



THE STORY @ HOME

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2023-2024)

Lesson #2-8
Hosea 11:1-9

LAST WEEK

King Ahab has the people worship Baal. He is confronted by Elijah and a powerful display of the power of the one true God (1 Kings 18:[17-19] 20-39).

THIS WEEK

The prophet Hosea speaks God's message, showing God as a loving and anguished parent (Hosea 11:1-9).

THE POINT

God loves us like a parent.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Biblical Prophecy

There are twelve prophetic books in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament). Prophets were people who described God's will and communicated important messages to Israel from God. Often these were messages of judgment with the intention of correcting bad behavior. But even the most condemning, prophetic texts have at their core this message from God: Return. God's love for you remains, now and forever. Other prophecies were meant to give hope to the Israelites suffering in exile.

STORY SUMMARY

It has been about 200 years since the kingdom became divided due to Solomon's disobedience and Rehoboam's poor choices. The practice of idolatry is widespread, and Hosea comes to prophesy about the coming consequences. The Israelites will be exiled from their lands and ruled by Assyria. God is practicing tough love and allowing the people to suffer the consequences of their own choices. Even so, God will never give up on them. God will not destroy them, because God has an infinitely greater love for the people than the people have for God.

PRACTICE: FELLOWSHIP

The prophets told communities how to be in relationship with one another. But when we hurt others, our relationships can be damaged. When we confess and practice repentance, we are mending that which has been damaged. Recognizing and admitting our mistakes are essential components of maintaining vital and healthy relationships with each other.

NEXT WEEK

Isaiah uses the image of God as a planter, while Israel and Judah are the vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text teach about the theme of Our Sin, God's Faithfulness?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Day 1 —Read Hosea 11:1-9

God's beloved children.

Share a time of confession and forgiveness together, saying you are sorry for any hurt you have caused or wrongs that you have done.

Day 2 —Read 2 Kings 2:1-12

Elijah ascends to heaven.

Go outside and look at the sky. Imagine what it must have been like to see Elijah taken away on a chariot and horses of fire, up into a whirlwind.

Day 3 —Read 2 Kings 2:13-22

Elisha's prophetic power.

Drink water from a bowl as you hear this story. Praise God for clean drinking water.

Day 4 —Read 2 Kings 4:1-7

The miracle of the widow's oil.

Pour a small amount of oil on a plate, and use your finger to draw in the oil while you hear this story.

Day 5 —Read 2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman healed of leprosy.

Take turns doing things seven times: jumping up and down, patting your head, giving hugs, etc.

Day 6 —Read 2 Kings 5:15-19

Naaman returns home.

Naaman's healing helped him realize that God is real. What has convinced you that there is a God?

Day 7 —Read 2 Kings 9:1-10

Jehu anointed as Israel's king.

Take turns pretending to be a ruler. Lay out cloaks, bow down, and crown the ruler. End by praising God as the one true king.