

HOSEA: GOD'S LOVE NEVER GIVES UP!

Bible focus: Hosea 1–3; 6; 10–11; 14 Age group: Elementary children, adaptable for grades 1–6
Central message: Even when God's people turn away from Him, His faithful love calls them back.

Hosea and Gomer
God's Love Never Gives Up! ❤️
4-Week Children's Curriculum

Video
Watch and explore Hosea's amazing love story!

Art
God's Love Gives Us a New Beginning!
Jezreel "God scatters" (Hosea 1:4)
Lo-Ruhamah "Not loved" (Hosea 1:8)
Lo-Ammi "Not my people" (Hosea 1:9)
Scattered Seeds
God Plants (Hosea 2:23)
Not Rejected
Loved (Hosea 2:23)
Not my people
My People (Hosea 2:23)
Create a "From Rejected to Restored" craft!

Computers
Explore Hosea's world with Google Earth and Bible activities!

Cooking
Make "I'll Take You Back!" sweet pocket pies and discover God's faithful love!

BIBLE DISCOVERY • CREATIVE FUN • HANDS-ON LEARNING • LASTING FAITH

Curriculum overview

The children will discover how God used Hosea's marriage to Gomer and the names of their three children to teach Israel about His faithful love. Through video, creative art, computer

activities, and cooking, they'll explore the difference between turning away from God and returning to Him.

Memory verse: Hosea 14:4 (NIV)

"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them."

Key teaching themes

- God loves His people even when they are unfaithful.
- Sin has consequences, but God invites us to repent.
- God's promises offer a new beginning.
- Jesus demonstrates God's redeeming love.

The four centers below can be used as four consecutive Sunday lessons or as four stations through which groups rotate.

Bible Background for Sunday School Teachers

Scripture: Hosea 1–3; 6:1–6; 10:12; 11:1–4; 14:1–9

Who Was Hosea?

Hosea was an Old Testament prophet who ministered to the northern kingdom of Israel during the eighth century B.C., approximately 755–715 B.C. His ministry began during the reign of King Jeroboam II, when Israel enjoyed prosperity but was spiritually unfaithful to God.

Although the Israelites continued practicing religion, many worshiped false gods, particularly Baal, a Canaanite god associated with fertility and agriculture. Israel also struggled with dishonesty, injustice, and a lack of faithfulness to God's covenant.

God called Hosea to deliver an unusual message. Rather than simply preaching about Israel's unfaithfulness, Hosea's own family life would become a living illustration of God's relationship with His people.

Hosea and Gomer: A Living Parable

God instructed Hosea to marry a woman named Gomer (Hosea 1:2–3). Their troubled marriage would illustrate Israel's unfaithfulness to the Lord.

Just as Gomer was unfaithful to Hosea, Israel had been unfaithful to God by worshiping idols and breaking His commandments.

Yet Hosea's story did not end with rejection. In Hosea 3:1–3, God instructed Hosea to love Gomer again. Hosea paid a price to bring her back, demonstrating the costly nature of faithful love.

This extraordinary act illustrated God's continuing love for Israel. Although His people had turned away, God still called them to repentance and promised restoration.

Three Children with Prophetic Names

Hosea and Gomer had three children whose names communicated God's message to Israel.

1. Jezreel — "God Scatters" / "God Sows" (Hosea 1:4–5)

Jezreel's name initially announced judgment against Israel, recalling bloodshed associated with the Valley of Jezreel. Yet the Hebrew name also carries the idea of sowing or planting. In Hosea 2:23, God promised to plant His people again.

2. Lo-Ruhamah — "Not Loved" or "No Mercy" (Hosea 1:6)

Her name symbolized the withdrawal of God's compassion in judgment. Yet God promised that those who had been called "Not Loved" would again receive His mercy (Hosea 2:23).

3. Lo-Ammi — "Not My People" (Hosea 1:9)

His name represented Israel's broken covenant relationship with God. Yet God promised to declare once again, "You are my people," and His people would respond, "You are my God" (Hosea 2:23).

These three names illustrate one of Hosea's most powerful themes: **God's judgment is real, but His promise of restoration offers hope.**

God's Invitation to Return

Throughout Hosea, God repeatedly called Israel to return to Him.

In Hosea 6:6, God declared that He desired mercy and acknowledgment of God rather than merely outward religious sacrifices.

Hosea 10:12 compares repentance and faithfulness to planting seeds that produce a harvest of righteousness and unfailing love.

Hosea 11:1–4 describes God's tender love for Israel using the image of a father teaching his child to walk. Despite Israel's rebellion, God remembered His love for His people.

