



Kindergarten-2nd

February 22-23, 2014

DATE

The Prodigal Son

LESSON TITLE

Luke 15:11-32

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (p. 1151)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Loves Us No Matter What

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Keep in mind, kids might not be perfectly engaged during small group. Do your best to engage every kid, but don't be discouraged if it doesn't seem to go perfectly. You may be surprised at what they pick up...even if they appear to be disengaged!

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents what they made out of Play-Dough today—and why they are taking home party blowouts!

large group heads up

We're learning about one of Jesus' parables: the story of two sons and their father. It shows us how much God loves us, no matter what we do wrong. Sometimes, this story emphasizes the younger son, but we're looking at both sons equally.



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

HOME OR FAR AWAY

**This game would be best played as a whole group. Play as long as you want; then break into small groups (if possible) to connect with kids and talk about their week.*

- Line kids up on one side of the room. Place a **jump rope (or the evacuation rope)** in a line along the floor, parallel to the kids.
- Tell them that one side (where they are now) is “home.” The other side is “far away.” When you yell out “home,” they should go or stay right where they are. If you yell “far away,” they should race to the “far away” side.
- Mix it up: sometimes say the same thing 20 times in a row!
- Then split into small groups and ask about the best and worst parts of their week.

Before you go to Large Group, remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: to help kids (1) retell the story, (2) connect the love of the father in the story to the love of God for us, and (3) understand that no matter what, God wants us to love him back!

Why? This story connects to different types of kids, depending on their struggle. Make sure to talk about both sons—and the love the father had for *each* of them.

Tip: Make sure that you have plenty of Play-Dough and tools for your group. If not, flag someone with a headset before the service begins and ask him/her to bring you some extra!

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. How did the younger son make his dad sad?
2. How did the older son make his dad sad?
3. What did the dad do when the younger son came back?
4. Who is like the dad in that story?
5. Who is like the sons in that story?
6. Remember, Jesus told that story to teach us a lesson. What do you think that story teaches us if God is the loving dad and we are those sons? *(Help kids with this one. Make sure to include these two truths: God loves us no matter what and we can always turn back to him and love him back again.)*
7. Is anything about this story confusing? Any questions?

CONNECT TO THE STORY

Even at this young age, some kids may connect more with the younger son; some the older. This activity will give them some space to connect to the story personally.

- Give each **Play-Dough** and **Play Dough tools** to share.
- Kids can sculpt their favorite part of the story.
- Either share with everyone, or have kids turn and share their favorite part with a friend.

APPLY THE TRUTH IN THE STORY

- Kids should still have Play-Dough
- Put them in pairs
- Remind them of today's verse: **Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment..."**

(Continue on the following page)

- That dad (and God) just wanted his sons (and us) to love him back. ASK: How could the younger son love his dad back? How could the older son?
- In pairs, kids should think of ONE way they can love God back this week (they can refer to the actions from today's large group game)
- In pairs, sculpt something to show that ONE way to love God back
- Hand out the **party blowers**. Remind kids that God is like that dad who throws a party when we love him back.
- Share sculptures. After each one, celebrate with the party blowouts (throw a mini party!)

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

Extra Time? Read Luke 15:11-32 (pp. 1219-1220). Give each pair a scene from the story to construct. Together, build the entire story!

special notes

Today, we're focusing on how much God loves us...and how he wants us to love him back!

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

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's so great to see you today. You guys looked like you were having a lot of fun in your Connect Time game. Raise your hand if you think you went to the right place—"home" (go to one side of the presentation area) or "far away" (go to the other side) every time. (Let kids respond.) Wow, a lot of you!

OK, now raise your hand if you have a brother or sister (let kids respond). Well, today, we're going to hear a story about two brothers. They lived together for awhile. And then one went home...and where do you think the other one went? (Let kids say: far away!) You got it!

This is actually a story that Jesus told, called a parable. Can you guys say "parable"? (Let kids say: parable.) Great! Parables are stories that teach us a lesson. Jesus told this parable to teach us how much God loves each of us.

TWO SONS MADE THEIR DAD SAD

Let's watch a video about the story Jesus told. In the video, you'll see that the two brothers both made their dad sad...The good news is, the dad in the story is like God, who loves us no matter what we do. Even when we do things that make him sad. And those brothers? They're like *us*. We all have done something that made our dad—God—sad.

