Obstacle Course**. Using masking tape, mark a path from a church (under a table) to the car (cardboard cut out) to the house (a closet) to the park (the hallway), etc. Pair the children up and tell them they have to stay faithful (stuck together) throughout the entire course.



Play **"Faithfulness Charades."** In a hat, place small papers on which have been written different situations, such as, "mom promises to take you to the park, dad promises to take you on a bike ride, you promise to read a book with your little sister, your grandma promises to come to visit, you promise to eat only one cookie," etc. When a situation is drawn from the hat, the child can pretend he is in the situation and acts out faithfully keeping the promise.

Songs:



Great Is Thy Faithfulness (chorus)

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.



I'll Obey & Serve You

I'll obey and serve You. I'll obey to show I love You.
I'll obey; my life is in Your hands.
For it's the way to prove my love, when feelings go away.
If it costs me everything, I'll obey.



Trust & Obey (chorus)

Trust and obey, for there's no other way...to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.



Hosea Was A Prophet (Tune: "If You're Happy & You Know It")

Hosea was a prophet sent from God. (Clap, clap)
Hosea was a prophet sent from God. (Clap, clap)
Hosea was a prophet,
Hosea was a prophet,
Hosea was a prophet sent from God. (Clap, clap)

Hosea's wife left and ran away.
Hosea's wife left and ran away.
Gomer wanted to play; she just didn't want to stay.
Gomer left her home and ran away.

Hosea went to tell Jacob's sons, (Clap, clap)
Hosea went to tell Jacob's sons, (Clap, clap)
God is faithful to His kids; the sons of Jacob, they are His.
Hosea went to tell Jacob's sons. (Clap, clap)

If you're happy God is faithful, clap your hands! (Clap! clap!)
If you're happy God is faithful, clap your hands! (Clap, clap)
God is faithful to His kids; you can be one of His!
If you're happy God is faithful, clap your hands! (Clap, clap)



Took:



Bring a calendar of the year, perhaps one with your appointments and activities on it. Talk about how you love God and want to faithfully use your time and energy to serve Him. People will sometimes let us down and disappoint us. Remind the children that Jesus is the only person who can be 100% faithful to them. He is available to them all day and all night 365 days a year. Pray for each other by name to grow in love for God and faithfully serve Him all the days of our lives.



Memory Work Review: (3HOS07ECGF4) Use the picture of the prophet Hosea in addition to the other prophet symbols you have so far. Have the children repeat or name the prophets, what the prophet said about God, and the name of the people before matching the symbol to the large map.



"Helps for Staying Faithful" Worksheet: (3HOS07PKGF4) Draw a circle around the pictures of things that help husbands and wives stay faithful to each other and help families stick together. Talk about how these things might help. Place a **3HOS07PKGF4 Sticker** of Hosea and Gomer on the broken heart and review the idea that it made Hosea sad when Gomer was not faithful. It makes God sad when we are not faithful to Him. God is always faithful even when we are not. Let each child pray for his or her own family members to faithfully love each other.