The book concludes with a beautiful invitation to repentance and restoration:

"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely." — Hosea 14:4 (NIV)

How Hosea Points to Jesus

Hosea's message finds a deeper fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

Just as Hosea paid a price to bring Gomer back, Jesus gave His life to redeem sinners (1 Peter 1:18–19). Through His death and resurrection, Christ makes forgiveness and reconciliation with God possible.

The Apostle Peter also uses language from Hosea when describing believers who have received God's mercy:

"Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." (1 Peter 2:10, NIV)

Hosea 11:1 is also quoted in Matthew 2:15 in connection with Jesus' return from Egypt, showing how Jesus' life reflects and fulfills Israel's story.

Teaching Hosea to Children

Hosea contains some mature themes involving marriage, unfaithfulness, and judgment. For elementary children, the emphasis should be on God's faithfulness, forgiveness, repentance, and promises of restoration.

The four learning centers reinforce these themes:

- **Video:** Discover Hosea and Gomer's story and God's faithful love.
- **Art:** Explore the transformation of the children's names from rejection to restoration.
- **Computers:** Visit the world of ancient Israel and investigate God's call to repentance.
- **Cooking:** Make "I'll Take You Back!" sweet pocket pies as a reminder of God's welcoming love.

Children should understand that forgiveness does not mean wrongdoing has no consequences. God's love calls us to turn away from sin and live in a restored relationship with Him.

The Message to Remember

Hosea teaches us that God's love is greater than our unfaithfulness. He calls us to return to Him, offers mercy, and promises new life. Through Jesus Christ, we discover just how far God's redeeming love will go.

Key memory verse: Hosea 14:4 (NIV)

This background article is designed for teachers to read before leading the four learning centers. It provides the historical setting, major biblical themes, and connections to Jesus while keeping the material accessible for teaching elementary-age children.

Center 1: Video — Hosea's Amazing Love Story



Scripture: Hosea 1:1–11; 2:14–23; 3:1–5 Big idea: God never stops calling His people back to Him.

Objective: Children will retell Hosea's story and explain how Hosea's love for Gomer illustrates God's love for Israel.

40-minute lesson plan

Time	Activity
0–5 min	Introduction: What does faithfulness mean?
5–20 min	Watch an animated Hosea Bible story
20–30 min	Guided discussion and Bible exploration
30–36 min	"What Happens Next?" story sequencing game
36–40 min	Prayer and memory verse

Video selection

Watch a 30 minute animated video of “Hosea and Gomer.” Preview the video for its treatment of Hosea's marriage and adult themes.

Discussion questions

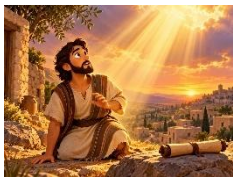
1. Who was Hosea, and what did God tell him to do?
2. Why did Gomer leave her husband?

3. What did Hosea do when Gomer was unfaithful?
4. How were the people of Israel acting toward God?
5. What does Hosea's story teach us about God's love?
6. How does Jesus show us that same love?

Interactive activity: "What Happens Next?"

Prepare six illustrated story cards:

1. God calls Hosea to be a prophet.
2. Hosea marries Gomer.
3. Hosea and Gomer have three children.
4. Gomer is unfaithful.
5. Hosea seeks and brings Gomer back.
6. God promises to restore His people.



Mix the cards and have children arrange them in chronological order. Older students can locate corresponding passages in Hosea.

Teacher note: Hosea 3 describes Hosea paying a price to bring Gomer back. Explain this in child-friendly terms as costly, faithful love. Avoid suggesting that people should remain in unsafe or abusive relationships.

Jesus connection: Hosea's costly act of love points toward the greater redemption accomplished through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18–19).

Closing Song – “I’ll Take You Back”

Take Home Paper:

HOSEA

God's Love Never Gives Up!

A MESSAGE OF WARNING AND HOPE

WHO WAS HOSEA?

Hosea was a prophet that God called to speak to the northern kingdom of Israel. He married a woman named Gomer. Their story helps us see how much God loves His people, even when they walk away from Him.

WHERE IS HOSEA IN The BIBLE?

LAW Genesis Deuteronomy	HISTORY Joshua Esther	POETRY & WISDOM Job Song of Songs	MAJOR PROPHETS Isaiah Daniel	MINOR PROPHETS Hosea Malachi
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TWO KINGDOMS

Northern Kingdom (Israel)

- Capital: Samaria
- Hosea preached here.
- The people turned to false gods.

Southern Kingdom (Judah)

- Capital: Jerusalem
- The Temple was here.
- God's promises continued through King David's family.

Hosea is in the **Old Testament**. He is the **first** of the 12 Minor Prophets.

