



Grades 4-5 • Lesson 98

God Loves Israel

Hosea 4:1-3, 11:7-11

Name

Each statement below has a wrong word (or words) in bold. Use the word bank to find the correct word to write above the incorrect word(s). Then number the events in the order they happened, 1 through 6.

- _____ A. Gomer **stayed with** Hosea.
- _____ B. Hosea obeyed God and **punished** Gomer.
- _____ C. Hosea was called by God to take a **maid**.
- _____ D. Hosea and Gomer had three **pets**.
- _____ E. Hosea was **overjoyed** when Gomer left him.
- _____ F. God commanded Hosea to take Gomer back and **hate** her.

- CHILDREN**
- FORGAVE**
- LEFT**
- LOVE**
- SAD**
- WIFE**



Answers: A) 3, left; B) 6, forgive; C) 1, wife; D) 2, children; E) 4, sad; F) 5, love

Memory Verse

Use a mirror to read the word list. Then write them in the correct blanks to complete the memory verse.

DELIGHT
DESIRE
FATHER
LOVE
REPROVES
WEARY

My son, do not _____ the Lord's discipline or be _____
of his reproof, for the Lord _____ him whom he _____,
as a _____ the son in whom he _____. Proverbs 3:11-12

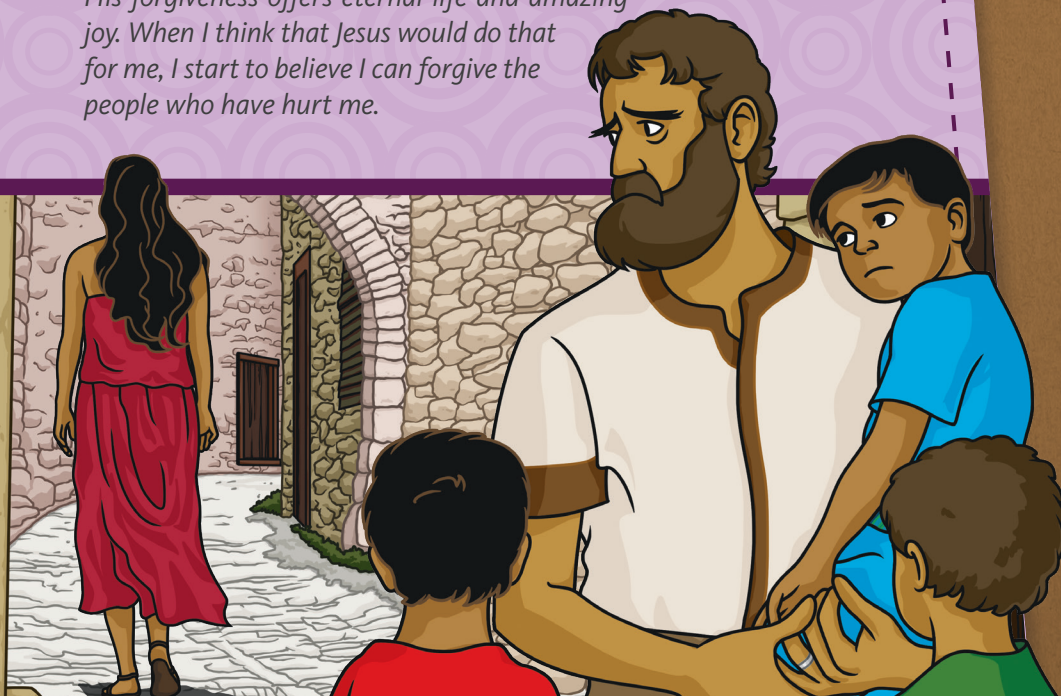
What You Heard *In the Word*

- The Lord used the prophet Hosea's relationship with his wife Gomer as a picture of his relationship with Israel.
- Hosea offered forgiveness and love to his unfaithful wife just as God offered forgiveness and love to unfaithful Israel.

OutWord *For Family Discussion*

What if your friend tells you she could never forgive her neighbor for treating her so badly? God would NEVER expect her to forgive such a mean person! **What would you tell her?**

I'm so sorry your neighbor hurt you like that. It is so hard to forgive someone we just don't like! But I try to go to the Bible when I have problems like yours. Jesus said that we should love one another—even our enemies! When that seems hard for me to do, I try to remember how much Jesus has done for us. He loved sinners so much that he died for us! And he said that we could have complete forgiveness if we would turn away from our sins and believe in him. His forgiveness offers eternal life and amazing joy. When I think that Jesus would do that for me, I start to believe I can forgive the people who have hurt me.



HomeWord *For Parents*

Hosea describes one of the most shocking portrayals of God's relationship with his children. Through Hosea, God compared his relationship with Israel to a marriage with a woman who would not remain faithful to her husband. His words must have rung sharply in the ears of the people.

The people saw Hosea take Gomer as his wife and care for her; they watched as Gomer left Hosea for other men; and they observed as Hosea tenderly took Gomer back in love and forgiveness. This picture of love was a message from God for how he felt toward Israel. Just as Gomer had abandoned her husband for other men, so had Israel turned from the one true God to false gods (Hosea 2:2–5). As a loving father, God would administer discipline to his child, Israel, through the Assyrians, who would bring destruction and bondage. But it grieved God to punish his people (Hosea 11:5–8), and he promised he would not destroy Israel forever. God assured his people of the hope of a future restoration. They would again seek after the Lord, and he would take them back to dwell again in their homes (Hosea 11:9–11).

The truths of Hosea apply to us today. Hosea reminds us of the unconditional love God offered to us through Jesus Christ. We rebel and deserve only his wrath and justice because of our sins. But God is faithful and merciful to forgive those who humbly repent and trust in Jesus Christ. How great is the Father's love for us!



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