

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 28

Hosea

Objects to have:

The sign for this new book: HOSEA

A Warning

Have as many of the following objects as possible: Stones, feathers, pictures of a pig, a picture of a palm tree, some beads, some cereal

Some coins

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Review the names of the books of the Old Testament learned thus far. Review the fact that the Bible is the Word of God, spoken to men who wrote down the words that God the Holy Spirit told them to write. Review the fact that we have been studying books from the Old Testament. Show the children the location of the next book, the book we are studying for today, the book of Hosea.)

(Hold up the objects—all but the coins—or the pictures of the objects, one by one. Have the children identify the objects. Then talk briefly about the use to which each object could be put.)

Many years ago all these things were used for money! Stones, feathers, a pig, etc., all have been used just like we use coins and dollars! They were used to pay for something.

Our story for today is about real money, but it is also about something else that was used to buy something. Listen very carefully. At the end of the story you tell me what else besides money was used to buy something.

Telling the story:

Hosea was a preacher. Hosea was married. He had a wife. He also had some children. He lived in a house with his wife and his children. Hosea loved his wife and his children very much. Of course, as a preacher, Hosea wanted his wife and his children to do right all of the time just as he tried to do right all the time.

One day a terrible sadness came into the life of Hosea. Hosea's wife did something terribly wrong. She decided not to be a wife to Hosea any longer. She decided that she wanted to be a wife to another man. Hosea's wife left her home to go live with another man. That is wrong; men or ladies are not to leave their wives or husbands to go to live with someone else.

Hosea was so sad. He was sad because his wife was doing wrong. He was also sad because he loved her and wanted her to live with him as his wife. He tried hard to get her to come back to him, but she would not come. Even their children begged her to come back home, but she would not.

A long time went by—many years passed. Hosea's wife did not return home to Hosea her husband, and to her children. I am sure that they missed her very much. The children grew up. Hosea missed his wife; he missed having her be there at home with him. He missed being able to talk with her and having her talk with him. He missed having her cook and wash clothes and keep the house clean. He missed doing things for her.

One day after all these years went by, and Hosea was getting to be an old man, Hosea went to the marketplace. This would be a little like going to a shopping center. There were many shops on the street where people could go to buy things. In the marketplace there was also a platform like a little stage—there on the street. This stage was used for the selling of slaves.

In those days some people bought other people when they wanted them to come to work for them. When a person was bought by someone else, that person was called a slave. So, sometimes there were slaves on the little stage in the marketplace. These slaves were being bought and sold, just like you would buy or sell some fruit in the grocery store, or some cloth or a dress or a suit in a store.

Hosea was walking through the marketplace. He noticed that there were people standing around the stage. He saw that there were some slaves on the stage. He saw that one of the slaves was a woman. Somehow he thought he might know this woman. He walked closer to the stage to get a better look. He did know that woman! She did not look much like she looked the last time he saw her; she looked much older and so tired and so sad. He knew that that woman was his wife. After all this long, long time Hosea was once again seeing his wife. He wondered how she got to be a slave. He would like to have her come home with him, but he could not just take her home; somebody owned her as a slave. He would have to buy her back; she was for sale to whomever would buy her.

Hosea thought, "I still love my wife. I would like to have her back in my house. I don't want her to be my slave, but the only way that I can get her now is to pay money for her."

Hosea walked up to the man who was in charge there on that stage in the marketplace. Hosea took some money (pick up your coins) out of his pocket. He asked the man, "How much would it cost me to buy that woman there?" The man who was in charge told Hosea how much it would cost to buy back his wife. Hosea paid the money to the man. Then he reached up with his hand and led his wife down off the stage. He gladly took her home with him. (Put down the money.)

We might say, "Why would Hosea want to have his wife back in his house? She did terrible things. She was a bad sinner." It is because Hosea loved her that he wanted her back.

I think that Hosea's wife was happy to be back home with Hosea. She was tired of the terrible life that she had been living. The Devil never does satisfy anybody; living wickedly never does make anyone happy. I think that Hosea's wife probably asked him, "Please, Hosea, forgive me for having been so wicked." Hosea loved her; he could forgive her.

Now for another short Bible story. Hundreds and thousands of years ago, Someone loved someone. It was God Who very much loved the two people whom He had made. In the very beginning these two people belonged to God. God had made Adam, and He had made Eve. Those people belonged to God. They were His. Then Adam and Eve sinned. They disobeyed God. God said, "I still love Adam and Eve. I don't want them to be away from Me. I'm going to have to do something to get them back to Me." God already knew what He was going to do, and God told Adam and Eve what He was going to do. Someday He would let God the Son, Jesus, pay the price to get people back to God. The price was not money like this. (Pick up your money.) The price was blood would have to flow out from Him. That was the only thing that was good enough for God to use to buy His people back. Adam and Eve and everybody else who has lived on earth since then would need to trust Jesus for what He was going to do, and for what He did.

So, after many, many years from the time of Adam and Eve and lots of other people, Jesus did die on the cross. His blood flowed from His body. Then God the Father said to everybody who has ever lived on earth, "See. I have paid the price. Now come back to Me."

Everybody in the whole world has been made by God. But, we are all born sinners because Adam and Eve sinned. We can come to God if we will. God has already paid the price to buy us back from the slavery of sin. Jesus was the price; He died for us. He loves us.

Everybody should say, "Dear Heavenly Father, I want to be in Your family. I believe that Jesus paid the price for me to come to You. Now, please take me and make me Your own." Hasn't Jesus loved us a lot! He paid the price for us to be in His family! (Teacher, this might be a good time to lead unsaved children in your class to the Lord.)

Now, children, you tell me what was used just like money to buy something. Yes, the blood of Jesus was used. Because Jesus shed His blood on the cross, all of us can belong to the Lord and not be slaves to the Devil.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Hosea 14:1, “O Israel, return unto the LORD our God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.”