HOSEA'S FAMILY

Hosea and Gomer had three children. Their names had special meanings:

JEZREEL

First message: God scatters (judgment)

God's promise: God will plant again. (Hosea 2:23)

LO-RUHAMAH

First message: Not loved (no mercy)

God's promise: God will show mercy. (Hosea 2:23)

LO-AMMI

First message: Not my people (rejected)

God's promise: You are my people. (Hosea 2:23)

BIBLE TIMELINE

- King David** about 1000 B.C. → God made a promise to David's family.
- The Kingdom Divides** about 930 B.C. → Israel (north) and Judah (south).
- Hosea** about 755-715 B.C. → God sends Hosea to warn Israel and call them back to Him.
- Fall of Samaria** about 722 B.C. → Israel is taken captive by Assyria because of unfaithfulness.
- Jesus is Born** about 700 years later → God's promise comes true through Jesus!

HOSEA'S MESSAGE

TURN away from sin.

RETURN to God.

RECEIVE His love and mercy.

HOSEA POINTS TO JESUS

- Just as Hosea loved Gomer and brought her back, Jesus gave His life to bring us back to God.
- Jesus shows us how much God loves and forgives us.
- Through Jesus, we can be part of God's family forever!

MEMORY VERSE

"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely."
— Hosea 14:4 (NIV)

BIBLE DETECTIVE

- How many chapters are in the book of Hosea?

- What was the capital of the northern kingdom where Hosea preached?

- What are the names of Hosea's three children?

Center 2: Art — From Rejected to Restored



Scripture: Hosea 1:4–11; 2:23 Big idea: God promises to change rejection into restoration.

Objective: Children will understand the symbolic meanings of the names of Hosea's three children.

Bible Teaching: What's in a Name?

Say: All of us have a name given to us by our parents at birth. Do any of you know what your name means?

Let's take a moment and ask Siri the meaning of some of our names.

[Take your iPhone and ask Siri the meaning of your [the teacher's] name. Share the meaning of the name aloud. Then ask Siri the meaning the names of some of your students in class today.]

As you heard, many of our names have a meaning that we didn't even know about. I don't know if your parents thought about those meanings when they named you or not. Some of your parents may have named you very intentionally because of your name's meaning. Others may have named you because they liked the name, because it was a popular name when you were born, or because it was a name used in your family.

Well back in Bible times, parents gave a lot of thought in what they named their children. When they gave a baby a name, there was an important meaning behind it. In this month's Bible adventure in Hosea, God tells Hosea the prophet to name his three children some very unusual names that have very negative meanings. Let's read about those names in Hosea 1:2-9

Can you imagine naming your children "God scatters," "Not loved" and "Not my people"?

On the surface these sound like horrible names! "Hey, 'Not loved' get over here! I'm sure that Hosea had a hard time naming his kids these names, and then calling those names every time he spoke to them. Yet those names reflected the relationship that the people of Israel had with the Lord their God, because they were unfaithful to him. Still, that's not how God wanted to end things. For Israel or for Hosea's kids. Hosea 1:10-2:1 and 2:21-23. God gave Hosea's kids new names of promise, and these new names were a promise for Israel's future as well.

Today we're going to dive deep into the meaning of these names with our art project.

Featured craft: "God Makes All Things New"

Each child creates a three-panel folding picture illustrating the transformation of the children's names.

Hosea's child	Original meaning	God's promised restoration
Jezreel	"God scatters"	"God plants" (Hos. 2:22-23)
Lo-Ruhamah	"Not loved" / "No mercy"	"Loved" / "Shown mercy"
Lo-Ammi	"Not my people"	"My people"

Jezreel's name also carries a judgment association in Hosea 1:4-5. The planting image develops the restoration theme in Hosea 2:23.

Materials

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons
- Glue sticks and scissors
- Flower and heart stickers
- Green paper for stems and leaves
- Three small paper doors or flaps per child
- Printed Scripture labels

40-minute lesson plan

Time	Activity
0-7 min	Bible lesson: The names that tell a story
7-12 min	Demonstrate the three-panel craft

12–30 min Children construct and decorate their pictures
30–36 min Children open each flap and explain the transformation
36–40 min Memory verse and prayer

Craft instructions

Fold cardstock into three sections. Each section represents one of Hosea's children.

Panel 1: Jezreel — God Plants

Draw scattered seeds on the outside of the flap. Inside, draw a flowering plant with strong roots. Write "God Plants."

Panel 2: Lo-Ruhamah — Loved

Draw a broken heart on the outside of the flap. Inside, draw a restored red heart with the word "Loved."

Panel 3: Lo-Ammi — My People

Draw a person standing alone on the outside of the flap. Inside, draw a joyful family or community of believers with the words "My People."

