



# 3PK

February 22-23, 2014

DATE

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus Storybook Bible (p. 272-279)

WHERE TO FIND IT

The Prodigal Son

LESSON TITLE

God Loves Us No Matter What

MAIN POINT

## schedule

### First 10 minutes of the service hour:

Engage kids in cooperative play activities to help them connect to other kids

**Next 5 minutes:** Connect Time

**Next 25 minutes:** Large Group

**Last 25 minutes:** Snack and Small Group

Finish early? Repeat the activity! Kids this age learn through repetition. Or, check out the end of the activities section to find an idea for this week.

## tips

When you're doing a craft/activity that kids will do individually, write their names on the back of the item as they come into the room. That will save you some time later and allow you to spend more time helping them with the activity. Plus, it is easier to distinguish which craft is theirs at check-out time.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to look into their mirrors and remember that God loves them SO much he wants to throw a party (like the dad in the story)!

## large group heads up

Today, we're talking about the story of the Prodigal Son. Since kids may have heard the story 4 months ago during the Kingdom Journey, we're watching a different video version and focusing on the dad's reaction to his son.



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect time is all about engaging kids in a short, interactive game to prepare them for Large Group.*

- **Clean up! (10 minutes after the service start time, when you get the 5-minute warning from the presenter)**
- Line Up
- Today, we're going to talk about two brothers. One stayed home; one went to a far-off country. So we're going to play a little game:
  - Lay the **rope** down, parallel to the line of kids
  - When you say "far off country," kids should jump over the rope to the other side
  - When you say "home," they should jump back to where they were in line
  - Have kids jump back and forth a few times. To mix it up, they can also march, take baby steps, tiptoe, take scissor steps, etc. over the line.

*Then practice putting on your listening ears. Say Shhh! and remind them to stay quiet for Large Group. Tip-toe in together!*



## instructions

**Goal:** to help kids (1) retell the story and (2) connect the love of the father in the story to the love of God for us!

**Why?** Some kids may have learned this story 4 months ago during the Kingdom Journey. We want to practice retelling it again, but also talk about God's love for us in conjunction to the love of the father.

**Tip:** The "Extra Time" game requires a unique prop from today. It'll be something new for kids, so take time to play after kids make their mirrors.

## small group

**\*Give kids a snack as you review the story.**

### REVIEW THE STORY WITH PROPS

Use **hand motions, fake money, the stuffed pig, and the party hat** to retell the story of the dad and his two sons:

1. How many sons are in this story? (two; hold up two fingers)
2. Where did the young son go? (a far-off country, far away; refer to Connect Time)
3. What did he do while he was away? (spent the **money** his dad gave him; ran out and worked with **pigs**)
4. When he had nothing left, he decided to go home. When he was getting close, what did his dad do? (ran [run in place] and kissed him [blow a kiss])
5. His dad was SO excited, he threw a big....(put on the **party hat** and let kids say: party!)
6. Who is like the dad in the story? (God; you may have to help with that)
7. And who does *God* love SOOOO much? (us!)
8. *Repeat the whole thing again with the motions, to help kids remember. When you've gone over it 2-3 times, hand out **mirror board** as kids respond to #7.*

### CREATE A PARTY MIRROR

Once kids have mirror boards, remind them that God loves them so much it's like a party when they love him back! Give them **stickers** to decorate their mirrors.

- **2 balloon stickers**
- **1 cupcake sticker**
- **3 heart stickers**

**\*Pray with the kids, thanking God that he loves us SO much.**

(Continue on the following page)



*Extra Time? Play pass the pig. Using the stuffed pig from the review props, play a game of pass the pig (hot potato, but with a pig). Instruct kids to sit in a circle, passing the pig to the person sitting next to them until the music stops. When the music stops, the child holding the pig can say their name (or make an animal noise, or make a silly face, etc.).*



## special notes

Since kids may have seen our KC version of “God’s Story: The Prodigal Son,” we’re using the Jesus Storybook Bible version today. Read pages 272-279 for the script and examples of the imagery or preview it here:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qZ34\\_B384](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qZ34_B384).

## presenter tips

Show 'em the Word! Cut and tape parts of the script into the kids' Bible in the props box. This will allow you to show the kids where you're getting the lesson from - and remind you of your lines at the same time! We want kids to know these truths are grounded in the Bible.

