

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



MINOR PROPHETS

HOSEA

Scripture: Deuteronomy 27:9-19, 27:9-19, 28:1-7, 15-19, 49-52, Hosea 2:14-23

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: 2 Poster boards, markers/crayons, coins

Ask:

What Minor Prophet did we learn about last week? (Amos)

What do you remember about his story?

Today, we're going to learn about Hosea. Hosea is one of the most unusual prophets because God has him act out in his real life the relationship between God and Israel. But before we get to that, we're going to take a minute and go back to the beginning of Israel. We have talked throughout these prophets so far about how God is giving the people time to repent. He wants them to turn around from the way they are living and return to him. We can see that they've turned against him because they are no longer upholding their end of the covenant. A covenant is way stronger than a pinky promise. It is when two parties come together and make solemn promises of what they will do. God made a covenant with Noah that he would never flood the earth again and he made a covenant with Abraham that he would be a great nation, with land, and a people that God would bless all nations through (that is Jesus). But God also made some promises while Moses was in charge of the Israelites. And we're going to look at those first.

Activity:

Have the kids create two posterboard mountains. One will be a mountain of blessing and one a mountain of curses. Color the mountain of blessings beautifully with bright colors and vegetation. Color the mountain of curses brown and barren.

Explain:

When Moses first brought the people into the Promised Land- the land that he promised to Abraham- he took them to two mountains like ours that we've drawn. And God gives them a very nice reminder. These two mountains, he says, will represent the blessings poured out on his people that obey and the curses that fall upon them when they disobey. God wants to make sure that the people know he longs to bless them, but he is also going to punish them if they forget his commands and what it means to be his people. So he takes the people to the two mountains, Mount Gerazim and Mount Ebal. And he tells them to pronounce blessings on Mount Gerazim and curses on Ebal. Once they proclaim the curse, the people all say amen. So I'm going to read some of those curses and you guys are going to shout AMEN when I point to you. I will also hand out the curses and you guys can stick them on our mountain after I read them.

Read: Deuteronomy 27:9-19

Explain:

God made it pretty clear what he intended, didn't he? Then he goes on to say this for those that obey:

Read: Deuteronomy 28:1-7, 15-19, 49-52

Explain:

God is warning his people. He does not want this for them, but he knows what the outcome will be if they disobey. And that is what each of these prophets has been talking about. Hosea is saying the same thing and he is calling out the people for worshiping other gods. If you remember, that was the first curse, and also the first of the ten commandments. God is god alone. But his people have chased after other gods. And God shows this to his people by having Hosea take a wife that will be unfaithful. Though they are married, she will run after other men. His wife, Gomer, also has three children and God gives them names to represent what is happening. He names them Jezreel- for a time when a king massacred many people to show God will judge for that, Lo-Ruhamah meaning "Not loved" because God was going to stop showing his love to his people and Lo-Ammi which means not my people. They had broken the covenant with God to be his people.

Game:

Play a version of “jailbreak.” Have one kid in “jail” in the room. Have one or two kids be it. Have all those who aren’t “it” run around the room looking for coins (give them a “safe space” where they can consolidate their coins without being tagged). Once they get the coins, go and “buy back” the prisoner. If they get tagged while finding the coins, they go to jail. Point out the cost of buying back the prisoner.

Explain:

Thankfully, God doesn’t punish the people forever. They have run after other gods and so God allows them to face the consequences of that decision. However, God doesn’t abandon his people. Even though they’ve run after other gods and forgotten him, he tells this to Hosea.

