

Hold On to Love

May 31, 2020—Lesson 14

Background Scripture: Hosea 11–12 • **Lesson Scripture:** Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10; 12:1-2, 6-14

Key Verse: You must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always. (*Hosea 12:6*)

Faith Block: I love God, and God loves me!

Lesson Objective: The children will begin to understand God’s standards for love and righteousness.

Materials Needed: *Picture Lesson Cards*, Bible, a rug, line-art coloring pictures related to today’s lesson, copier paper, crayons, coloring pencils, a song or rhyme that expresses God’s love for His children, a device on which to play the music, red construction paper, markers, scissors, blocks, books, other toddler toys for each class session, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 14 materials]).



A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂️ Prior to class, choose a song that expresses God’s love and plan to incorporate actions to further engage the class. Also, create heart-shaped cutouts out of red construction paper for each child.

Welcome: Greet the parents as they bring their children into the room. Engage any children who arrive early—with blocks, books, and other toddler toys—in order to maintain their attention. Gather the children and help them settle down when you are ready to begin class.

Opening Worship and Activity: Let the children know that prayer time is when we talk to God. Tell the children to bow their heads and close their eyes, and then lead them in prayer.

Have the children sit down at the classroom table or let them sit on an area rug on the floor.

Say: God loves us so much. He wants us to love Him too.

Play the song or rhyme and lead the children in singing it, using the movements you wish to incorporate. Do this for a few rounds as time permits.

Prepare the class for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story: Hold up the lesson 14 Picture Lesson Card for all the children to see.

Say: God wants His people to be loving and faithful.

Read or tell the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

Hold On to Love

God had shown great love toward Israel and for Israel. He had done many good things for them. He had taken them out of slavery in Egypt. But still, the Israelites turned away from God.

God still loved the Israelites, even though they did *evil* (bad) things. The Israelites worshipped and bowed to false gods. Israel was getting worse and worse each day. Hosea told the Israelites that they must return to their God. They must hold on to God’s love and always wait for God.

One day, God would punish the Israelites if they did not stop doing bad things.

C STACKS OF FUN

Maintain Steadfast Love: Give each child a heart-shaped cutout and a crayon. Help the children practice writing the word “LOVE” on the cutout. Afterwards, allow time for them to decorate the cutout. Assist as needed.

😊 **Words from Pax the Penguin:** Present Pax to the class. (See the *Early Elementary* teacher book, pages 35–36, for suggestions on how to present Pax.) The script for Pax appears below.

Pax: Hello, girls and boys! In today’s story, we heard that God loves us. He is always faithful. Does God want us to love Him too? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! What are some ways we can love God? (*Pause for responses.*) Now, let’s thank God for His love and care. Repeat after me: “Thank You, God (*pause*), for always loving us.” Good job, boys and girls.

Let Pax wave good-bye and/or hug the children.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Review the lesson with the children. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you. Afterward, say the prayer on the Picture Lesson Card. Distribute the Picture Lesson Cards to parents/guardians when they arrive to pick up their children.

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Faith Block: I trust God’s love for me!

Lesson Objectives: The children will pray for God’s love and peace to rule within their hearts.

Materials Needed: *Preschool* student books, Bibles, star-shaped stickers, pencils, crayons or coloring pencils, markers, other art supplies, “God loves me” written in large letters on two or three sheets of paper, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 14 materials]).

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A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂️ Prior to class, clear a space in the classroom for ease of movement.

Welcome: Greet the children and parents with a warm and inviting smile. Thank the parents for bringing their children to class and tell the children how glad you are to see them.

Opening Worship and Activity: After the students are seated, open the session with prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings. Briefly tell the children that today they will hear about God’s message given by Hosea.

Take the sheets of paper that have the words “God Loves Me” and place them across the room. Have the children take turns running to get the paper, picking the page up, and holding it high while standing in place for everyone to see. Everyone then will say, “[Child’s name] got the message! God loves [the same child’s name].” The child will then go back to the other children.

Continue this game until everyone has had a turn being the object of the round.

