

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 His children to a marriage with a prostitute who would not remain faithful. His words must have rung sharply in the ears of the people.

As God's people witnessed Hosea take Gomer, the harlot, as his wife; observed Gomer leave Hosea for other men; and then watched as Hosea tenderly took Gomer back in love and forgiveness, the message that God meant to convey to His people became clear. Just as Gomer had abandoned her husband for other lovers, so had Israel turned from the one true God to false gods and idols (Hosea 2:2–5).

As a loving father, God would administer discipline to His child—Israel—as Assyria brought destruction and bondage, but it grieved God to have to do it (Hosea 11:5–8). And, God promised He would not destroy Israel forever. He promised His people the hope of restoration in the future. They would again walk after the Lord, and the Lord would take them back and let them dwell again in their houses (Hosea 11:9–11).

The truths of Hosea apply to Christians today. Hosea reminds us of the unconditional love of God offered to us through Jesus Christ. We rebel, and deserve only His wrath and justice because of that rebellion. But God is faithful and merciful to forgive, through Jesus Christ, those who humbly repent and turn from their sins. What a glorious God we serve!

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

OutWord For Family Discussion

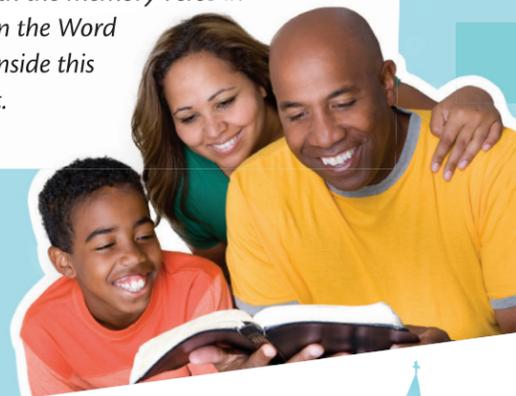
What if someone tells you she could never forgive her friend for treating her so badly? God would NEVER expect her to forgive such a mean person! **What could you say?**

I'm so sorry your friend 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 really hard for me to do, I try to remember how much Jesus loves sinners like me! He loved sinners so much that He was willing to die 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! Wow! When I think that Jesus could do that for me—I start to believe I can forgive the people who have hurt me.

inWord For Family Study

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of the Lord endures forever" (Isaiah 40:8). Our lives are like the grass—here today, gone tomorrow. God's Word endures forever. Bless your children with an eternal legacy as you study and memorize God's Word together.

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



God Loves Israel

Key Theme

- God loves His people.

Key Passages

- Hosea 4:1–2, 11:1

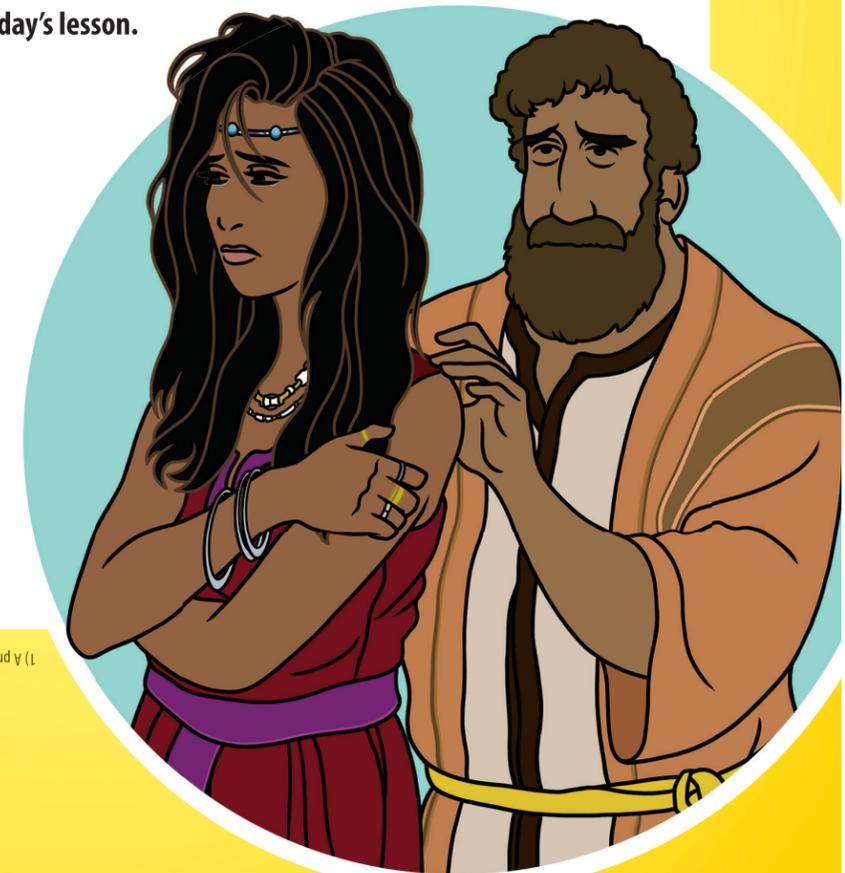


What You HEARD in the Word

- Like Hosea forgave his wife, Gomer, God was willing to forgive the people who sinned against Him.

Ask your child these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 Who was Hosea?
- 2 What did God tell Hosea to do?
- 3 How does God feel about His children?



1) A prophet of God. 2) Take his wife back and love her again. 3) He loves them.


