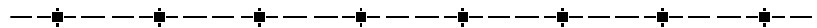


# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

# Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

**God's Love**  
  
Hosea

Hosea 1-6, 14

**God's Love**  
Hosea 6:1-7; 14:1-9

**Memory Verse:**  
  
But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."  
**(Matthew 9:13 NIV)**

**Lesson Goals:**

1. Understand that God told Hosea to marry a woman who would be unfaithful.
2. Understand that Israel worshipped idols.
3. Learn that God still wanted His people to return to Him.
4. Recognize that God wanted obedience from Israel.

Josiah became king when he was eight. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. When the scroll of God's law was found, Josiah repented before God. He read the law to the people of Israel. Josiah renewed the covenant with God.

**Read the Bible**  
**READ: Hosea 14:1-9 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

**Begin with Prayer**  
Today we will learn about Israel's unfaithfulness and about a prophet. Hosea was a prophet of God. God told him to marry a woman who would not be faithful to him. Hosea's wife would be unfaithful in the same way that Israel had been unfaithful to God. (Hosea 1:2) Hosea's marriage would portray (show a picture of) the unfaithfulness of Israel. God, Himself, brought charges against Israel. "There is no faithfulness or love in the land. No one recognizes me as God." (Hosea 4:1) God said that Israel lied, murdered, stole, committed adultery and broke all of His laws. God told them that that was the reason the land was drying up. God told the priests that they were at fault as well as the prophets who had refused to obey Him. God said that the priests have not paid any attention to His laws. (Hosea 4:2-6)  
On the other hand, God had been faithful to help Israel when their enemies defeated them. God was faithful to deliver Israel when they called on Him. The people of Israel continued to sin against God. Then they would call on God because they were sure He would help them. They knew God was faithful to them. (Hosea 6:1-2) "You can be sure the sun will rise. And you can be just as sure the Lord will appear. He will come to renew us like the winter rains. He will be like the spring rains that water the earth." (Hosea 6:3) But once God helped them, Israel would sin again. God would judge them and allow their enemies to defeat them. They would call on God. They would offer sacrifices to God. But God said, "Your love for me vanishes like the morning mist. It soon disappears like the early dew... I want mercy and not sacrifice. I want you to recognize me as God." (Hosea 6:4-6) Israel had failed to obey God. They had failed to keep their promise to seek Him only. They continued to worship other gods. God had given Moses the Ten Commandments. Israel knew they were not supposed to worship idols and that they were only supposed to worship God. (Exodus 20: 1-3) But they did-

## Hosea – Bible Facts

1. Israel was unfaithful.
2. Hosea's marriage was a picture of Israel's unfaithfulness.
3. Israel broke God's covenant.
4. Israel did not obey God's laws.
5. God wanted to bless Israel.

n't obey God. This made God were unhappy. God told Israel that like Adam they disobeyed. Israel had broken God's covenant (promise) like Adam. Israel had been unfaithful. God said that Israel continued to make idols. (Hosea 6:7-9) God does not want us to worship to idols. God wanted Israel to return to Him. God wanted to hear the praises of His people. He wanted them to trust in Him not in their own strength nor in their war horses. God wanted Israel to stop making idols. God wanted Israel to come to Him so that He could bless them. God wanted them to "bloom like a lily," to have "roots down deep like a cedar," and to "spread out like new branches." (Hosea 14:1-6) God wanted to bless Israel, "Once again my people will live in the safety of my shade." (Hosea 14:7) Although Israel did not deserve the blessings of God, God wanted to give them His blessings. He wanted to care for them and He wanted them to bear fruit. (Hosea 14:8) God wanted His people, Israel to obey Him and to have nothing to do with other gods. "The ways of the Lord are right. People who are right with God live the way he wants them to. But those who refuse to obey him trip and fall." (Hosea 14:9) Jesus was obedient to God. God wants us to walk in obedience to Him, too. Jesus told the religious leaders to, "go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." He died on the cross for our sins because He wants us to believe in Him. (Matthew 9:13; John 3:16)

### Review

1. **What did Israel do?** (Israel was unfaithful to God.)
2. **What did Hosea's marriage portray?** (Hosea's marriage was picture of Israel's unfaithfulness.)
3. **What did Israel do wrong?** (Israel broke God's covenant.)
4. **What else did Israel do wrong?** (Israel did not obey God's laws.)
5. **What did God want to do?** (God wanted to bless Israel.)