At the top of the completed project, write:

"God's Love Gives Us a New Beginning!"

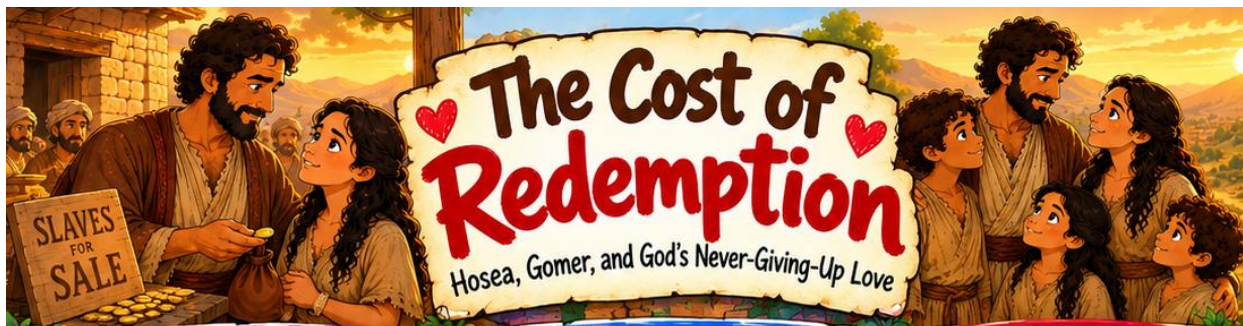
Optional art extension

Make a large class poster showing a barren field gradually becoming a beautiful garden. Each child contributes a flower bearing a word describing God's love: mercy, forgiveness, hope, grace, faithfulness, restoration.

Jesus connection: Through Jesus, those who were far away are welcomed into God's family (1 Peter 2:10).

Closing Song – "I'll Take You Back"

Take Home Paper



♥ Gomer's Redemption

Gomer turned away from Hosea, but Hosea paid a price to bring her back. This shows us that true love is costly. Hosea chose to forgive, restore, and love Gomer again, just as God forgives us.



Hosea 3:1-3

♥ What does this part of the story teach you about God's love?

The Children's New Names

Hosea and Gomer's children had names that showed Israel's broken relationship with God. Later, God promised new names and a new future of hope!



Jezreel
"God scatters"
(Hosea 1:4)



God will
plant again!
(Hosea 2:23)



Lo-Ruhamah
"Not loved"
(Hosea 1:6)



God will
show mercy!
(Hosea 2:23)



Lo-Ammi
"Not my people"
(Hosea 1:9)



You are
my people!
(Hosea 2:23)

♥ Our Redemption Through Jesus



Just as Hosea brought Gomer back, Jesus gave His life to bring us back to God. We were lost because of sin, but Jesus paid the greatest price to make us new!

1 Peter 1:18-19

♥ What does Jesus' love mean to you?



Create: A Story of New Names

Make a flip craft to show the change from old to new!

- 1 Color and cut out the three children shapes below.
- 2 Write the old name and meaning on the left flap.
- 3 Lift the flap to write the new name/promise on the right flap.
- 4 Decorate with pictures and colors!



🎵 I'll Take You Back! 🎵

I'll take you back, I'll take you back,
When you lose your way, I'll call you back.
My love won't quit, my love stays true,
When you come home, I'll welcome you.

I'll take you back, I'll take you back,
That's the kind of love our God has!
When we wander far and lose our track,
God says, "Come home—I'll take you back!"

♥ The Big Truth!

♥ → ✝️ → ♥
We were lost because of sin. Jesus paid the price for us. Now we can be forgiven, restored, and part of God's family forever!

♥ Memory Verse ♥

"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely."
— Hosea 14:4 (NIV)



Think About It...

- 1 What is something new God has done in your life?
- 2 How can you show God's never-giving-up love to someone else this week?

Center 3: Computer — Following Hosea's Footsteps

Computer Learning Center — A Google Earth Adventure Through Ancient Israel



Bible passages: Hosea 1:1–11; 2:14–23; 4:1–6; 10:12; 11:1–4; 14:1–9 Duration: 40 minutes
Ages: Elementary Sunday School, adaptable for grades 1–6