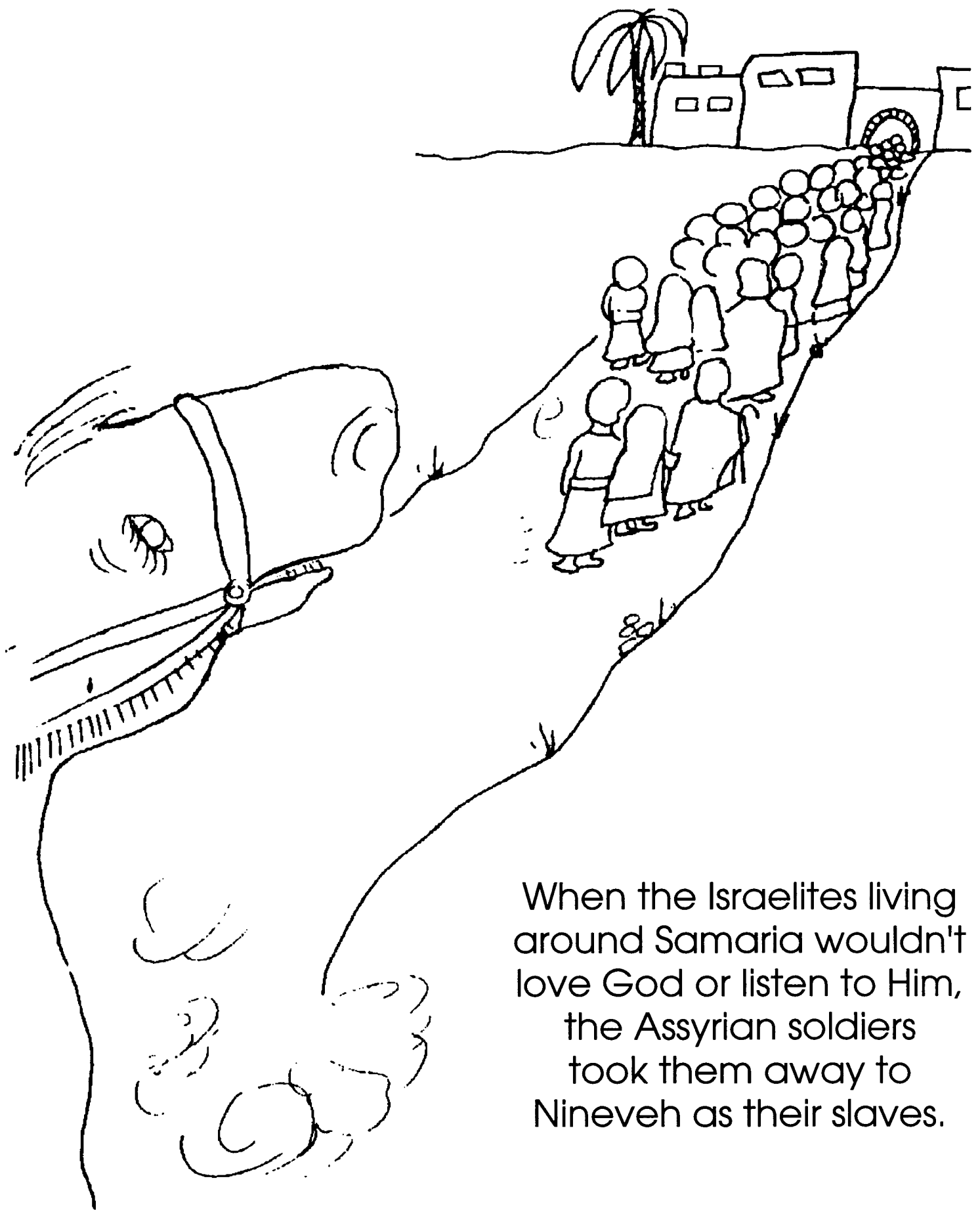


Know and Do: We KNOW God is faithful and loves us no matter what. He will stick by those who love Him and help them do what is right. We DO want to make right choices. The Israelites living near Samaria did not. Play this game like "London Bridge." Sing:

Hosea's wife is running away, running away, running away
Hosea's wife is running away, but he is faithful.

Samaria's walls are falling down, falling down, falling down
Samaria's walls are falling down, but God is faithful.

