

Preschool

January 28-29, 2017

DATE

The Prodigal Son

LESSON TITLE

Luke 15:11-32

WHERE TO FIND IT

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

tips

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

check-in/out

As kids leave, ask them why there was a party in today's story!

large group heads up

Today, we're talking about the story of the Prodigal Son. It's a chance to show kids that no matter what we do, or where we go, God will always welcome us back with open arms!

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, and tiptoe over the line.

As you walk into Large Group, encourage kids to put on their listening ears! Remind them that HOPS will be showing us how we should act in Large Group, so we have to listen!



instructions

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

Why? This isn't just a story Jesus told; it's the story of US, and how we sometimes run away from God. But no matter what we do, he'll welcome us back as a loving father.

Tip: Emphasize that today is a PARTY! Have fun with kids and help them understand how much God loves us, and how he celebrates us just like the father in today's story.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. How many sons are in this story? (Two; hold up two fingers.)
2. Did the young son stay home, or run away? (He ran away—*remind kids how he spent the money his dad gave him, and then had to work with pigs.*)
3. 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!*)
4. His dad was SO excited, he threw a big....(Party!)
5. Who is like the dad in the story? (God—*you may have to help kids with this.*)
6. And does God love US just like the dad loved his lost son? (Yes! Yay!).

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- We're going to decorate a party "balloon" to remind us of how the dad in the story threw a party for his son!
- Give each kid a **balloon template** and a **2-ft piece of ribbon**. Set out **markers** and let kids decorate the balloon if they want.
- As they work, go around and **hole punch** the bottom of each balloon and tie a piece of ribbon through it.
- Turn on some music and do some of the following "party" activities, and let kids wave around their balloons as they play!
 - Simon Says: Have kids do exactly as you say.
 - Follow the Leader: Let kids follow behind you as you lead them in funny walks and dances around the room.
 - Dance Party: Turn up the music and dance!

*Extra time? Have kids do a **coloring sheet**. After that, play the Connect Time "rope" game again!*

special notes

Emphasize the celebratory aspect of today's story—that the father loved his son so much, he threw a party for him! Make a direct link between the father in the story, and our own father, God.

presenter tips

Here's a link to today's video:

God's Story / Two Sons and a Father:

<https://vimeo.com/kidsclub/videos/search:two%20sons/sort:date>

script

WELCOME AND INTRO

Main Goal: Review the beginning of God's story and rescue plan.

Notes:

- ***Click to play intro music.**
- **Say:** Hi Friends! Welcome to Kids' Club. I'm _____ and I'm really glad you're here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend HOPS.
- **Video: HOPS Obey Your Leaders!**
- **Say:** (Holding up the **Bible**.) *This* is God's story. Out of all the stories in the world, this is the most important. Do you know what it's called? (Let kids respond "the Bible.") That's right, the Bible! It's God's Rescue plan. It shows us how He rescued us from all the wrong things in the world.
- **Say:** In the beginning, God made the whole world and everything in it. He created the sun and the moon, the water and the land, the plants and the animals, and people like you and me! Everything was good. Give me a big thumbs up! (Let kids respond. Then change your tone.)
- **Say:** But THEN, something bad happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and all the wrong things came into the world. Things like sadness and death. Show me your sad face. (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God, God loved them anyway! He planned a great rescue so that Adam and Eve, and you and me, could be close to God again! Do you know who the Rescuer is? (Let kids say: Jesus!)

TWO SONS AND A DAD

Main Goal: Set up Jesus' story by describing how the younger son made his dad sad, but the dad still loved him.

- **Say:** Did you know that Jesus loved to tell stories? (Let kids respond.) He did! And today, we're going to hear a special story that Jesus told his friends. It's all about how much God loves us. Can you put your hands on your heart, to show how much God loves you? (Let kids respond.) Good job!
- **(Image: Two sons)** This story is about two brothers. One went to a far-off country. Let's all stand and walk in place! (Let kids respond and "walk" for a few seconds.) The other brother stayed home. Let's all sit down, like we're at home. (Let kids respond.)
- **Ask:** Do you think their dad only loved one of them, or did he love BOTH of his kids? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he loved them both! But he became very sad when the younger son went far away. Can I see your sad face? (Let kids show their sad faces.)
- **Say:** Even though the young son made his dad very, very sad, his 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 that the dad still loves his son.
- **Video: God's Story / Two Sons and Father**

THE DAD LOVES HIS SON

Main Goal: Understand that God is like the dad in today's story, which means that God loves us no matter what!

- **Say:** Wow, so after the son took all the money and ran away, he came back! And we know the dad still loved his son because he RAN to see him. Everybody pretend to run in place (Let kids pretend while sitting, or standing.) Good job!
- **Say:** After the dad got to his son, he KISSED him! Can you guys blow a kiss? (Let kids blow a kiss.) Good job! No matter what the young son did, his dad still loved him.
- **(Loop: Confetti Cannon)** After that, the dad threw a party! Woohoo! He wasn't even mad—he was just glad his son was home.
- **Say:** The dad in that story is like GOD, and we're like the son. Sometimes, we mess up and do wrong things. Sometimes, we are mean, or we don't share. (Pause.) That makes God sad. Can I see your sad face? (Let kids show sad faces.)
- **Say:** But no matter what, God still loves us! Just like that father who RAN to his son and kissed him. Now give me the biggest smile you've ever had because that's AMAZING news!



script continued

WRAP UP AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Help kids interact through prayer and worship!