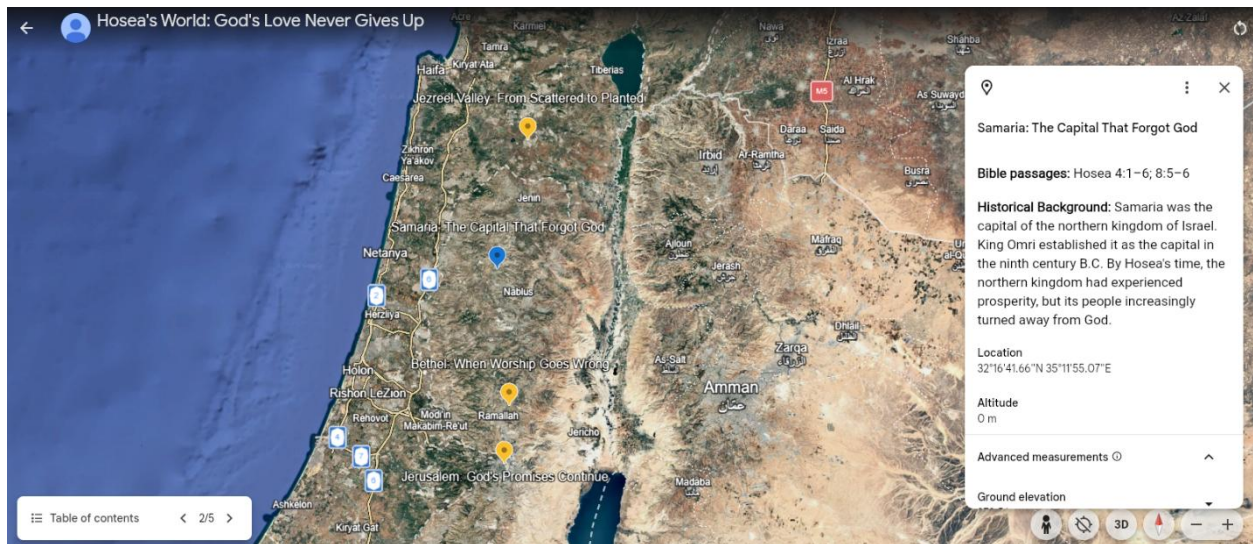
Lesson title: "Following Hosea's Footsteps: A Journey Through Ancient Israel"

Big idea: God sent Hosea to warn Israel about turning away from Him and to promise that His faithful love could bring His people home.

In this lesson, children become Bible explorers, using Google Earth to travel virtually to four important locations connected with Hosea's world: Samaria, Bethel, the Jezreel Valley, and Jerusalem.

The goal is not simply to look at interesting places on a map. At each stop, children discover something about Israel's history, Hosea's message, and God's love.

Part 1: What the teacher will create



way ground

Google Earth allows students to see the mountains, valleys, and distances that shaped the world of the Old Testament.

Before class, the teacher will prepare a Google Earth project called "Hosea's World: God's Love Never Gives Up!" **Note:** [A ready-to-import Google Earth KML file](#) containing all four locations is linked to this lesson plan.

The project will contain four numbered stops, each with a short Bible explanation, a Scripture reference, and a question for the children to answer.

Stop	Location	Bible connection
1	Samaria	Israel's capital and spiritual unfaithfulness
2	Bethel	False worship and golden calves
3	Jezreel Valley	Judgment and God's promise to plant again
4	Jerusalem	The southern kingdom and God's continuing promises

These locations are associated with Hosea's historical setting and prophetic message. They are not a documented itinerary of places Hosea personally visited.

Part 2: Preparing Google Earth before Sunday

You'll need a computer or laptop with internet access, a projector or large screen if teaching a group, and a Google account to save the project.

The web version is available at [Google Earth](#).

Step 1: Create a new Google Earth project

1. Open [Google Earth](#) in Chrome.

2. Sign in to your Google account.
3. Choose New → New Map or Projects → Create, depending on the interface displayed.
4. Name the project: Hosea's World: God's Love Never Gives Up!
5. Enter this description:

Travel back to the world of the prophet Hosea! Explore ancient Israel, discover where God's people lived and worshiped, and learn how God promised to restore His people.

Copy description

Google Earth supports placemarks, descriptive text, images, custom map views, and presentation sequences. Google has a [step-by-step project tutorial](#) if you need additional guidance.

Step 2: Add your four Bible locations

For each stop:

1. Enter the location in Google Earth's search bar.
2. Select the appropriate search result.
3. Choose Save to project, or place a pin manually if needed.
4. Rename the location with its numbered lesson title.
5. Add the Bible explanation provided below.
6. Adjust the map to a useful view and save or capture that view where the interface permits.

Use the following four stops in order.

The map shows modern geography and approximate traditional locations. Ancient cities, kingdoms, and political boundaries differed from those shown today.

Part 3: Four Bible adventure stops

Stop 1 — Samaria: The Capital That Forgot God



Google Earth search: Sebastia, West Bank Bible passages: Hosea 4:1–6; 8:5–6

Historical background: Samaria was the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. King Omri established it as the capital in the ninth century B.C. By Hosea's time, the northern kingdom had experienced prosperity, but its people increasingly turned away from God.