**Do You Know Jesus?** God wants us to be faithful to Him. He wants us to obey Him. Jesus obeyed God. He died for our sins so that we can turn to God. (John 14:21-31; John 3:16) Jesus rose from the dead, providing us a way to have a personal relationship with God. (John 14:6) God wants us to know Him. He wants us to live with Him in heaven forever. Would you like to invite God to be a part of your life so that you can have that personal relationship with Him?

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to help you be faithful and obey Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to know to God.

### Application

God told Hosea to marry a woman who would be unfaithful. His marriage would portray Israel's infidelity to God. Israel worshipped idols, but God still wanted His people to return to Him. He wanted to bless them. But God also wanted obedience from Israel. God wants us to obey Him as well. He wants us to be faithful to him.

Planning for the next week:  
Esther (A Queen Trusts God) — Esther 1-10

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: Hosea 6:1-6 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

(Decorate the room with gift boxes. Tell the children that God's love and forgiveness are freely given when we turn to God.)

In today story, the prophet, Hosea, says that God, Himself, brings charges against Israel. "There is no faithfulness or love in the land. No one recognizes me as God." (Hosea 4:1) God says that Israel lies, murders, steals, commits adultery and breaks all of His laws. God tells them that that is the reason the land is drying up. God tells the priests that they are at fault as well as the prophets who have refused to obey Him. God said that the priests have not paid any attention to His laws. They were supposed to help the people follow God. (Hosea 4:2-6)

God had been faithful to help Israel when their enemies defeated them. God was faithful to deliver Israel when they called on Him. The people of Israel continued to sin against God. Then they would call on God because they were sure He would help them. They knew God was faithful to them. (Hosea 6:1-2) "You can be sure the sun will rise. And you can be just as sure the Lord will appear." (Hosea 6:3) But once God helped them, Israel would sin again. God would judge and allow their enemies to defeat them. They would call on God. They would offer sacrifices to God. But God said, "Your love for me vanishes (goes away) like the morning mist. It soon disappears like the early dew... I want mercy and not sacrifice. I want you to recognize me as God." (Hosea 6:4-6) Israel had failed to obey God. God wants us to be obedient and to love Him. Jesus was obedient to God and died on the cross for our sins.

## Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to help you love and obey Him.

**Did you know?** Preschoolers can learn about choosing God.

**Consider this:** Bring coloring pictures of the cartoon characters SpongeBob, Patrick and Gary. In one episode of the cartoon, Gary, a snail, decides to leave SpongeBob and live with Patrick. SpongeBob is heartbroken, angry, and has a myriad of emotions. Sponge Bob even begs Gary to come back but Gary chooses Patrick. When SpongeBob is about to give up on Gary, he discovers that Patrick has food in his pocket. Gary was only after Patrick's food. You may use other characters to tell this story. Talk about how Satan tries to separate us from God by luring us to sin. Allow the children to color the pages.

## Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Make hearts to decorate the room. Put the memory verse on the heart. Talk about God’s love. Tell the children God wants us to love and care for others.
- **Test your memory** — As you tell the story use symbols that you create on cards. These symbols will help the children see the pattern of behavior. Use a an “X” to represent the fact that Israel would sin. Use praying hands to represent Israel calling out to God. Use a picture of a parent hugging a child to represent God’s deliverance. You may also just use hand symbols. You can make an “X” with your index fingers. You can hold your hands together praying. Then cross your arms in a hug to represent God’s deliverance.
- **Taste activity** — Make a square cake or cupcakes. Decorate the cake like a gift box. Tell the children that God’s love and forgiveness are freely given.
- **Think about it** — There was a pattern of sin in Israel’s history. God had blessed them and they continued to worship idols. But they knew that God would rescue them when they called on Him. Talk about sin and how even though we know what is right, we choose to do wrong.

