



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

# Hold On to Love

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

## God's Word

**1** “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. **2** But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.”



**7** “My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them. **8** How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. **9** I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man—the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities. **10** They will follow the LORD; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west.”



**1** Ephraim feeds on the wind; he pursues the east wind all day and multiplies lies and violence. He makes a treaty with Assyria and sends olive oil to Egypt. **2** The LORD has a charge to bring against Judah; he will punish Jacob according to his ways and repay him according to his deeds.



**6** But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always. **7** The merchant uses dishonest scales and loves to defraud. **8** Ephraim boasts, “I am very rich; I have become wealthy. With all my wealth they will not find in me any iniquity or sin.” **9** “I have been the LORD your God ever since you came out of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, as in the days of your appointed festivals. **10** I spoke to the prophets, gave them many visions and told parables through them.” **11** Is Gilead wicked? Its people are worthless! Do they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal? Their altars will be like piles of stones on a plowed field. **12** Jacob fled to the country of Aram; Israel served to get a wife, and to pay for her he tended sheep. **13** The LORD used a prophet to bring Israel up from Egypt, by a prophet he cared for him. **14** But Ephraim has aroused his bitter anger; his Lord will leave on him the guilt of his bloodshed and will repay him for his contempt.

# Bible Story

## Hold On to Love

**Hosea 11:1-2, 7-10;  
12:1-2, 6-14**

God loved the people even when they rebelled against Him. God said, “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and I called him out of Egypt. But the more I called to him, the farther he moved away from Me by offering sacrifices to Baal. My people are determined to desert Me. They call Me the Most High, but they don’t truly honor Me. My heart is torn. How can I give up on Israel? Can I destroy you like Admah and Zebolim? No, I will not completely destroy Israel. Because I am God and not a man, I am the Holy One living among you. One day, the people will follow Me. I will roar like a lion and when I do, My people will return.”

The Israelites were telling lies and making agreements with their enemies. They were making a treaty with Assyria and sending gifts of olive oil to Egypt. Now the Lord was bringing charges against Judah. He was about to punish them for their dishonest ways. They must return to their God and act with love and justice. Israel bragged, “I am rich! No one has caught me doing anything wrong.” But God had brought them out of Egypt and He could make them live as they did when they were in the desert.

The people of Gilead were worthless because they sacrificed bulls. Jacob had fled Aram and found a wife. God brought Jacob’s descendants out of Egypt. But the people deserved to die for the shameful things they had done.

## Time’s Up!

(Part 1)

“One, two, three,” G’Ma counted as she waited for Jace to put away his iPad and begin his homework.

“Mother, what are you doing? You should not give Jace a countdown after you have told him to do something,” Jace’s mother, Tamra, said.

“I wanted to give him a chance to do the right thing,” G’Ma replied.

“He’s old enough to know better. By the way, you have given Jace plenty of chances. The right thing to do is to be obedient,” Tamra responded, looking at Jace sternly.

“Jace, I’m not sure what you were thinking by not obeying your G’Ma, but this is the last straw. Get over here right now!” Tamra commanded.

Jace could tell by the expression on his mother’s face that he was in big trouble. If only he had put his iPad away when his G’Ma told him to do so!



## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hi, friends! Nicholas and Cornelius here. Have you ever been so involved in playing a game, reading a book, or watching television that you didn’t obey an adult? You just wanted to read that last paragraph or wait until the commercial came on. No matter what the reason, you were disobedient. What do you think will happen to Jace?

## Time's Up!

### (Part 2)

"Jace, what was more important than obeying your grandmother?" Tamra asked.

"I just wanted to finish the game I was playing. I couldn't pause it because time was almost up," Jace explained.

"Son, this is not the first time that you have been disobedient to your G'Ma. This behavior is not acceptable. Do you remember what we discussed if this happened again?" Tamra inquired.

"Yes, ma'am. I am grounded for two weeks. I guess my time's up for playing with my iPad," Jace commented.

"Yes, it is. Just know that I punish you so that you understand the consequences of your actions. But it is all done out of love—just like you should respect and obey your G'Ma because she loves you and wants the best for you," Tamra explained.

"I know, Mom. And I am sorry for not listening to you, G'Ma," Jace said as he hugged his grandmother.

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Jace realized his mistake too late. Our parents punish us when we disobey, but it's not because they don't love us. They punish us so we will make better decisions in the future. In the Bible story today, Israel continued to disobey God and they were punished. God loved the Israelites so much that He wanted them to make the right decisions. You know what? God loves us too, and He wants us to do what is right.



## Fill in the Blanks

Read each statement below that is related to the lesson for today. Fill in the blanks of the sentences with words from today's lesson.

1. The people had \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and they would be \_\_\_\_\_ for their sins.
2. You must \_\_\_\_\_ to your God; maintain \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. "When Israel was a child, I \_\_\_\_\_ him."
4. "I have been the LORD your \_\_\_\_\_ ever since you came out of Egypt."
5. "My people are \_\_\_\_\_ to desert me."

# Extra Activity 1

## Add It Up

To complete this activity (related to lesson 1), find the intersection of two numbers that add up to equal the given number under each line. Write the letter found at that intersection on the line. (It does not matter which combination of numbers you use to come up with the given number. For example, if the number "8" is given, add 6 + 2 or 3 + 5 or 4 + 4 to locate the letter "R.")

	1	2	3	4	5
1	O	K	I	E	S
2	K	I	E	S	L
3	I	E	S	L	R
4	E	S	L	R	T
5	S	L	R	T	U
6	L	R	T	U	N



“ 7 5 9     J 10 6 9 4     C 5     8 2 7 7     2 11

7 4 3 5     A     8 4     V 5 8 ,

8 4     G H 9 5 2 10 6 11 5 6 6     7 4 3 5

A     11 5     V 5 8     -F A 4 7 4 11     G     6 9 8 5     A M!”