



K-Ist Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 97 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, God called the prophet Jonah to deliver a message to his enemies in Nineveh.

- Did Jonah obey and go right away? What did he do? *He didn't obey. He boarded a ship headed in the opposite direction.*

God used a terrible storm and a great fish to stop Jonah. When Jonah prayed, God caused the fish to spit Jonah onto dry land. When Jonah got to Nineveh, he went throughout the city, warning the people that they would be punished.

- What did the people do? Did they listen or ignore Jonah's message? *They listened.*

The people were truly sorry for their sin, so God showed them mercy and did not destroy their city.

Today we will learn about another prophet, named Hosea. His life was full of emotions—from feeling happiness to being heartbroken.

An emotion is how you feel, and we often can tell how people are feeling by the look on their face. Show me how you look when you feel happy.

Have students make happy faces. Now show me your sad face. Have students make sad faces. We're going to play a short game to see how well you know different emotions. Follow the instructions to play the Face Game with the class then continue with the lesson.

Some of those faces were hard to guess while others were easier. God gave us emotions, but did you know that God has emotions, too? We'll see some of God's emotions like anger and sadness in our lesson today.

Hosea's Love for Gomer

Refer to Lesson 96 Flip Chart. After God sent Amos to Israel to warn the people of the punishment that was coming, the people went back to worshipping false gods, again. So God sent Hosea with the same message for Israel—turn back to God. God wanted Israel to stop sinning and worship only him, not false gods.

This time, instead of having Hosea just preach to the people, God wanted to use Hosea's life to show the people his message. You see, God used Hosea's marriage to his wife, Gomer, as a picture of his love for Israel.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. This is what happened. God commanded Hosea to take a wife. Hosea obeyed and married a woman named Gomer, and they had three children. Hosea loved Gomer, cared for her, and provided for all her needs. But then Gomer left Hosea! She didn't love him anymore and thought she would be happier with someone else.

- What a terrible time for Hosea! What emotions do you think Hosea felt? *Allow discussion.*

Hosea's heart was broken by the way Gomer had treated him. She had sinned against him by breaking her marriage promises. Most people would feel sad and hurt or maybe angry if that happened to them. It isn't fun to feel that way! But then God gave Hosea a surprising command: "Go and take your wife back," he said, "and love her again!"

What?! This was a hard command to obey. But Hosea did it! He went and found Gomer and brought her back to be his wife. He loved her and forgave her for leaving him.

When the people in Israel saw how Hosea, God's prophet, took his wife back after she had been so mean to him, they began to understand how God felt about them.

God's Love for Israel

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. God loved his people like Hosea loved his wife. Let's find out what God said to them!

Hosea 4:1–2

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll read from the book of Hosea chapter 4. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the first half of verse 1.

- Whose word was this? *The word of the Lord.*
- Who was this word, or message, for? *The children of Israel.*

The Lord was angry with his people. He said he had a controversy, or a big problem, with them. There were three very important things missing in the land of Israel. Listen for those three things as I read about them. Read the second half of verse 1.

- What was the first thing God said was missing from the people of Israel? There was no what? *No faithfulness.*

The people were not faithful. They had turned away from God to do sinful things.

- What was the second thing missing? There was no steadfast what? *Love.*

The people did not love the Lord.

- What was the third thing the people did not have: no knowledge of whom? *God.*

Right. The people of Israel didn't even know God anymore. They didn't love him and had turned away to worship false gods.

- But there was more to this problem. What other sins were the people doing? Listen to the next verse. Read Hosea 4:2. *Swearing, lying, murder, stealing, and committing adultery (being unfaithful to your husband or wife).*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The people of Israel were sinning against God just as Gomer had sinned against her husband, Hosea. Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea when she left him, and the people of Israel were unfaithful to God when they left him to worship false gods and do all these sinful things.

Hosea was going through the same thing with his wife as God was with the people of Israel! The pain and sadness Hosea felt when his wife left him was like the pain and sadness God felt when his people turned from him. Sin had

separated Gomer from her husband just like sin had separated the Israelites from God.

Even though the Israelites continued to sin and worship false gods, God still loved them. He had a special love for Israel. They were his chosen people. He had brought them out of slavery in Egypt to give them the promised land.

Hosea 11:7

After all the great blessings God had given Israel, how did they treat him? Let's read Hosea 11:7 to find out what the Lord said. *Read the verse.*

- What were the people bent on doing? *Turning away from God.*

When you're "bent on" doing something, it's like being stubborn; you keep going back and doing the same thing again. The people of Israel were bent on turning away from God.

- Was this good for the people to keep going back to their sinful ways and worshipping false gods? *No!*

God loved the people and wanted the best for them. He knew that only he could give them what was good for them, but they kept turning away. Because God loved his people so much, he wanted to forgive them for their sins. So he showed them mercy by sending his prophets to warn them that they would be punished if they did not come back to God.

The people did not listen to the prophets' warnings, and because God is just, he had to punish them for their sin. God said that he would send an enemy to punish Israel by capturing the people and taking them away. But he still gave the people hope. The enemy would come, but there would be a time when the people would come back and God would forgive them.

Do you see how Hosea and his wife were a picture of God's love for his people? Hosea loved his wife, Gomer. Even though she sinned against him, he took her back, forgave her, and promised to care for her. And the Lord loved his people the same way. In fact, God loves each of us with his great love! He sent his son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. He will save us from our sins when we turn to him and trust in him.

**Hosea loved
Gomer.**

**God loved
Israel.**



Gomer left Hosea.



Israel left God.