When you have completed this game, prepare the children for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story: Say: Let’s listen carefully to the story to hear how Hosea gave God’s people an important message.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

Hold On to Love

God loved His people. He protected them and cared for them. But the people pushed God away! This made God very

angry. He thought about not helping them at all! But God’s decision changed.

Hosea the prophet spoke God’s words to the people. God said, “I will not act on my anger. I will not destroy you. I am God, not a human. I am the holy one among you, and I will not come to you in anger.”

Hosea told the people, “Return to your God. Be loyal and fair, and always wait with hope for your God.”

Bible Story Application: Refer to the lesson 14 Bible Story Application (*page 68*) and teach the children the sing-along “God’s Love.”

☺️ **Words from Pax the Penguin:** If you purchased Pax the Penguin, use the script printed in the *Early Elementary* teacher book for lesson 14 (*page 64*). See suggestions on how to present Pax on *pages 35–36* of this teacher book.

C STACKS OF FUN

Good Choices Honor God: Have the children complete the activity. Assist as needed. When they finish, review the correct responses.

Pictures to be circled: the child giving money to the needy person; the child cleaning up; the child pushing an elderly man in the wheelchair; the girl trying to comfort another girl

God Wants Our Love and Trust: Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible story with them.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Say the Key Verse, and let the children repeat it after you. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you: “I trust God’s love for me!” Then close the class session with prayer.

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Faith Block: I love God, and God loves me!

Lesson Objective: The children will pray for God’s love and peace to rule within their hearts.

Materials Needed: *Early Elementary* student books, Bibles (NIV translation), pencils, crayons, coloring pencils, markers, happy-face stickers, masking or transparent tape (to post attendance chart), reward stickers, small index cards, puzzles or coloring pages, magazine pictures of children and adults in distress (i.e., a hungry or lost child, a homeless or sick person, people arguing, etc.), red construction paper, glue sticks, scissors, a praise and worship music CD, CD player, (**optional:** Pax the Penguin; Younger Children’s Resource Kit [lesson 14 materials]).

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A BEGINNING BLOCK

✂ If you purchased Pax the Penguin, decide whether you or someone else will be the puppeteer. It is important that the children not see Pax placed on or taken off the puppeteer’s hand; this must be done discreetly and out of the children’s view.

✂ Prior to class, (1) write on small index cards additional acts of kindness that you saw demonstrated in your classroom last week; (2) prepare or purchase construction-paper heart shapes approximately 4x4 inches.

Welcome

Welcome the students and their parents or guardians. Take attendance, placing a sticker beside the name of each child (that is present) on the attendance chart. Engage early arrivers with activities until you are ready to begin class.

Opening Worship and Activity

Lead the children in prayer. Then collect the children’s offerings. Have the children gather around a table.

Say: I noticed some additional acts of kindness that you did last week. (*Lay the prepared cards face-up on the table.*) Here are some pictures of children and people that are sad or not at peace. They need our acts of kindness. First, let’s look at the pictures. Then raise your hand if you know what act of kindness would help the people in the picture. Then I will look to see if we have an act-of-kindness card that matches. Finally, we will glue our card to the heart shape to take home.

Hand each child a heart shape. When a child raises his or her hand to respond, give the child the card that best matches his or her response. When everyone has a card, help them glue their card to their heart shape. Encourage the children to take the heart home to share with their families.

Prepare the children for the Bible story.

B BIBLE STORY BLOCK

The Bible Story

Say: In today’s Bible story, the prophet Hosea is sharing a message with the people of Israel. Listen to find out what the people were doing. And listen to find out what God wanted them to do. When you hear me say the word *love*, place your heart shape on your heart.

Read the Bible story to the children and review it with them afterward.

Hold On to Love

Hosea shared a message from God. God loved Israel like a father loves his son. But Israel turned away from God. God was angry with Israel. But God is kind and forgiving. So, God decided not to destroy all of Israel.

The Israelite people lied, cheated, and fought. They made deals with their enemies. They thought that because they were rich, they could do no wrong. No! God would make them live in tents again. They would be punished for their wrongdoing.