- **Say:** Right now let's talk to God and tell him how glad we are that he loves us. When we talk to God, we call it "praying." Are you ready to pray? (Let kids respond.) Great!
- **Pray (Breaking it into small, repeatable phrases):** Hi God! Thank you that no matter what we do, you will always, ALWAYS love us! Aaa-men!
- **Set up worship:** Let's show Jesus how happy we are that he came to the world to rescue us. Let's stand up and worship!
- **Music Video: Come With Me**
- **Music Video: Jesus Loves Me**
- **Song: Thank You Lord**

Dismiss kids to small groups.



connect questions

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

lesson supplies

Connect Time- "Far Away/Home" game

Item	Usage	Details
Rope	1 per room, reused	Use the evacuation rope in the room.

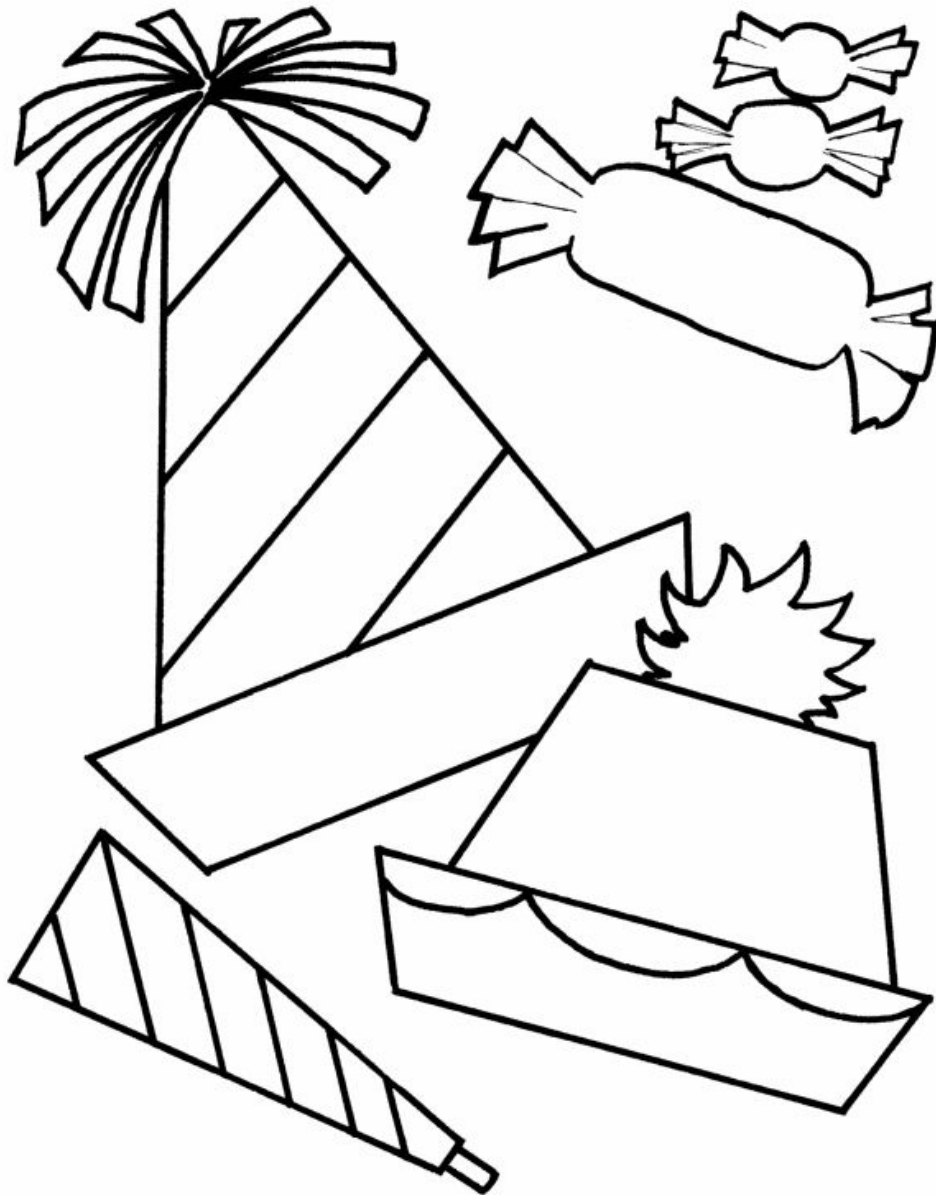
Small Group

Item	Usage	Details
Coloring Page- Party Hats	1 per kid	Page 10, white paper
Markers	1 set per group, reused	
Holepuncher	1 per group, reused	
Piece of Ribbon	1-2 foot piece per kid	Oriental Trading (IN/B101)
Balloon Template	1 per kid	Office Depot, item 0565212

Large Group

Item	Usage	Details
Jesus Storybook Bible	1 per large group, reused	

name





1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Hops / Obey Your Leaders! (<https://vimeo.com/67408011>)
3. Image: Two Sons
4. Video: God's Story / Two Sons and Father (<https://vimeo.com/35595649>)
5. Loop: Confetti Cannon (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Lw_smO-CjQ)
6. Music Video: Come With Me (<https://vimeo.com/49923933>)
7. Music Video: Jesus Loves Me (<https://vimeo.com/44164426>)
8. Song: Thank You Lord (KC/SM media videos songs>songs>songs with slides)