Teacher script:

"Welcome to Samaria! About 2,750 years ago, this was the capital of Israel. Imagine a city with a royal palace, busy markets, and people coming and going. But something was wrong. Although the people had many blessings, they were forgetting the God who had given them everything."

Google Earth exploration:

Zoom toward the hilltop where ancient Samaria stood. Rotate the view to examine the surrounding hills and valleys. Explain that a hilltop offered protection and a commanding view of the countryside.

Ask the children to identify hills, roads, and settlements.

Bible challenge: Read Hosea 4:6. What were God's people lacking?

Answer: Knowledge of God.

Question for discussion: Can people have lots of possessions and still forget what is most important?

Message to remember: God wants us to know Him, not merely know about Him.

Stop 2 — Bethel: When Worship Goes Wrong



[holylandsite](http://holylandsite.com)

Google Earth search: Beitin, West Bank Bible passages: 1 Kings 12:26–33; Hosea 10:5; 13:2

Historical background: Bethel means "House of God." It was associated with Jacob's dream in Genesis 28. Centuries later, King Jeroboam I established a golden calf worship center there to

discourage Israelites from traveling to Jerusalem. The traditional identification of ancient Bethel is near modern Beitin.

Teacher script:

"Long before Hosea lived, Jacob worshiped God at a place called Bethel. But years later, King Jeroboam set up a golden calf here. He wanted people to worship in his kingdom instead of going to Jerusalem. Eventually, the people began trusting false gods instead of the Lord."

Google Earth exploration:

Locate Bethel in the central hill country. Zoom out to see how it lies north of Jerusalem.

Invite children to compare the two places and consider why a king might want his people to worship closer to home.

Bible challenge: Read 1 Kings 12:28–30. What did Jeroboam make?

Answer: Two golden calves.

Question for discussion: What are some things people today might put ahead of God?

Message to remember: God wants our worship, trust, and faithfulness.

Stop 3 — Jezreel Valley: From Scattered to Planted



Google Earth search: Jezreel Valley, Israel Bible passages: Hosea 1:4–5; 1:11; 2:22–23

Historical background: The Jezreel Valley is a fertile agricultural region in northern Israel. Its location made it important for farming, travel, and military campaigns.

Jezreel was also the name of Hosea's first child. Initially, it was associated with God's coming judgment. Yet the Hebrew name can also mean "God sows," preparing the way for a beautiful promise of restoration.

Teacher script:

"Look at all these fields! Farmers plant seeds here, and those seeds grow into crops. Hosea named his first child Jezreel. At first, the name reminded Israel of judgment. But God used that same name to promise something wonderful: He would plant His people again!"

Google Earth exploration:

Zoom out until children can see the shape of the valley and its surrounding hills. Identify agricultural fields.

Ask: "Why would this be a good place for growing food?"

Bible challenge: Read Hosea 2:23. What does God promise to do?

Answer: Plant His people and show them mercy.

Hands-on computer activity: Have children sketch a small barren field on a worksheet, then draw it again filled with growing plants.

Message to remember: God can bring new life and hope where there has been judgment and brokenness.

Stop 4 — Jerusalem: God's Promises Continue



Google Earth search: Jerusalem, Israel Bible passages: Hosea 1:7; 3:5; 11:1; Matthew 2:15

Historical background: Jerusalem was the capital of the southern kingdom of Judah, not the northern kingdom where Hosea primarily ministered.

Hosea 3:5 looks forward to a time when God's people will seek the Lord and "David their king." Christians understand this promise ultimately in connection with Jesus, the promised Son of David.

Teacher script:

"Now we have arrived at Jerusalem! This was the capital of Judah. Hosea warned the northern kingdom of Israel, but his message also pointed toward God's future promises. God had promised King David that his royal family would have a lasting future. Christians believe Jesus is the promised King who fulfills God's saving plan."

Google Earth exploration:

Zoom out to show Jerusalem's location in relation to Bethel and Samaria. Discuss the division between Israel and Judah.

Explain that today's buildings and city walls are not the same as those of Hosea's lifetime.

Bible challenge: Read Hosea 3:5. Whom would God's people seek?

Answer: The Lord their God and David their king.

Question for discussion: How does Jesus show us God's faithful love?

Message to remember: God's promises lead us to Jesus Christ.

Part 4: Make the Google Earth project interactive

Rather than simply showing the children each location, give them a role in operating the computer.

