

Kindergarten-2nd

January 21-22, 2017

DATE

Two sons and a father.

LESSON TITLE

Luke 15:11-32, Ephesians 4:32

WHERE TO FIND IT

God is a loving father.

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

Before service begins, decide as a volunteer team how you want to run the Connect Time decorating. And don't forget to clean it up after service. The next group gets to create their own party atmosphere.

check-in/out

As kids leave, ask them about what they drew on their party balloons!

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.*

PARTY TIME!

**Divide kids into small groups.*

- It's time to decorate! Tell kids that we'll find out WHY we're decorating later, but for now, just use the available supplies and have fun decorating as a group.
- Each group can decorate their own tables/space and the area around it (The walls, etc) Here are the supplies you have:
 - **Masking tape** and **markers**
 - **Streamers** (1 roll per small group; tear off pieces and give to kids to hang up.)
 - **Regular pieces of paper** (1 per kid; let them draw images of balloons and decorations to hang on walls, etc.)
 - **1 large sheet of tear-off paper** (Let kids draw images of cake, food, balloons, confetti, etc.)
- *For younger groups, you may need to help kids a little more, like showing them where to decorate, giving them specific ideas of what to draw on the paper, and giving them streamers with tape already on it, etc.*

TALK ABOUT IT

- What's the best party you've ever been to? What was it like?
- Why do we throw parties?

Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also 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: Kids will (1) retell the story, (2) connect the love of the father in the story to God's love 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 struggles. Make sure to talk about both sons—and the love the father had for each of them.

Tip: Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to kids and help them process it.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

1. Now that we've heard about the parable from Large Group, why did we decorate for a party? (To celebrate how we can return to God, and he'll love us no matter what. Just like the father celebrated the son who returned home!)
2. How did the younger son (who ran away) make his dad sad? (The younger son rejected him, ran away from home, spent all his father's money, etc.)
3. How did the older son (who stayed home) make his dad sad? (The older son was angry and didn't show love to his brother; he wanted him to be punished.)
4. How did the dad treat each of the sons at the end of the story? (He threw a party for the son who left, and he invited the other son to the party too.)
5. Who is like the dad in that story? (God.) Who is like the sons in that story? (Us.)
6. What does God want us to do when we come back to him? (Repent, and turn back toward him/follow him!)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

- We're going to decorate a party "balloon" to remind us that God celebrates when we repent and come back to him. It's just like the dad in today's story, who celebrated and threw a big party when his son returned!
- Give each kid a **balloon template** and a **2-ft piece of ribbon**. Set out **markers**.
- Remind kids that the dad (and God) just wanted his sons (and us) to love him back. How can WE show God we love him? (Ideas on next page if kids need help.)
- Have kids **write or draw** one way they can show God they love him on the back (or front) of the balloon. As they work, go around and **hole punch** the bottom of each balloon and tie a piece of ribbon through it.

(Continued on next page.)

- Here's some ideas to 'love God back', just as he's loved us: Spend time with him, talk to him, listen to him, read his words in the Bible, tell him thank you, write a prayer to him, serve others, follow him by making right choices that Jesus would make, etc.)

Extra time? Play some party games, like Simon Says, Freeze Tag or Musical Chairs!

special notes

There are so many truths packed into this little story. Before you begin, pray that the Holy Spirit speaks to kids and reveals the truths they need to hear.

presenter tips

Here's a link to today's video:

God's Story / Two Sons and a Father:
<https://vimeo.com/35595649>

script

WELCOME AND INTRO

Main Goal: Review Connect Time and introduce the lesson.

Notes:

**Click to play intro music.*

- **Welcome:** Hey everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's so great to see you here today. You did a great job decorating in Connect Time; it looks like we're ready for a party!
- **Ask:** Does anybody know WHY we decorated our room? (Let kids guess.) Good guesses! But actually, it's because of today's story. In it, there's a dad who throws a huge party for his son, and it's not because it's his birthday. It's because of something even better.
- **Say:** Before we get to that, let's watch a movie clip from Finding Nemo. If you've seen it, you know that Nemo gets separated from his dad, Marlin. But then Marlin does everything he possibly can to find his son again. Let's see what happens when they finally reunite.
- **Video: Finding Nemo / Reunion**
- **Ask:** So was the dad mad or happy when he found his son? (Let kids respond.) Yes, he was SO glad and relieved! Today we're going to hear another story that's kind of similar, and Jesus told it in the Bible!
- **Ask:** When Jesus told stories in the Bible, he did it to teach people about something important. We have a special word for these stories: A parable! Can you say, "Parable"? (Let kids respond.) Good job!

JESUS TELLS A PARABLE

Main Goal: Illustrate God's love for us through the parable of the Prodigal Son.