Read the Word
 with Mom & Dad

- Monday** (Hosea 4:1)
Who was Hosea speaking for?
- Tuesday** (John 14:15)
What will you do if you love God?
- Wednesday** (Exodus 20:6)
Who does God show mercy to?
- Thursday** (John 3:16)
What did God give to show His love for His people?
- Friday** (Psalm 86:12)
How should we praise God? How long should we glorify His name?
- Saturday** (Isaiah 42:8)
Who deserves all our praise and glory? (Your memory verse!)

Learn the Word!

I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.
Isaiah 42:8

LIVE the Word
 with Johnny and His Dad



I just don't want to forgive Billy, Dad. He was so mean to me!

It can be very hard to forgive. But Jesus says we should love and forgive each other—even our enemies.

Really?

Yes! It's easier to forgive when we remember that Jesus died so sinners could be forgiven and have eternal life.

Song Time!

God's Love

(To the tune of "This Old Man")

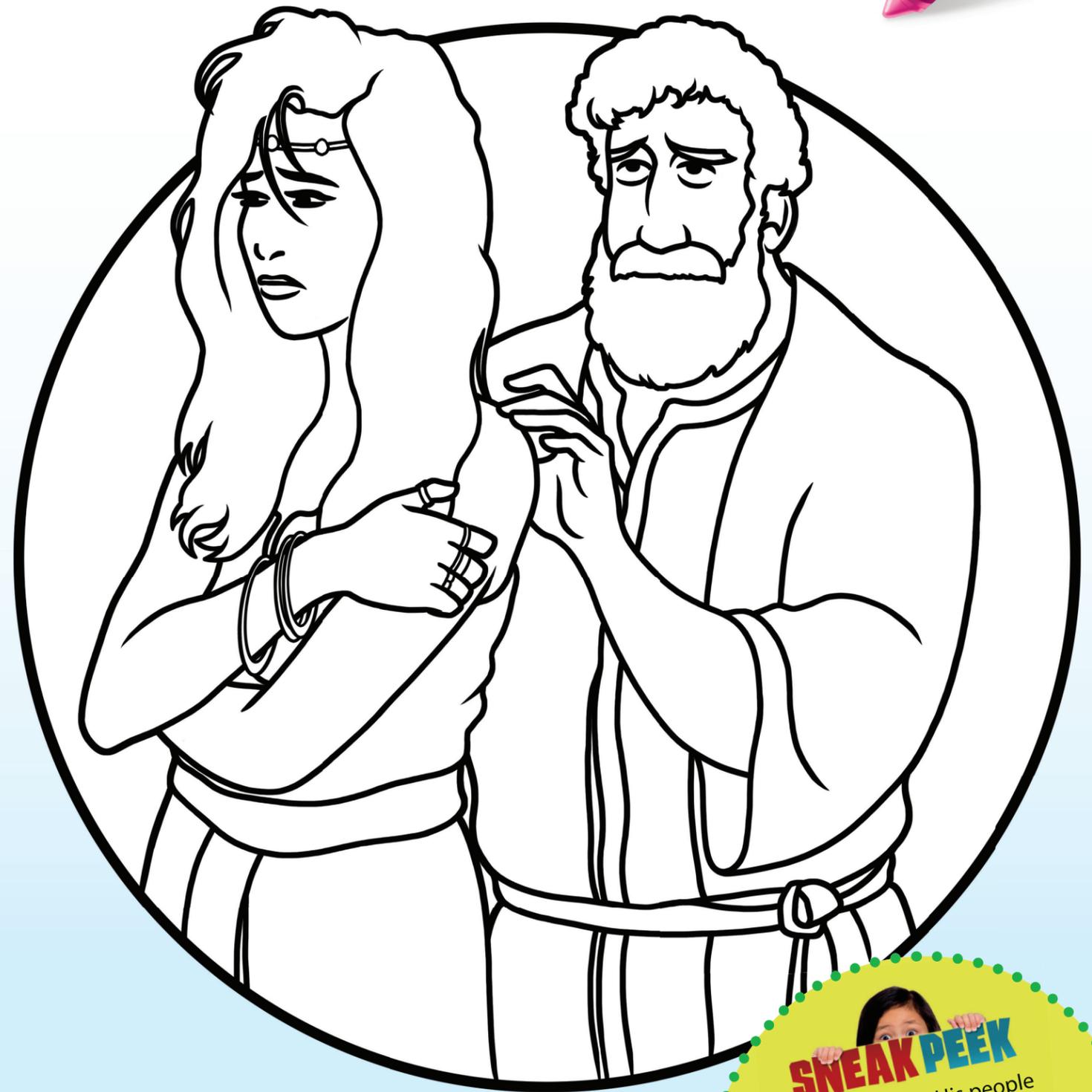
Ho-se-a, man of God,
(This old man, he played one.)
 Told God's people, "Do not sin."
(He played knick knack on my thumb.)
 But his wife did sin and left him all alone.
(With a knick knack paddywhack, give a dog a bone.)
 God told Hosea, "Take her back home!"
(This old man came rolling home.)

God loves you.
 God loves me.
 He wants everyone to look and see,
 That if we turn from our sins,
 And put our faith in Him,
 God will forgive us of our sins!



Hosea the Prophet

Color the picture below. Just like the prophet Hosea loved his wife, Gomer—God loves His people and offers forgiveness to them.



SNEAK PEEK

Will God judge His people for their sin? Find out in next week's lesson.