For a group of four children, assign these rotating jobs:

- Navigator: Clicks the next location and controls the map.
- Bible Reader: Finds and reads the Scripture passage.
- Geography Detective: Describes what the group sees.
- Promise Finder: Explains what the location teaches about God.

Switch jobs at each stop so every child participates.

Optional feature: Add Bible story pictures

You can add a relevant illustration to each Google Earth placemark:

Stop	Suggested illustration
Samaria	Hosea preaching to the Israelites
Bethel	Jeroboam and the golden calf
Jezreel	Hosea with his three children
Jerusalem	Jesus as the promised King

Google Earth supports images and other media within project features, so these can appear alongside the map and teaching text.



Google Earth Outreach

For younger children, I would use one picture and one short question at each stop. Older children can read the longer explanations.

Part 5: Presenting the lesson in 40 minutes

Time	Activity
0–5 min	Welcome, introduce Hosea, locate Israel on the globe
5–12 min	Stop 1: Samaria
12–19 min	Stop 2: Bethel
19–26 min	Stop 3: Jezreel Valley
26–33 min	Stop 4: Jerusalem
33–38 min	Bible Geography Detective review
38–40 min	Memory verse and prayer

Opening activity: Fly from your church to Israel

Begin with the globe showing the United States. Find your church's general area in Texas, then zoom out to show North America, the Atlantic Ocean, Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Finally, fly toward Israel.

Tell the children:

"We are traveling thousands of miles to a place where God spoke through a prophet named Hosea. We're going to discover that the places in the Bible are real places!"

This gives children a sense of geographical distance and helps connect biblical history with the modern world.

Final review game: Bible Geography Detective



QUESTION 1 OF 5

0 answered

Which city was the capital of northern Israel?

Samaria

Jerusalem

Jezreel

PreviousNext question

Part 6: Teacher tips and troubleshooting

Preview the entire tour. Google Earth is showing modern satellite imagery, not a reconstruction of eighth-century B.C. Israel. Explain this clearly to the children.

Save your work and test presentation mode. Google Earth can move between saved places as a narrated geographic story. Run the project once before class to ensure the locations appear in the intended order.



Google News Initiative

Avoid getting stuck searching for ancient ruins. Ancient Bethel and Samaria may be listed under modern place names. Save the correct pins in advance so children do not have to find them from scratch.

Keep the students involved. Let them zoom, rotate, compare distances, and answer questions rather than watching the teacher operate the computer for the entire session.

Have a backup plan. Capture screenshots of the four map views beforehand. If the internet is unavailable, you can still teach the lesson using PowerPoint.

Final spiritual connection

Return to a wide view of Israel at the end of the lesson.

Tell the children:

"We've visited cities, mountains, and valleys. We've learned about people who turned away from God and a prophet who called them to come home. But the most important thing we've discovered isn't a place on a map. It's a promise: God loves His people and calls them back to Himself."

Finish by reading Hosea 14:4 (NIV):

"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them."

A particularly useful next resource for this lesson would be a ready-to-import Google Earth KML file containing all four locations, the Bible explanations, and the questions. That would eliminate most of the manual map setup and give you a reusable tour for future Sunday School classes.

Cal and Marty Scripture Memory Game

Children will learn the memory verse for this month by unscrambling the words into

Memory verse: Hosea 14:4 (NIV)

"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them."

Center 4: Cooking - "I'll Take You Back!" — Lost and Found Pocket Pies

Scripture: Hosea 2:14–23; 3:1–5; 14:1–4 Duration: 40 minutes Age group: Elementary Sunday School Big idea: God's love calls us back, forgives us, and welcomes us home.



Cooking project: Sweet Surprise Pocket Pies

Children will make delicious fruit-filled pastry pockets. The sweet filling is hidden inside the dough, just as God's promise of love and restoration is revealed throughout Hosea's story.

As the children prepare their pies, they will learn how Hosea sought Gomer and brought her back, illustrating God's faithful love for His people.

Ingredients and supplies



Ingredients (for 8 children)

- 2 cans refrigerated crescent roll dough (8 rolls each)
- ½ cup strawberry or raspberry preserves
- 4 oz softened cream cheese (optional)
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- Cinnamon sugar for sprinkling

Equipment: Baking sheets, parchment paper, plastic spoons, pastry brushes, forks, paper plates, oven, and oven mitts.

Each child will make two small pocket pies.

40-minute lesson schedule

Time	Activity
0–7 min	Bible story: Hosea brings Gomer home
7–12 min	Introduce the cooking symbolism and wash hands
12–22 min	Assemble pocket pies
22–34 min	Bake pies and play "Lost and Found" Bible game
34–40 min	Enjoy the treats and closing devotion

1. Bible lesson: Love that doesn't give up (7 minutes)

Read or retell Hosea 3:1–5.

