

## A heartfelt message from a heartsick prophet on behalf of a heartbroken God

The book of Hosea tells us of the prophet Hosea who gives God's message to the 10 northern tribes of Israel. He was unique in that he not only told the people, but he lived out God's message in his life and marriage. God used the marriage of Hosea to the unfaithful Gomer to demonstrate how He feels when His people turn their backs on Him. Hosea and Gomer had several children that God names. Each child is given an unlikely name that spells out the relationship between God and the people of Israel. Hosea portrays God's restoring love by loving, forgiving and restoring his faithless wife. Let's play a game to illustrate how Hosea communicated with God's people.

### Charades

**Objectives:** Act out words from the book of Hosea  
Gain knowledge about our relationship with God  
Have fun with your family.

**Number of Players:** 2 or more

**Length:** 30 minutes - 1 hour

**Set up:** Cut each of the words/phrases on the next page into separate pieces of paper, fold them in half and put the pieces in a bowl.  
Everyone should sit around in a large circle with a large open area that players can act out their words.

**Rules:** Assign someone as score keeper and someone else as timekeeper or everyone can take turns, or you can use a 1 minute timer if you have one. Each round is one minute. Each player/actor will take turns picking a word/phrase from the bowl. After picking a word, the actor will have 60 seconds to act out their word or phrase without using any talking. They can point to things in the room but cannot pick up any props. The players who are not acting out the word or phrase can guess at what the actor is acting out. Players should shout out their guesses. If someone guesses correctly they get 1 point and the person doing the acting gets 1 point. If no one guesses correctly, play passes to the next person and no one receives any points. Keep going around until all the words are gone or you run out of time.

Hosea	Gomer	God
Northern Kingdom	Israel	harlot
King	Adultery	Sin
Faithless	Salvation	Exile
Reject	Judah	Drunkenness
Idolarty	Jezreel	Lo-Ruhamah
Lo-Ammi	Broken Bow	King
Speak	Married	No Love
Save	Rebuke	Born
My People	My Loved One	Sing
My Husband	My Master	My God
Plant	Sow	Shekels
Blessings	Trembling	Cursing
Lying	Murder	No Love
Faithfulness	Bloodshed	Waste Away
Destroyed	Reject	Ignore
Priests	Disgraceful	Exchange



# FAMILY STUDY

Hosea	Gomer	God
Punish	Repay	Wooden Idol
Sacrifice	Stubborn	Snare
Net	Rebel	Hidden
Return	Deliver	Bless

**Discussion:** What kind of man was Hosea that he obeyed God even though it made his life very painful and difficult? In what way did Hosea's life teach you about the characteristics of God? About God's plan for his people? How has it changed your thinking about yourself? What can you learn for your own life from Hosea, the people of Israel and God in this book?

**Prayer:** Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.