Talk about God’s faithfulness in forgiving Israel when they sinned. Talk about God’s desire to bless Israel.

For older children: Talk about Hosea’s marriage to Gomer. He was the prophet, the preacher. He told people not to sin. Talk about how difficult it must have been for Hosea to have a wife who was not faithful.

**Touch activity** — Bring coloring pictures of the cartoon characters SpongeBob, Patrick and Gary. In one episode of the cartoon, Gary, a snail, decides to leave SpongeBob and live with Patrick. SpongeBob is heartbroken, angry, and has a myriad of emotions. Sponge Bob even begs Gary to come back but Gary chooses Patrick. When SpongeBob is about to give up on Gary, he discovers that Patrick has food in his pocket. Gary was only after Patrick’s food. You may use other characters to tell this story. Talk about how Satan tries to separate us from God by luring us to sin. Allow the children to color the pages.

- **Run and play** — Play leap frog. Talk about how the children have to get on their hands and knees in order to allow someone to jump over them. Tell the children that Israel’s enemies defeated them when they sinned against God. Talk about the importance of obeying God.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to love Him and to obey His Word.
- **Sing** — Sing “Jesus Loves Me,” “O How I Love Jesus,” or another song related to the story.

## Memory Verse

But go and learn  
what this means:  
'I desire mercy, not  
sacrifice.'

For I have not come  
to call the righteous,  
but sinners."

Matthew 9:13 NIV

## Word Art

Trace the letters.

Israel was

unfaithful,

but God is

faithful.

# Word Puzzle

S P V J K F P G T X V J K  
T H R S D E L B N S V F S  
V S X Q C U E F A M S C V  
C K L R P F A C R L V J F  
B O S U C P R S O F T P D  
M T V E F I S D K P L E M  
R J H E F H I R L B L G V  
H B N I N R T H P I C K H  
Y K C F Q A F I A G M D T  
R E D P Y E N F A J K B C  
S F B L B S L T T F S R P  
L K P O C O H S B R N V M  
N R L U F H T I A F Q U J

