



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for Sunday, 10 June 2007  
Released on Wednesday, 6 June 2007**

**"Hosea Preached God's Message"**

**GOLDEN TEXT:**

"There is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land" (Hosea 4:1)

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:** Hosea 4:1-4; 7:1-2; 12:8-9

**Hosea 4:1-4**

1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest.

**Hosea 7:1-2**

1 When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without.

2 And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face.

**Hosea 12:8-9**

8 And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: in all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin.

9 And I that am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast.

**THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach the children that like the people Hosea preached to, all of us have sinned. For that reason, all of us need the forgiveness Jesus that has made possible.

**TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. The Lord saw when His people failed to do and be what He wanted.

2. We too fail to do and be what the Lord wants.
3. God tells us we have sinned so that we will know we need Jesus.

## **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:**

For the "Helping to Remember" section, each student will need the following: a sheet of light blue construction paper, a 5-inch cross drawn on red paper, a large stone shape drawn on gray paper, scissors (round edge for safety), glue and a black crayon or marker.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND:**

The Prophet Hosea lived just after the time of Amos, during the last days of Israel. Like Amos, he did his preaching in the northern kingdom of Israel. Also like Amos, the people did not listen to the message that Hosea brought to them from God. The people did not think that anything was wrong. However, the important thing is not what we think about ourselves but what God knows about us.

In this week's lesson, God had a controversy, or a problem, with the people of Hosea's day. God had been watching them, and He sent Hosea to tell the people what He saw.

## **TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**

### **1. Who was Hosea?**

Hosea was another of the Old Testament prophets who ministered about the same time Amos' ministry was drawing to a close. Hosea's name means "salvation" and this is what he preached that the people were in need of. Hosea's ministry was interesting because his own private life and the problems that he dealt with in his own life were used to explain how God felt about His relationship with the people of Israel.

### **2. What 3 charges did Hosea make against the people?**

Hosea wanted the people to know that God had a controversy or a problem with them. There were three major things wrong: there was no truth in the land; there was also no mercy and no knowledge of God in the land. The people were not faithful to God, they did not love and treat each other properly and they did not acknowledge God and have a relationship with Him.

### **3. What was the message that Hosea had for the people?**

When Amos came, he focused on what the Lord wanted to see in His people, but the emphasis in Hosea's preaching was on what God did not want to see: lying, stealing, killing, lack of mercy, and a general ignorance of God throughout the land.

Hosea pleaded for Israel to listen and then return to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness. God longed to heal and restore them, but they needed to recognize and acknowledge their sin.

### **4. What would happen to the people if they kept doing wrong?**

God said that He was going to punish them. Their land was going to mourn. The word "mourn" (4:3) refers to a drought. The faithlessness of God's people would be punished by a drought. The entire environment would suffer. All creatures that lived in the land, the birds and even the fish would suffer, waste away and die. The people would experience suffering. They and even their animals would be taken away from their land.

### **5. How did the people respond to Hosea's message from God?**

The people did not believe that they were wrong or that they had done anything wrong. They did not recognize their sins against God. Even with their sins all around them, they pretended that everything was fine. The people thought that they were rich and had no

sin. They refused to acknowledge their sins and turn back to God. God, therefore, could not heal and restore them.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

What does God want us to do today because we have heard about Hosea? If Hosea was here, he would probably say what he said to the king and his people, "Listen. Believe what the Lord says. Believe you have sins that need to be taken away."

God's people need to admit their sins. We need to measure ourselves by God's standard and not our own. The Bible says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). We cannot be saved until we are ready to agree with God that we have sinned. Then we can call on Him, and He will gladly save us.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Direct the class to draw a hill on their blue paper. They should print "My Sins" on the rock shape and then cut out the rock and the cross. Have them glue the rock shape against the hill and glue the cross on the rock, indicating what God did with our sin when Jesus died. Ask for volunteers to tell about their pictures. Distribute copies of the activities at the end of the lesson to further enhance learning.

### **EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:**

"There is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land" (Hosea 4:1)

Hosea said that when the Lord looked down, He saw people lying instead of telling the truth, being mean instead of showing kindness. The people were not thinking about God.

### **PRAYER**

Our Father in Heaven, help each of us to trust Jesus as our Savior. Help us pray for others who have not yet trusted Him. Help everyone to know that You want to forgive us of our sins. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "True Worship" (Isaiah 1:10-11, 14-20)

### **Lesson Summarized By:**

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**WORD SEARCH** (Hosea 4:1-4; 7:1-2; 12:8-9)

Read Hosea 4:1-4; 7:1-2; 12:8-9. Find the following words in the puzzle.

SOLEMN  
MESSAGE  
TRUTH  
REPROVE

FALSEHOOD  
INHABITANTS  
PROPHET  
HOSEA

STRIVE  
KNOWLEDGE  
MERCY  
CONTROVERSY

INIQUITY  
WICKEDNESS  
TABERNACLES

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

**LESSON ACTIVITY** (Hosea 4:1-4; 7:1-2; 12:8-9)

TRUE or FALSE

- 1 - God sent Hosea to tell the people that He like the way they treated others.
- 2 - The king told the people that things were not right.
- 3 - The Lord wanted His people to come back to Him.
- 4 - The word "sin" means doing wrong.
- 5 - Only very bad people need their sins taken away.

**BAD PRACTICES AND ATTITUDES**

Using the word "Israel," come up with a word that describes the bad behavior, bad practices or the bad attitudes that were seen in this week's lesson from Hosea and last week's lesson from Amos. Example: for "I" you could use "idolatry".

<b>I</b>	
<b>S</b>	
<b>R</b>	
<b>A</b>	
<b>E</b>	
<b>L</b>	

## Answer Keys

### WORD SEARCH

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

### LESSON ACTIVITY:

1-false, 2-false, 3-true, 4-true, 5-false

Bad practices or attitudes (some examples of possible answers; answers will vary)

I- idolatry; iniquity

S- swearing; stealing; sin

R- robbing

A- adultery

E- evil

L- lying