## script

**Presenter:** Hi Friends! Welcome to Kid’s Club. I’m \_\_\_\_\_ and I’m really glad you're here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend HOPS. She’s going to remind us of the kind of choices we can make in Kids’ Club.

**Video: HOPS 4 Share With Others** (*about 1 minute*)

Wow, I can’t wait to share in Kids’ Club today. Before we hear our story, let’s practice what HOPS showed us. Show me those listening ears (Let kids respond.) Great job! Now I think we’re ready to *listen* to God’s story.

### REVIEW THE BEGINNING OF GOD’S STORY

**Presenter:** (Hold up the **Bible** for kids to see.) This is where we can read about God’s story. Out of all the stories in the world, this story is the most important. It’s God’s Rescue plan.

Remember how God made the whole world and everything was good? The world was perfect! Give me a smile! (Let kids respond. Then change your tone.) But THEN, something bad happened. A snake tricked the first two people, Adam and Eve, into thinking they didn’t need to trust or obey God. So Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and sadness and death came into the world... Show me your sad face. (Let kids respond) This was *really* sad.

But even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God...God loved them anyway! And he planned a great rescue so that Adam and Eve—and you and me—can be close to God again. We’ve been talking about that King and Rescuer. His name is....(Let kids say: Jesus!) Yes, Jesus!

### A SON MADE HIS DAD SAD

Today, we’re going to hear a story that Jesus told. It’s all about how much God loves us. It’s a story about two brothers. One went to a far-off country. One stayed home. The dad loved both of them, and he was sad to see his son go far away. Can I see your sad face again? (Let kids



## script continued

show their sad faces.)

### **THE DAD STILL LOVED HIM**

But even though the son made his dad very, very sad, the dad still loved him. We're going to watch a video about it. As we watch, see if you can figure out how we know the dad still loves his son.

### **Video: JSB: The Prodigal Son**

Wow, so after the son took all the money and ran away, he came back. And we know the dad still loved the son because he RAN to see him. Everybody pretend to run in place (let kids pretend from their seats). Good job! And after he got to his son, the dad KISSED him! Can you guys blow a kiss? (Let kids blow a kiss.) Great!

We know that the dad still loved his son, no matter what his son did, because as soon as his son came home, the dad ran out to him and kissed him. Then he threw a party! He wasn't even mad—he was just glad his son was home.

### **CONCLUDE AND PRAY**

The dad in that story is like GOD. We mess up. Sometimes, we do wrong things. Sometimes, we are mean. Sometimes, we don't share. (Pause.) That makes God sad. Can I see your sad faces? (Let kids show sad faces.)

(Build enthusiasm): But, anytime, no matter what, God loves us! We can turn back to God and he loves us SO much! Just like that father RAN to his son and kissed him! Now give me the biggest smile you've ever had because that's AMAZING news!

Pray: Hi God! Thank you that you love us so much that no matter what we do, you will always, ALWAYS love us!

### **WORSHIP**

Now let's tell God we love him back by singing songs to him!

**Song: King of the Jungle**

**Song: Trust in the Lord**

Dismiss kids to small groups. (Be creative as you dismiss them. Ask them to come give you a high five first, or maybe tiptoe or hop--like Hops--to their groups.)