Read: Hosea 2:14-23

Explain:

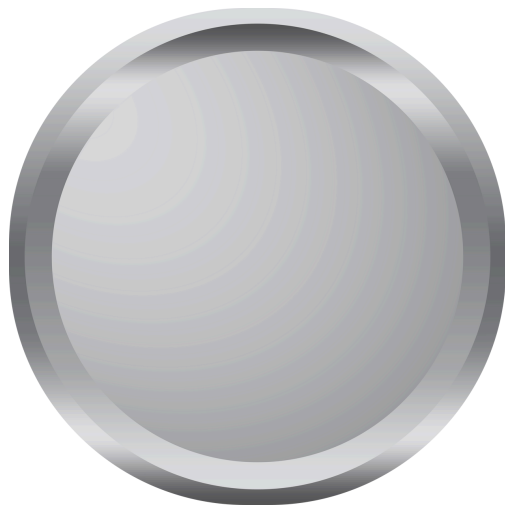
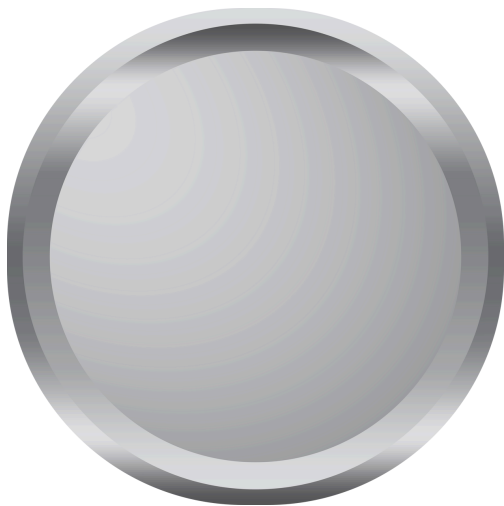
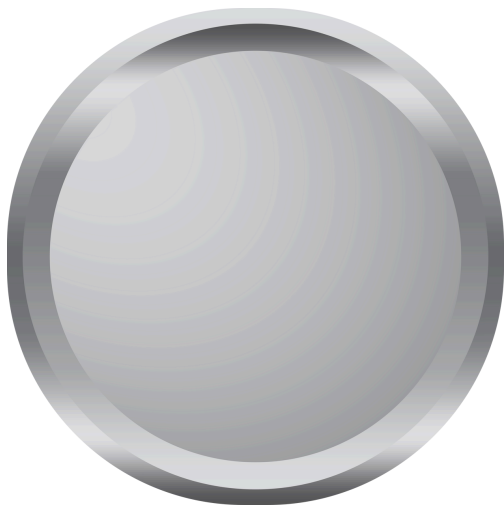
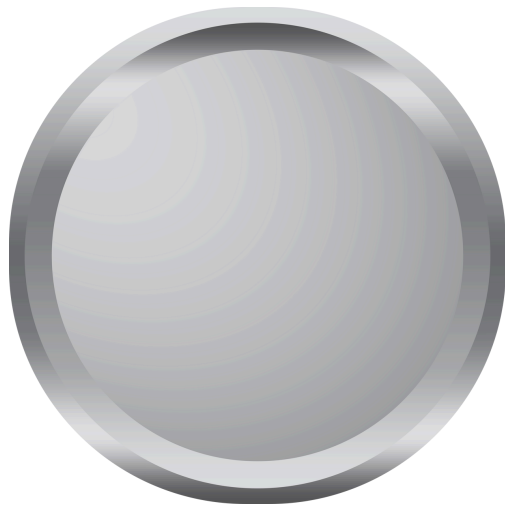
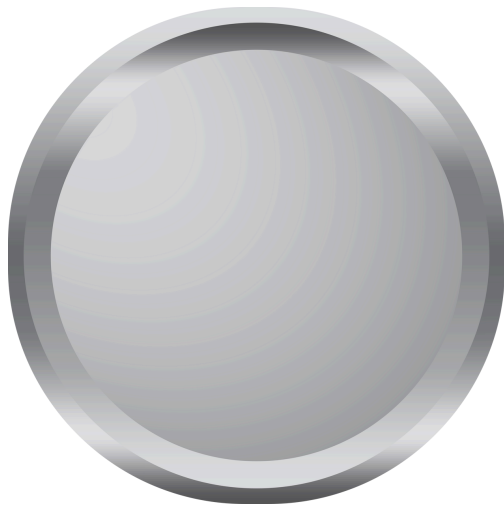
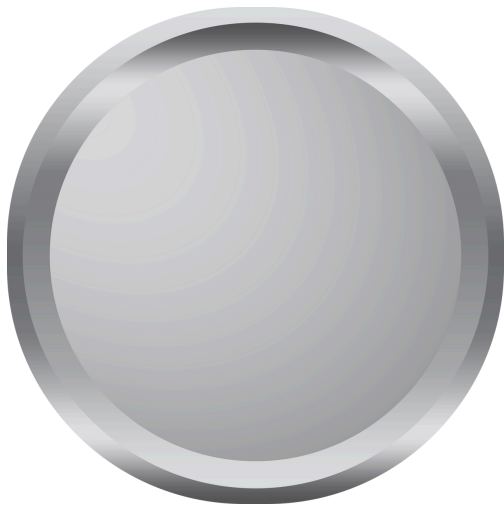
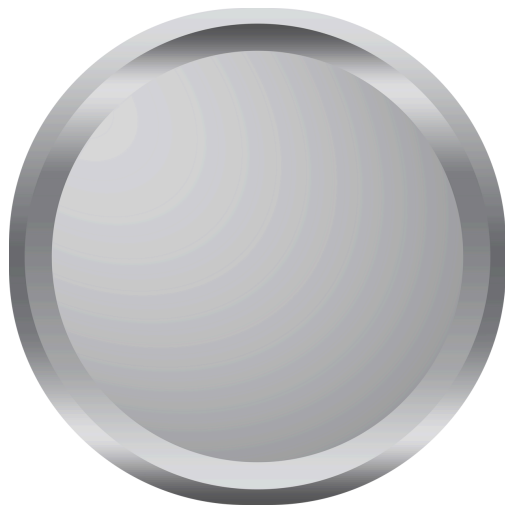
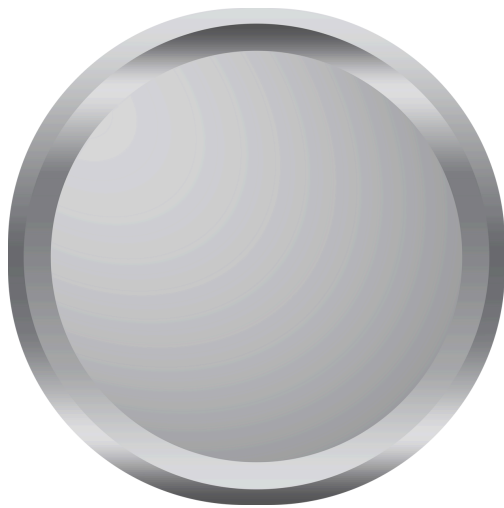
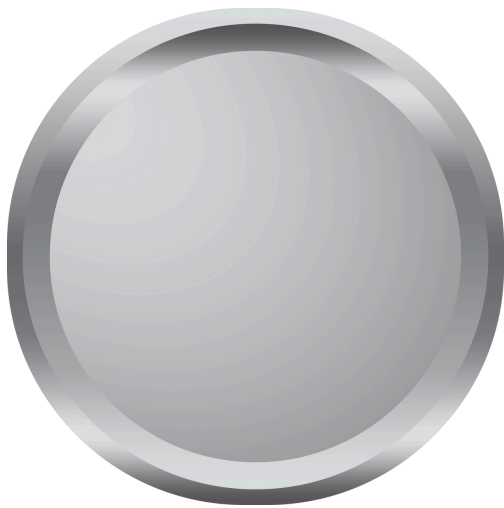
God says he will call them back. He shows this by telling Hosea to go and bring back his wife, even though she loves another. And Hosea pays to get his wife back. God paid to get us back to. If you think back on those curses, we’ve all messed up. We’ve all run to the mountain of disobedience rather than the mountain of obedience. But God buys us back with the sacrifice of Jesus. He sent Jesus to draw us back to him. To make a way so that we can be called his people, and he can be called our God. Our sins can never be too many. And we can never run to far for him to not chase us down and buy us back. We only need to return to him, seek his forgiveness, and his grace saves us. His love is incredible and that is what he shows us through the prophet Hosea.

Minor Prophet Timeline:

Have the kids color the picture of Hosea. He prophesied between 755-715 BC to the northern kingdom.

Memorize: Hosea 2:23

Close in Prayer





Hosea



Hosea



Hosea



Hosea