- **(Image: Two sons)** So Jesus told a parable about two brothers. One did a lot of wrong things, and one did a lot of good things. But both of them made their dad very sad. Let's watch a video about the story Jesus told. 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**
- **(Image: Younger son)** So why did the younger son make his dad sad? (Let kids respond: He sinned/made wrong choices, ran away from his father, lived wildly, etc.) That's right, the younger son made a lot of wrong choices. He didn't even care about getting close to his dad. Can you act sad with me? (Act along with kids.)
- **(Image: Older son)** Now it might seem strange, but even though the older son followed all the rules, he *also* made his dad sad. Do you remember why? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he didn't show love to his brother. He wanted his brother to get punished, and didn't understand why his dad was happy. Is that a loving thing to do? (Let kids respond.) Nope.
- **Ask:** Do you guys think that maybe WE ever act like those two sons? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, we all do! That's because none of us are perfect. But do you know who IS perfect? (Let kids respond.) Yep, Jesus!

THE DAD LOVES THEM BOTH

Main Goal: Describe how the dad showed his love for both his sons.

- **Ask:** So even though both of the sons made wrong choices, did their dad still love them? (Let kids respond.) Yes! What did their dad do for the younger son who ran away? (Let kids respond.) Yep, while the younger son was still in the distance, his father RAN up to him and KISSED him!
- **(Loop: Confetti Cannon)** And then he threw him a huge party, and gave him gifts. And even though the older son didn't want to go to the party, his dad invited him too! At any time, he could come in and celebrate with his dad and brother, as a family.

THE STORY IS ABOUT...US!

Main Goal: Compare the parable to how God loves us!

- **(Image: Loving dad)** Now remember, Jesus didn't tell this story just to entertain people. He wanted to teach something important.
- **Ask:** So let's think...who could the dad in the parable represent? (Let kids say: God) Yep, God! And do you think the brothers are like anybody we know? (Let kids say: Us.) That's right, US. This whole story is all about how much God loves us even when, like the sons, we make wrong choices.

WE CAN REPENT

Main Goal: Understand that the parable represents God's love for us, and how Jesus gave his life for us, so that we could be rescued from our wrong choices.

- **Say:** Remember how the younger son ran away and made some pretty bad choices? And the older son wasn't very loving? Well we're kind of like those sons. We make wrong choices, and when we do that, we turn away from God, and aren't close to him anymore.
- **Say:** But no matter what we've done, God will always welcome us with open arms, just like the dad did. He'll celebrate us, and be so glad that we chose to come back to him! And because he'll always welcome us back, we can turn away from our wrong choices.
- **Say:** When we turn away from our wrong choices, that's called "repenting," which means saying "sorry" and going back to God. Let's all say, "Repent" right now. (Let kids respond.) Good job.

PRACTICE REPENTING

Main Goal: Play an active game to help put repenting into practice!

- **Say:** So let's practice repenting! Everyone stand up, and spread out. Repenting means we return to God, and ask for his help. Now we're going to play a game to help us all remember how to repent.
- **Say:** I'm going to give an example of things we all do. If it seems like something that shows love to God, everyone take one hop forward. If it seems like it would make God sad, like the dad in the parable, turn around, with your back toward the screen. (Say the following prompts.)
 - ***"I invited a new kid to play with me."*** (Hop.) Good job! That's a choice that shows love.
 - ***"I told a little lie to avoid getting into BIG trouble."*** (Everyone turns his or her back toward the screen.) That's right...it's a choice that would separate us from God. Now turn back!
 - ***"I hoped my older brother would get in trouble for not helping me do dishes."*** (Turn from God.) Yep, that's another wrong choice. Now turn back around!
 - ***"I prayed that God would give me strength to be nicer to others at school."*** (Hop.) Good job!
- **Say:** Now remember, we don't have to stay turned away forever. Just like the younger brother could come home, even after making some wrong choices, you can repent and get close to God again. So right now, let's all say, "God, I repent!" (Let kids respond.) Great job!

RESPONSE TIME

Main Goal: Give kids a chance to actively respond to what they've heard today.

- **Say:** Now there's a pretty big reason WHY we can repent and go back to God...it's because he sent a rescuer to us, to save us from all our wrong choices. Who is that Rescuer? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it's Jesus! Let's read our verse for this month, and see what it says about this:
- **Slide: Ephesians 4:32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.**
- **Ask:** Since Jesus gave his life for us, and forgives us of every wrong choice we make, WE we can forgive others, and show kindness to them, just like Jesus did for us.
- **Say:** Right now, let's all take a minute and think of one wrong choice we've made recently. Something that makes us turn away from God. (Pause.) Once you've thought of it, hold up your hand like this (Hold up your hand with palm facing forward.) Good! Now, let's flip our hand around, to show that we can turn to God! (Flip your hand so the back is facing forward.) Great job guys!

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Close the lesson with prayer and worship.

- **Pray:** (Invite someone up to pray for the group, asking God to help us repent, and turn towards him, just like the son in today's story.)
- **Set up worship:** I think it's time we did some real celebrating! Everybody stand, and let's worship God for loving us no matter what we do.
- **Song: Before I Go**
- **Music Video: All That You Need**



connect questions

Tell me about the two sons and their father.
What does this parable teach us?