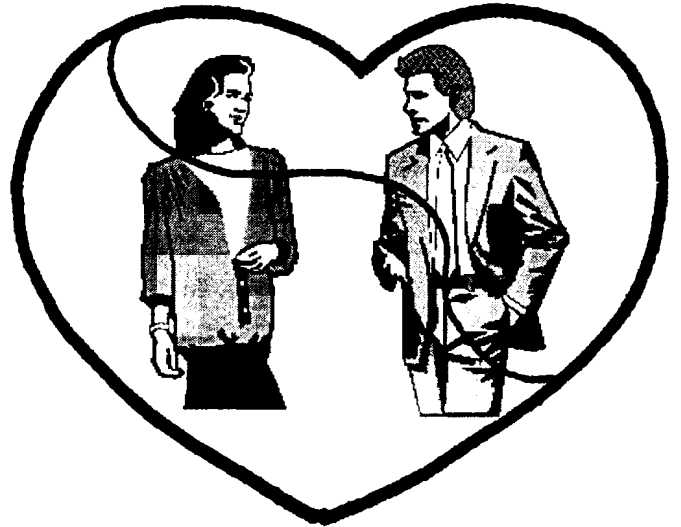
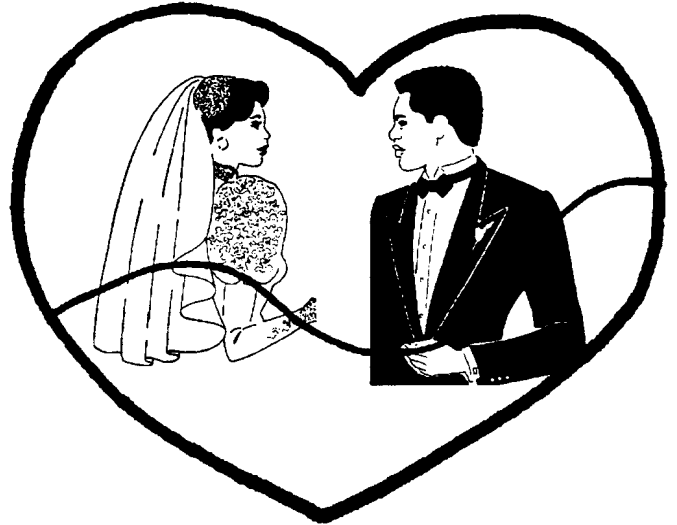
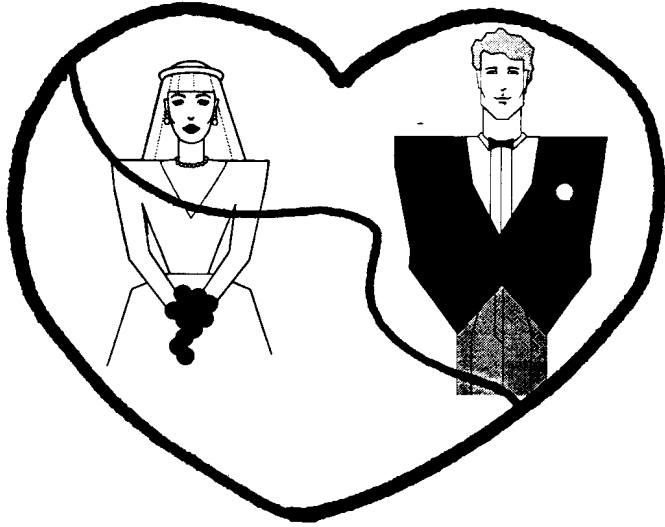
Keep me faithful, God, to you, God, to you, God, to you
Keep me faithful, God, to you. I want to obey.



When the Israelites living around Samaria wouldn't love God or listen to Him, the Assyrian soldiers took them away to Nineveh as their slaves.