Explain that Gomer had been unfaithful to Hosea. Yet God instructed Hosea to love her again. Hosea went to bring her back, paying a price to do so.

Hosea's experience illustrated God's faithful love for Israel, even though the Israelites had turned away from Him.

Ask the children:

- Why did Hosea go after Gomer?
- How had Israel turned away from God?
- What did God want Israel to do?
- How does Jesus show us God's love?

Teaching point: God's love is faithful, and He invites us to turn away from sin and return to Him.

2. Introduce the cooking activity (5 minutes)

Show children the crescent roll dough and the sweet filling.

Explain the illustration:

- The open dough reminds us of someone who has wandered away.
- The sweet filling reminds us of God's love and mercy.
- Closing the pastry reminds us of God's invitation to return and be restored.
- The finished pocket pie reminds us of the joy of a new beginning.

Explain that these are illustrations to help remember the story, not exact representations of the Bible passage.

3. Make the pocket pies (10 minutes)



Step 1: Prepare the dough

Give each child two triangles of crescent roll dough. Place them on parchment paper.



Step 2: Add the sweetness

Put a small spoonful of fruit preserves in the center of each triangle. Add a little cream cheese if desired.



Step 3: Fold and seal

Fold each triangle over the filling and gently press the edges together with a fork.



Step 4: Bake

Brush with melted butter, sprinkle with cinnamon sugar, and bake according to the dough package directions, generally about 10–14 minutes at 375°F. Adults handle the oven.

4. While the pies bake: "Lost and Found" Bible game (12 minutes)

Hide three large paper hearts around the cooking classroom before the lesson begins.

PLANTED

Jezreel

LOVED

Lo-Ruhamah

MY PEOPLE

Lo-Ammi

Invite the children to search for the hearts. When each heart is found, discuss its meaning.

Heart 1 — Planted: God promised to plant His people again.

Heart 2 — Loved: God promised to show mercy and love.

Heart 3 — My People: God promised to restore His relationship with His people.

Read Hosea 2:23 to connect all three promises.

5. Closing devotion: The sweetness of forgiveness (6 minutes)

Once the pastries have cooled to a safe temperature, let children enjoy their treats.

Ask: "What is the sweetest thing about God's promise in Hosea?"

Guide them toward the answer that God offers forgiveness, restoration, and faithful love.

Read Hosea 14:4:

"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them." (NIV)

Close with prayer, thanking God for His love and for sending Jesus Christ to redeem us.

Take-home recipe card

"I'll Take You Back!" Pocket Pies



Hosea 3:1–5 | Hosea 14:4

Ingredients: Crescent dough, fruit preserves, optional cream cheese, melted butter, cinnamon sugar.

Directions: Fill each dough triangle with a little fruit filling. Fold and seal. Brush with butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake according to package directions until golden brown.

Remember: God's faithful love calls us back to Him!

Copy recipe card

Teacher preparation: Check food allergies, wash hands, preheat the oven, and consider preparing a few baked samples ahead of time so every child can taste a cooled pastry within the 40-minute session.

This cooking center complements the Hosea video, art, and computer lessons while emphasizing the central message of Hosea's marriage: God's love is faithful, even when His people are not.

Four-center teaching summary

Center	Bible emphasis	Take-home learning
Video	Hosea 1–3	God's love is faithful
Art	Hosea 1–2	God promises restoration
Computer	Hosea 4–14	God calls us to return
Cooking	Hosea 10; 14	God's love brings new life

Closing celebration: "I'll Take You Back"

The children's praise song "I'll Take You Back," based on Hosea and Gomer, would make an excellent theme song for the entire lesson set.

It reinforces the transformation of Hosea's children's names and the message that God's faithful love welcomes His people home.

You could play it as children arrive each Sunday, use it at the end of each center, and have the children sing it together when the four-week unit concludes.

Teacher preparation checklist

Ready for Sunday School

0/8 complete

Preview and select an age-appropriate Hosea video

Print and laminate six story sequencing cards

Prepare three-panel art templates and Scripture labels

Set up Google Earth and digital Bibles on computers
Prepare PowerPoint matching-game slides or use the interactive cards above
Purchase cookie ingredients and check allergies
Prepare seed-planting take-home supplies
Print Hosea 14:4 memory verse cards
Copy checklist

Final teaching emphasis

The most important lesson in Hosea is not simply that Gomer was unfaithful. It is that God remained faithful to His covenant people and promised to restore them.

The children's names provide a powerful way to teach this message:

Scattered → Planted. Not Loved → Loved. Not My People → My People.

Through Jesus Christ, children can see the fullest expression of God's redeeming love.