HOSEA

ISRAEL

IDOLS

UNFAITHFUL

FAITHFUL

SACRIFICES

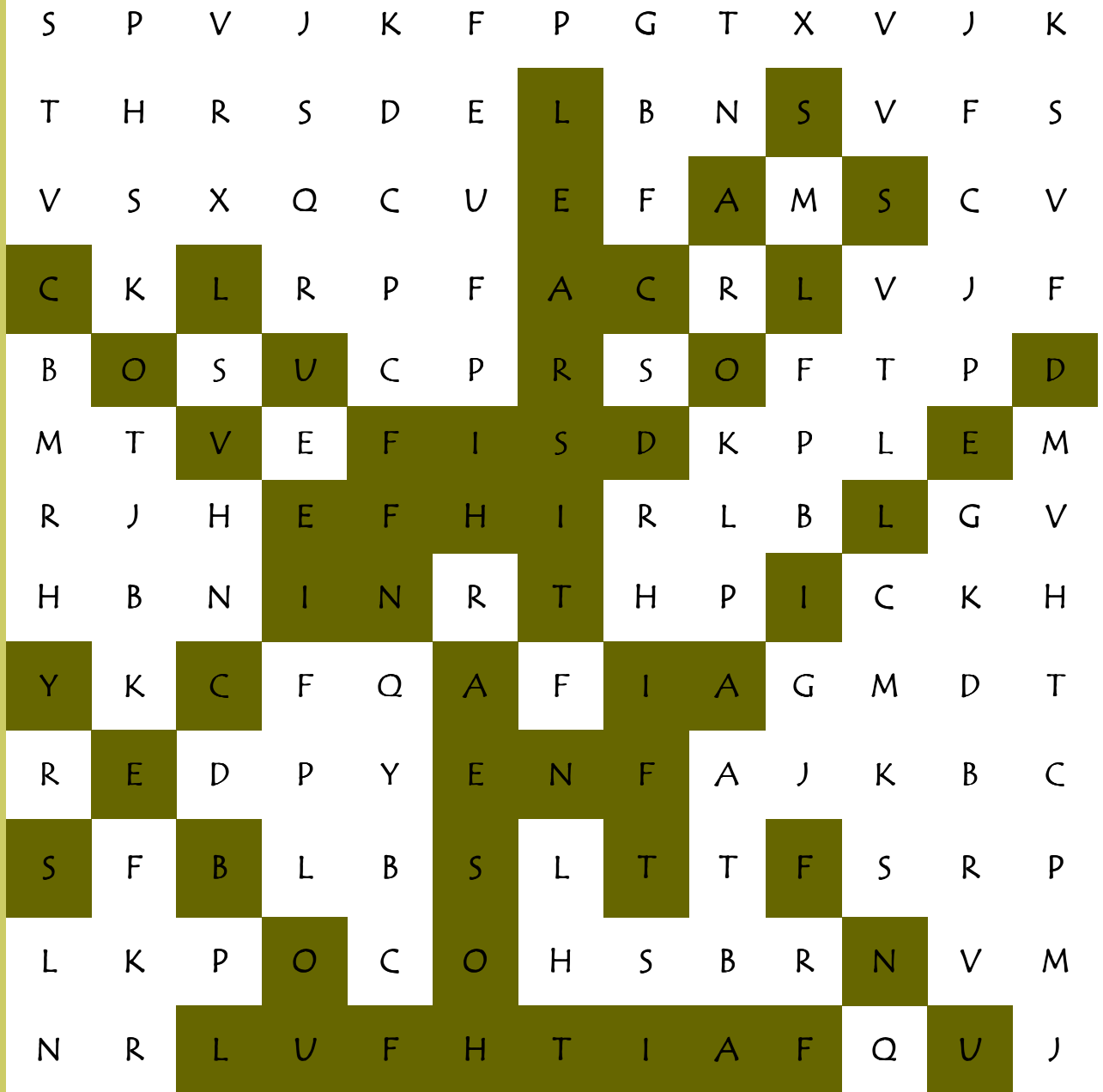
FAILED

OBEY

COVENANT



# Word Puzzle



HOSEA

ISRAEL

IDOLS

UNFAITHFUL

FAITHFUL

SACRIFICES

FAILED

OBEY

COVENANT

## Word Puzzle For Younger Children

R H F I S R A E L R K V  
H O S E A K W Q G L S F  
G D V F O B E Y W P J T  
M C V B Q F O W K V P B  
S K G I D O L S K C J N  
J H V P Q I G S R E A D  
O B E F A I L E D J A H  
R T P S K R V E S C V D  
L A F A I T H F U L A H

HOSEA

ISRAEL

IDOLS

FAILED

OBEY

FAITHFUL

# Word Puzzle For Younger Children

R	H	F	I	S	R	A	E	L	R	K	V
H	O	S	E	A	K	W	Q	G	L	S	F
G	D	V	F	O	B	E	Y	W	P	J	T
M	C	V	B	Q	F	O	W	K	V	P	B
S	K	G	I	D	O	L	S	K	C	J	N
J	H	V	P	Q	I	G	S	R	E	A	D
O	B	E	F	A	I	L	E	D	J	A	H
R	T	P	S	K	R	V	E	S	C	V	D
L	A	F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	A	H

HOSEA

ISRAEL

IDOLS

FAILED

OBEY

FAITHFUL

## Anagram

1. EYRMC–
2. CCFRSIIEA–
3. EVIORTSHG –
4. EINNRS–
5. AEONNTVC–
6. SLDOI –
7. EINNDS –
8. EURRTN–

## Anagram

1. EYRMC – MERCY
2. CCFRSIEA – SACRIFICE
3. EVIORTSHG – RIGHTEOUS
4. EINNRS – SINNER
5. AEONNTVC – COVENANT
6. SLDOI – IDOLS
7. EINNDS – SINNED
8. EURRTN – RETURN