Let's take a look. As you watch, see if you can figure out why the sons made their dad sad.

Video: God's Story / Two Sons and A Father

Wow, what an amazing story! I'm sure glad God loves us, no matter what we do. (**Show picture of two sons.**) So why did the younger son make his dad sad? (Let kids respond: basically, he sinned, ran away from his father, lived wildly, etc.) That's right, he didn't even care about getting close to his dad.



script continued

And why did the older son make his dad sad? Did anybody figure it out? (Let kids respond.) Yes, the older son made his dad sad because he followed the rules but forgot that it's special to obey. And he wanted his brother to get punished, which isn't very loving at all.

THE DAD LOVES THEM BOTH

But even though the boys made their dad sad, how did he feel about them? Did he love them anyway? (Let kids say: Yes.) In fact, BEFORE the younger son could say "sorry," while he was still in the distance, the father RAN up to him and KISSED him. All he wanted was for his sons to love him back and obey him because they loved him!

And you know what? That's what God wants from *us* too. In the Bible, Jesus tells us this:

SLIDE: Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment..."

WE CAN "GO HOME" TO GOD

We don't know what the older brother ended up doing. He was invited to the party, but maybe he stayed angry and didn't go...Jesus doesn't tell us. But we do know that the younger brother decides to leave his bad choices and go home to his father.

(Show picture of dad in the story.) And guess what? We can do that, too. No matter what we've done, we can repent, which means say "sorry" and go back to God. He'll welcome us back every time, just like the dad in the story!

LET'S PRACTICE

Everyone stand up, and spread out. (Leave up picture of the dad). Repenting means to return to God, and ask for his help. And we're going to play a game to help us all remember how good it is to repent. After all, who wouldn't want to be close to a dad who is full of love and wants to throw a party when we come back to him?

So I'm going to give an example of things we all do. If what I say seems like something that shows love to God, everyone take one hop. If it seems like it would make God sad, turn your back toward the screen. Let's try that part now.

- I helped a friend who was sad. (Everyone hop.) Good job! Loving others shows God we love him!
- I cheated to win a game. (Everyone turns his or her back toward the screen.) That's right...it's a choice that would separate us from God.

But you do not have to stay that way! Just like the younger brother could come home and the older brother could have gone to the party! You can repent and get close to God again. So, when I say "repent", you say, "I repent". Then you can turn back around. And next, you can say, "I need God's help." Then you can take one hop towards God, the Father.

OK, let's get started:

- I encouraged my little brother when he was learning something new. (Hop)



script continued

- I hoped my older brother would get in trouble for not helping me do the dishes. (Turn from God) That's right. All right, repent! ("I repent", turn around. "I need God's help", hop.)
- I made my friend feel left out. (Turn from God) All right, repent! ("I repent", turn around. "I need God's help", hop.)
- I gave my friend a high five when she won a game and beat me. (Hop)
- I prayed for my grandmother when she was sick. (Hop)
- I told a little tiny lie so that I wouldn't get into trouble. (Turn from God) All right, repent! ("I repent", turn around. "I need God's help", hop.)
- Now this is an interesting one, listen closely, and think about if this gets you closer to God, or separates you from him: I worry that I will not be taken care of, I don't trust God. (Turn from God) All right, repent! ("I repent", turn around. "I need God's help", hop.)
- I told God how great he is by singing songs and dancing. (Hop)

WORSHIP

That's right! Singing songs and dancing for Jesus shows God we love him. Let's all love our father right now by worshiping him together.

Song: Because You Love Me (with hand motions)