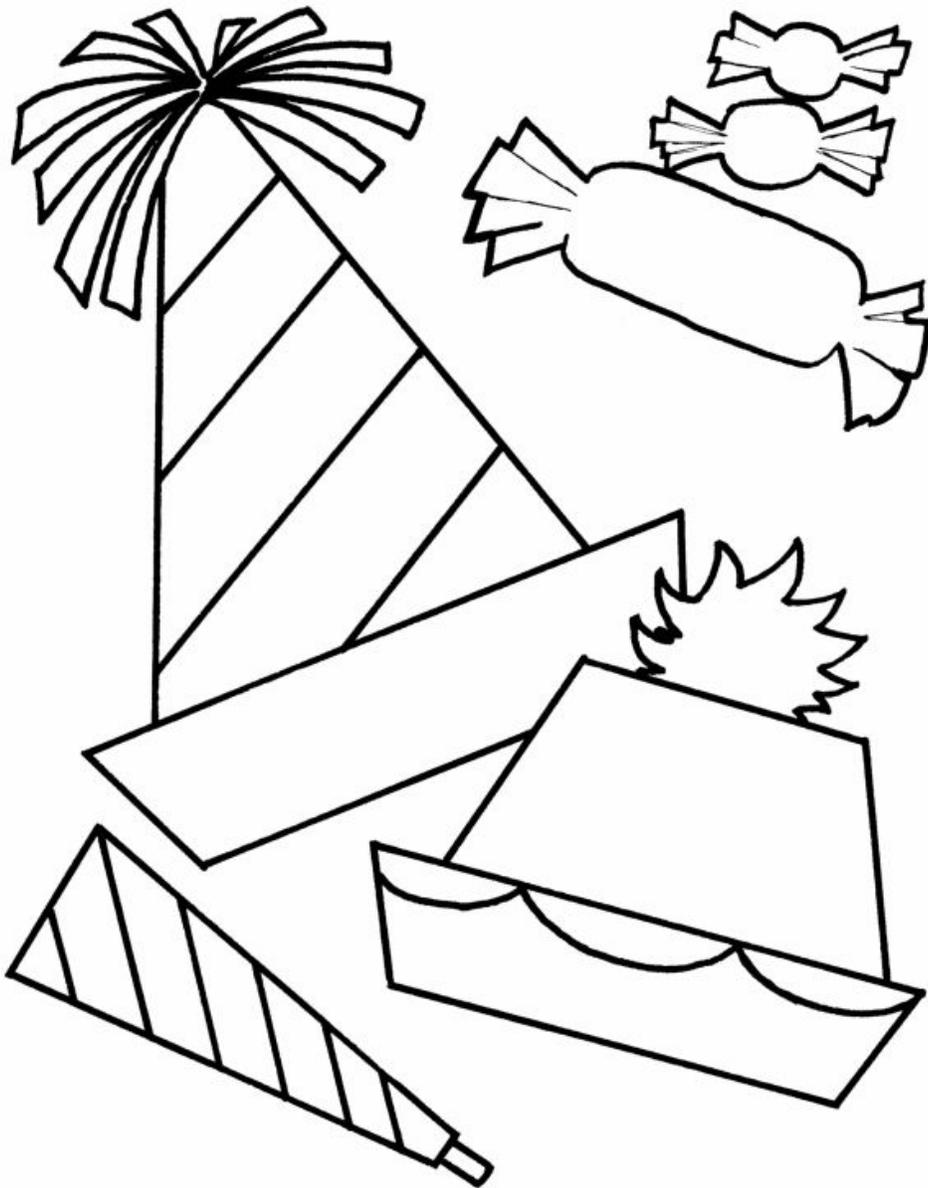
lesson supplies

Connect Time-			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Markers	1 set per small group, reused		site
Masking Tape or Painters Tape	1 roll per small group, reused		site
Tear-off sheet of paper	1 per small group		site
Streamers	1 roll per small group	Oriental Trading (IN-/C540)	KC Central
White paper	1 per kid	8x11"	site

Small Group			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Coloring Page- Party Hats	1 per kid	Page 10, white paper	site
Markers	1 set per group, reused		site
Holepuncher	1 per group, reused		KC Central
Balloon template	1 per kid	(Option 1 , Option 2 , Option 3)	KC Central
Ribbon	2ft piece per kid	Oriental Trading (IN-/B101)	KC Central

Large Group			
Item	Usage	Details	Provided by
Bible	1 per large group, reused	Adventure Bible for Early/Younger Readers	site

name



A/V needs

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1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Finding Nemo / Reunion (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7bNhYr3ves>)
3. Image: Two sons
4. Video: God's Story / Two Sons and Father (<https://vimeo.com/35595649>)
5. Image: Younger son
6. Image: Older son
7. Loop: Confetti Cannon (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Lw_smO-CjQ)
8. Image: Loving dad
9. Slide: Ephesians 4:32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.
10. Song: Before I Go (KC/SM media videos songs>songs>songs with slides)
11. Music Video: All That You Need (<https://vimeo.com/153814189>)