

# Old Testament

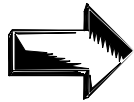
## Hosea tells of God's love Hosea 11:1-11; 14:1-9

### Younger Verse

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

### Older Verse

Bear with each other and forgive whatever problems you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13



Teachers: This unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

### Welcome Time

How do you know when someone loves you? Give some examples. (If the kids seem unsure, give some examples from your life). Today we will learn just how much God loves us.

### Bible Story

***Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do NOT read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.***

Teachers: We did not include the story of Hosea's marriage to Gomer. It would be a little confusing for children to comprehend.

Hosea was a prophet of God. Do you remember what a prophet is? (Wait for responses—someone who tells people what God says) God told Hosea to tell the people that they had done wrong. They had started worshipping other things and not God. This was wrong and Hosea told the people.

God also wanted Hosea to tell the people that He still loved them. They would be punished for the wrong they did, but that did not mean that God did not love them. In fact, it showed that He *did* love them because He wanted them to do right.

In Chapter 11 God tells the people that He could never give them up or leave them. God loves them so much that He would never leave them. In Chapter 14 God asks His people to return to Him. He tells them that He will forgive them and heal them. Their lives will be like Spring—bright and full of flowers and fruit!

Chapter 14 verse 9 is a good verse to remember... "The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous will walk in them." God is right and good. He knows what is best. He will always lead us in the best direction. We can depend on God because He is our Lord.

God did an incredible thing for us to show us how much He loves us. God knew that we would do wrong too. In fact, all of us have done something wrong. Everybody—me,

### Lesson Goals

**See how much God loves us  
Understand how we can love God and trust Him**

you, everybody. The Bible tells us that all people have sinned or done wrong (Rom. 3:23). The Bible also tells us that because we have done wrong we deserve death. We can't blame someone else for the wrong we did. (Rom. 6:23) The best thing that the Bible tells us is that God did an amazing thing for us. He showed us how much He loves us. God sent His Son Jesus to take our place. Jesus died for us (Rom. 5:8) If we trust Jesus with our lives and ask Him to come into our hearts, He promises that we will have life forever with God. (John 3:16). What do we do? We must believe in Jesus and also tell others about Him. (Rom. 10:9-10). Would you like to pray and ask Jesus into your life? If so, come talk to me during activity time or snack time. This is very important—please don't wait. I want to talk to you about it now.

**Learning Activities**

There is a list of activities in the packet. Use the one(s) that will help your children understand the lesson. Try to help your children see the importance of God's love and His forgiveness.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Ask the children to list things that God will forgive. This is a good time to share how you became a Christian and explain how they can become a Christian. Be careful not to use "yes" and "no" questions. They can appear to understand when they really do not.

**Prayer Time**

Explain that we can communicate with God through prayer. Help the children understand that we bow our heads and close our eyes out of reverence to God, and so that we can listen to His still small voice.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Try bringing different snacks today. It will be a pleasant surprise to the kids!

Planning for Lesson 94  
Joel: God will help  
Joel 2:18-32

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Hosea

Hosea was a man that lived a long time ago. He loved God and was a messenger for God. God would tell him words to share with the people.

One day, God told Hosea to tell the people that He was very upset. The people were not worshiping Him. They began to love other things more than God!!

Hosea told the people that God would punish them for not obeying Him. When God punished them, He was not being mean. God was trying to help them learn a lesson and remember how important it is to obey Him.

God told His people that He loved them and would never leave them. When the people told God they were sorry for their wrongs, God forgave them. In fact, the Bible says that the people's hearts felt like Spring—bright and beautiful. In Spring time, the flowers are blooming, the grass is green and the weather is beautiful. The people felt like that when God forgave their wrongs.

God loves us too. He wants us to worship and obey Him. Let's sing a worship song to God to tell Him how much we love Him.

Sing "Awesome God."

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## Hands-On Activities For Hosea

Write the word FORGIVE on a piece of paper with paint or markers. Let the children retell the story and share how God forgives us.

Bring a stuffed animal. Most smaller kids will think it is cute. Share how it might feel if you could not let go of the animal even when you eat, play sports, etc. Share how a grudge is like a stuffed animal that is “stuck” to you. Share how God will help you forgive others and “unstuck” the animal.

Weighed Down Relay. Bring 2 buckets of sand. Let the kids form two lines outside. The object of the game is to carry the sand to a certain point and come back to hand off the bucket to the next person. The game is finished when everyone on one team completes the relay. Now, try the relay without the bucket. Sit down and ask the kids which relay was easier. Obviously the one without the bucket. Now share how a grudge is like a bucket of sand that we carry around with us. It is much easier to accept forgiveness and let go of the “bucket.” (courtesy of Group Publishing)

Make round circles out of play dough and draw crosses in them. Write “God loves me” in them. Let them harden and have the kids take them home.

Write the letters of the word “Forgive” on cards. Hide them around the room and ask the kids to look for the letters and spell the word “Forgive.” Talk about what it means to forgive others.

For older kids: give them a sheet of paper and pencil. Ask them to write the initials of someone they have a grudge against. Ask them to pray good things for that person this week. Also ask them to pray and ask God to remove the bitterness in their heart. Remind them of how God forgave and His command to forgive others just like we have been forgiven.

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