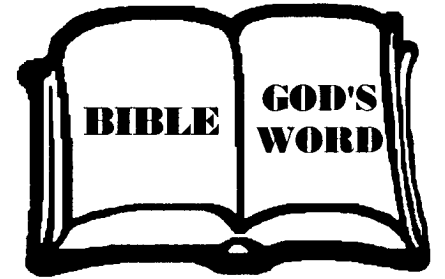
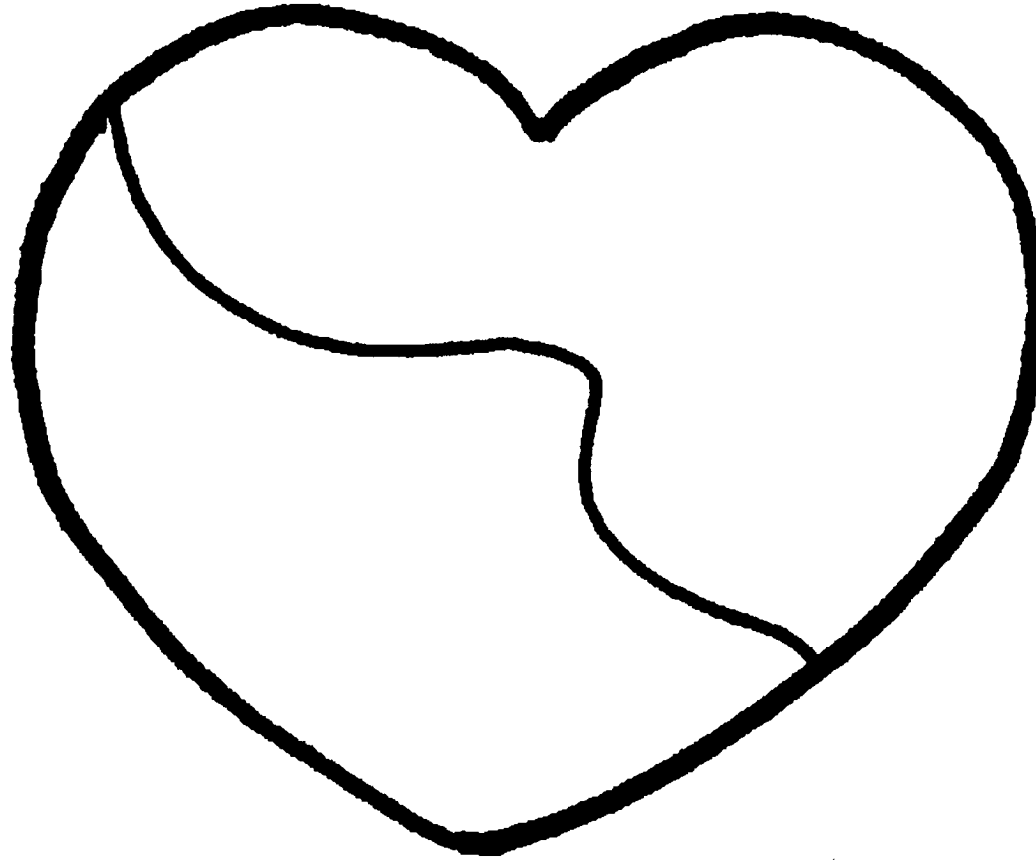
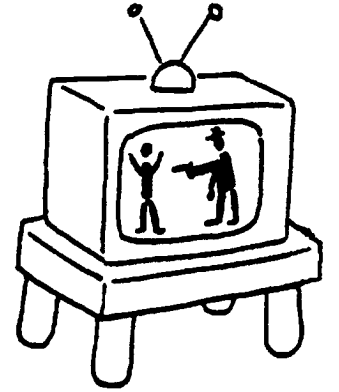
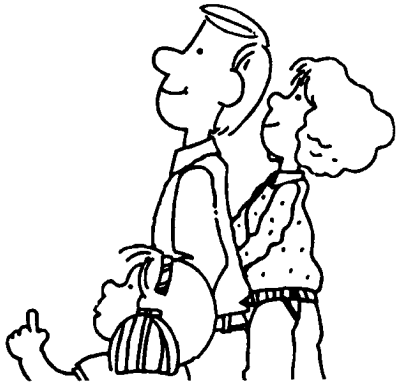
Heart Puzzles

Find the matching couple in each heart. Talk about faithful husbands and wives staying together.

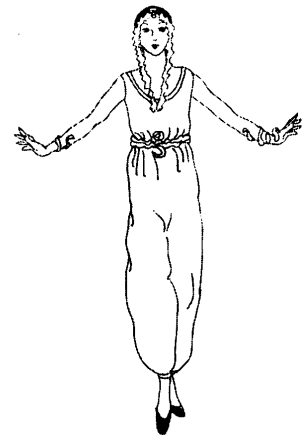
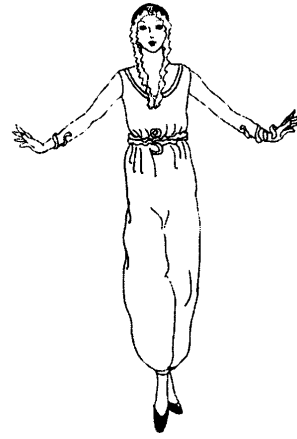




Faithful Hosea
Loves Unfaithful
Gomer So Much
He Buys Her Back.
God is Faithful.

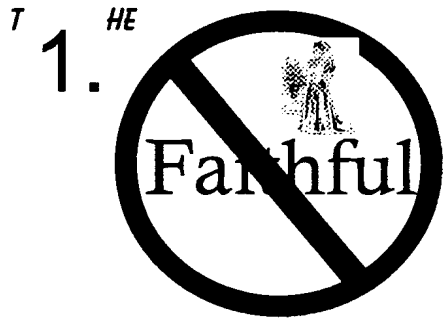


Place a sticker of Hosea and a sticker of Gomer in the broken heart.
Draw a circle around the pictures of things that help husbands and wives
stay faithful to each other and help families stick together.



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



4. *Suffering*
 Suffering