

**Lesson 5:** Hosea: A Faithful Husband

**AIM:**

**General:** 1) To introduce the prophet Hosea, a contemporary of Amos; his marriage to Gomer, the prostitute; his love for her.

2) To look at Israel's unfaithfulness to God and the Lord's faithful love for her, like a loyal husband towards his disloyal wife.

**Personal:** 1) To lead the children to reflect on God's faithful love for them, to accept His love and respond to it.

**Texts:** Hosea Ch 1: 2, 3; \*2: 6, 7, 14 - 17; 6: 4-10; 11: 1 - 4

**STARTER:** Short Skit [10 mins]

*(Prepare 3 students before hand to do the following skit, or else get someone to do the act with you)*

**Narrator:** When Paul saw Mary it was a case of love at first sight! *(Paul sees Mary walking past, acts 'moonstruck'...)*

Everyday his love for her grew...

**Paul:** How beautiful she is! What a gentle personality!

**Narrator:** Paul just had to show his love for Mary, so he began to send her gifts... one day a box of chocolates... another day a rose... he wrote a beautiful poem and sent it to her...  
*(Paul leaves a gift on table... then a rose... poem)*

But what is Mary's response?

*(Mary picks up box, throws it into dustbin. . tears off petals of flower and throws it off, tears up 'poem' She then sees another boy, waves to him, 'dolls up' and goes out with him.)*

Paul sees this and he is very sad.

Ask class:- What would you advise Paul to do ?

*(Let children advise Paul.. .then bring out: )* most of us would say- forget that girl. She's not worth your love

**INPUT:** [20 mins]

Today we are going to meet another prophet- Hosea *(Write on Black board)* He lived at the same time as Amos but was from the North itself. His message was a little gentler than Amos but basically the same. This man had an experience like our friend, Paul, but much worse, because he married his girl and then she left him and went after other men. In spite of his pain and sorrow, he still loved her very deeply... he wanted her back in spite of her sinful behaviour.

*Read: Hosea 1: 2, 3*

But Hosea did not give up on his wife who left him

*Read: 2: 6 - 7*

As Hosea went through this painful experience, he began to realise that someone else was suffering in the same way. God often speaks to us through the events in our life. God spoke to Hosea. He sent him out to give a message to Israel, who was like an unfaithful wife.

*Read: 6: 4 - 10*

- So did God give up on His people? Read what He says.

*Read: 2: 14 - 17*

Hosea described God's love as a faithful husband to an unfaithful wife. He also used another example

*Read 11: 1 - 4*

What is God like, in this passage? *[A loving father or mother]*

Can you remember a story Jesus told which shows the same thing? *The prodigal son (Luke 15: 11-31)*

**ACTIVITY:** [20 mins]

Group activity- Make 2 groups Give each group one of the following instructions-

- 1) Imagine that the prodigal son is still enjoying himself far away in the city. 2 or 3 members of your group go to meet him and convince him to come back to his father's house. What arguments will you give him? Try and think of what will really help him change his mind
- 2) Imagine one of you is Gomer, Hosea's wife. A group of you go and meet her and try and convince her to return to her real husband. What arguments will you give her? Try and think of what will help her change her mind.

(After the act, bring out-)

The one thing that would help them to come back is to realise that they will never find true happiness anywhere else... and that they have been forgiven and will get a loving welcome when they return.

**PRAYER:** [10mins]

Today the Lord speaks to each of us- Listen to the words of the Lord as He speaks directly to you. close your eyes and be still and quiet...Imagine Jesus, His heart bleeding and hurt because you have turned your back on Him. Imagine him holding out his arms to you and saying- I forgive you everything! I died so that your sin can be washed away... All I want is for you to come to me and be with me. I will teach you how to love me and be faithful to me. I will make you truly happy.'

**HYMN:** Sweet heart of Jesus

Sweet Heart of Jesus! Fount of love and mercy,  
Today we come thy blessings to implore;  
Oh touch our hearts so cold and so ungrateful,  
And make them Lord, thine own for evermore.

***Sweet Heart of Jesus! We implore,  
Oh, make us love thee, more and more.***

Sweet Heart of Jesus! Make us know and love thee.  
Unfold to us the treasures of thy grace.  
That so our hearts, from things of earth uplifted,  
May long alone to gaze upon thy face.