Song: Before I Go, I Stop

PRAY

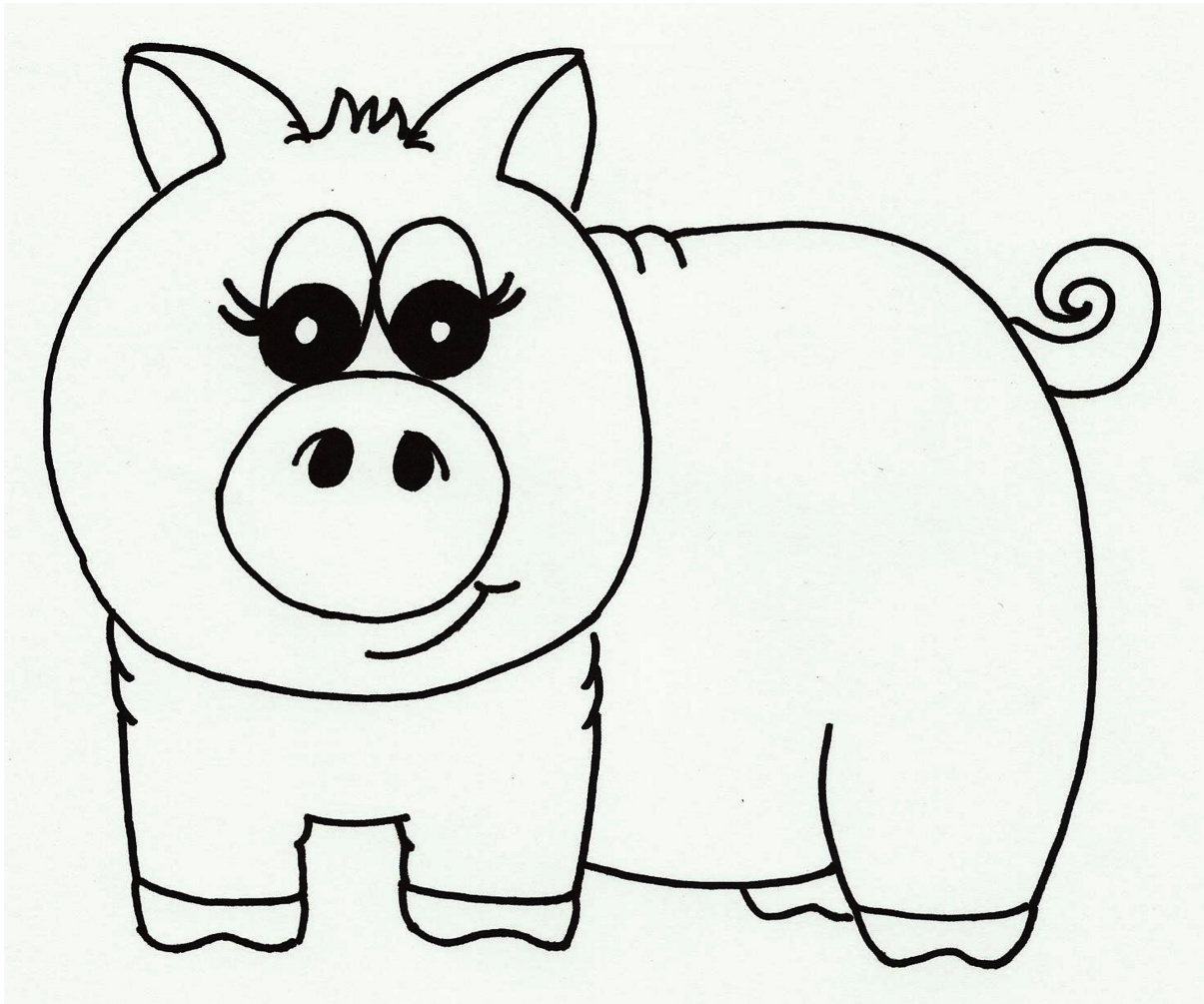
Can I have somebody come up and thank God for always loving us no matter what?



script continued

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name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Jump rope or evacuation rope

small group supplies

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (p. 1151)
Play-Dough
Play-Dough tools
1 festive blowout per kid: OT IN-25/15300
Coloring Page: Pig

large group supplies

Adventure Bible for Early Readers (p. 1151)

a/v needs

1. Video: God's Story / Two Sons and A Father
2. Image: Two Sons
3. SLIDE: Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment..."
4. Image: Father
5. Song: Because You Love Me (hand motions)
6. Song: Before I Go, I Stop

connect questions

Tell me about the two sons and their father.
What did Jesus want us to learn from this story?

parent page

Today, we're learning about one of Jesus' parables: the story of two sons and their father. It teaches us how much God loves us, no matter what. Sometimes, this story emphasizes the younger son, but we're looking at both sons equally today. If you want, read it together in Luke 15:11-32 or watch a video about it by searching for "God's Story: Two Sons and A Father" on CrossroadsKidsClub.net.