Hosea told the Israelite people that they must return to God. They must love and be fair to others. They must wait on God.

Bible Story Application

Refer to the lesson 14 Bible Story Application (page 68) and teach the children the sing-along “God’s Love.”

☺ Words from Pax the Penguin

If you purchased Pax the Penguin, make preparations to present him to the class. Create a distraction so that you or your assistant can discreetly bring out Pax. The script for Pax appears below.

Pax: Hello, everyone!

Teacher (and Children): Hello, Pax.

Pax: I just met a little girl who is rich! She has a big playroom in her house. And outside there are two swimming pools and tennis and basketball courts. But she is really sad. Her parents are always working. Someone else takes care of her. She told me she would trade all the things she has to have more time with her family.

Teacher: I am very sad for her. Did you do anything to cheer her up?

Pax: I held her hand and told her that God is always with her. She can’t see God, but she can talk to Him any time she wants. Then we prayed together. That made her feel better!

Teacher: Wonderful, Pax! You did good showing her God’s love. Boys and girls, what did God want the people of Israel to do in today’s Bible story? (*Pause for responses from the children; guide them in ultimately responding with details from today’s story.*)

Pax: I thank God that He loves us. Let’s help each other stay close to God and treat each other with love and fairness. Well, I’ve gotta go . . . see you next week!

C STACKS OF FUN A Picture Prayer

Read the words below the pictures in the Picture Key to the students. Then invite the children to repeat the prayer

after you. After the activity, talk about how God shows His love to us.

Ask: How do you show your love to God? (*Pause for responses, offering some of your own.*)

Complete Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for loving us. We love You too. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

God Wants Our Love and Trust

Have the children color the Bible story picture. As they color, review the Bible lesson with them.

D CLOSING BLOCK

Say: In today’s Bible story, we heard God’s message from the prophet Hosea to the Israelite people. God’s love was great for the people of Israel. But they did not appreciate God’s love. Instead, what did they do? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes—they did things that were displeasing to Him. God wanted them to return to Him. God wanted them to love others and be fair to others. God wants us to show our love for Him by loving others and treating others fairly. Boys and girls, raise your hand if you can be loving and fair to others. (*Pause for action.*) That is great!

Read the Key Verse to the children and ask them to repeat it. Have the children repeat the Faith Block after you; then prepare the students for the closing prayer.

Pray: Dear God, forgive us when we turn away from You. Help us to love You always. Help us to show love and fairness to others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

As you wait for parents or caregivers to come for your students, here are some suggestions for things to do to keep the children occupied while they wait: (1) Have the children review their lesson leaflets, completing any unfinished activities. Make sure each child’s name is written somewhere on his/her leaflet. (2) Allow the children to help clean up the classroom before leaving class. (3) Allow for quiet play time if you have a room with an activity area. (4) Offer crayons and coloring sheets or paper for the children to draw on or allow them to work on puzzles together.

Reproducible Bible Story Applications

May 17, 2020

A READ-ALLOUD POEM

The Judgment of God

Jeremiah said, “Listen, I have a message to say:
Make a choice—choose right and serve God today.

Know that God will judge,

so do what is right:

Help others and do not sin,

or you will feel God’s might.

God will punish those who choose to sin;

Those who do not follow God will not win.”

May 24, 2020

A READ-ALLOUD POEM

Follow God’s Commands

God gave Jeremiah a message to say:

“Live by my commands each day—please obey.”

God will be with us and help us along the way;

We must follow God—

He wants to care for us each day.

Lesson 12 : May 31, 2020

A SING-ALONG

God’s Love

(Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”)

God loved Israel like a son,

Like a son, like a son;

God loved Israel like a son—

Do good and obey God.

Israel called Him “God Most High,”

“God Most High,” “God Most High”;

Israel called Him “God Most High”—

Do what is right always.

Make a choice to follow Him,

Follow Him, follow Him;

Make a choice to follow Him—

Do right and live for God.

Lesson 13

Lesson 14