**script continued**

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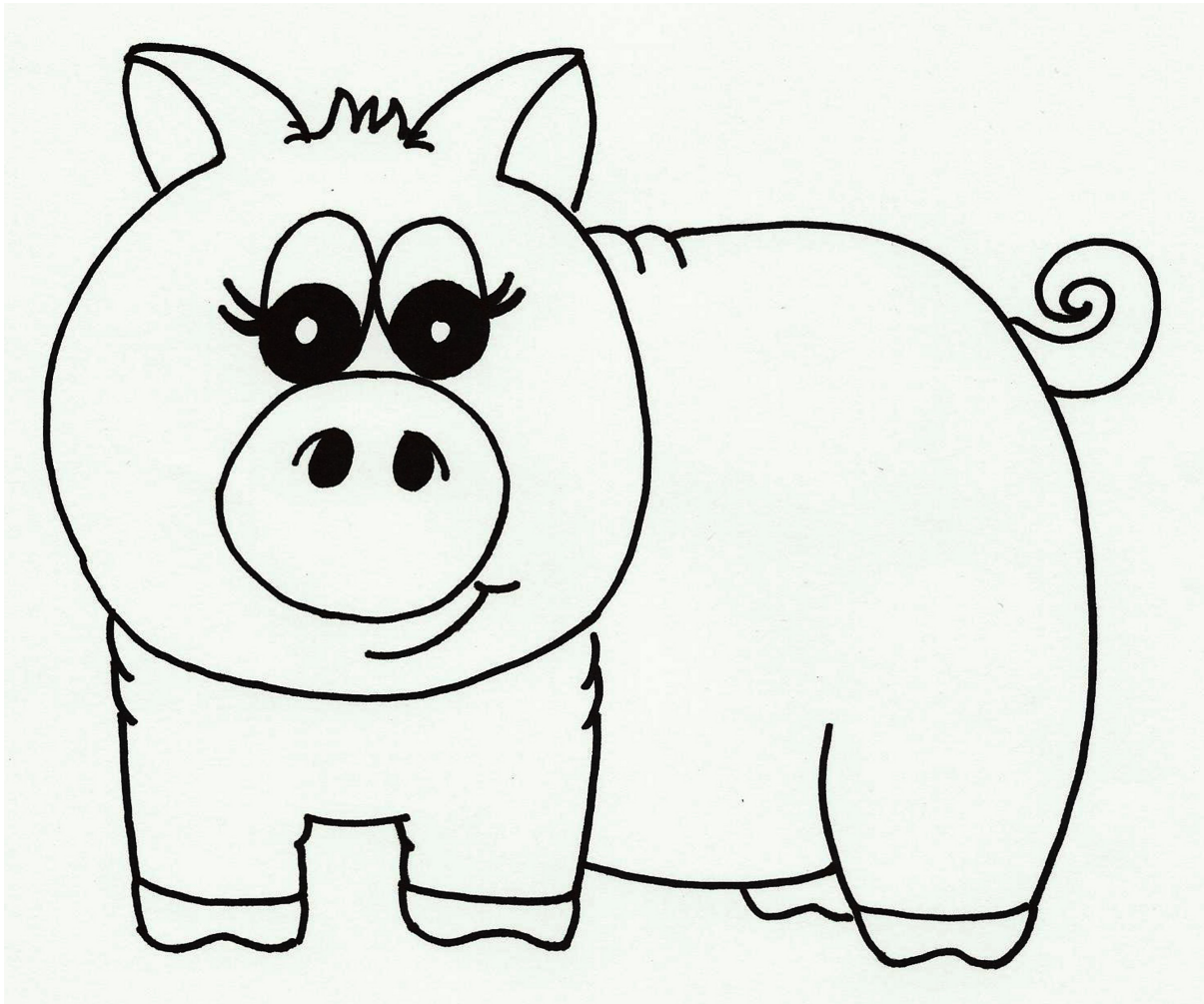


**script continued**

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name

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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Jump rope (or other rope)

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## small group supplies

Props:

- Stuffed pig
- Fake money
- Party hat

1 Mirror board per kid

Assortment of party stickers:

- 2 balloon stickers per kid: <http://bit.ly/1biSiVa>
- 1 cupcake sticker per kid: <http://bit.ly/1fnx76w>
- 3 heart stickers per kid: OT: IN-12/1885

Coloring Page: Pig

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## large group supplies

Jesus Storybook Bible (p. 272-279)

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## a/v needs

1. Video: HOPS 4 Share With Others
2. Video: JSB "Running Away"  
([http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qZ34\\_B384](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qZ34_B384); please remove the first 45 seconds)
3. Song: King of the Jungle
4. Song: Trust in the Lord

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## connect questions

Tell me about the boy who ran away.  
What happened when he came home?

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## parent page

We talked about a story Jesus told to teach us about God's love. It's about a boy who ran away and spent all his money. When he came home to ask to work as his dad's servant, his dad went running up to him, kissed him, and threw a huge welcome celebration! We made "party mirrors" to remind us that's how God feels about US when we follow him! Ask your child to tell you about it. You can also read the story together in Luke 15:11-32.