



Lesson
49

1st-4th

PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

July 26 & 27

GOD PURSUES US



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Jesus used many stories, called parables, to teach people something bigger about who Jesus is and how he wants us to live. This parable is a story about a father with two sons. While the older son stays home and works for his father, the younger son begs for his inheritance early and goes away and spends all his money.

Eventually, the younger son comes home humbled and asking for forgiveness. The father welcomes the son home with joy.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that just like the father in the story, God is a loving and gracious father to us. Even when we make mistakes and turn away from God, He forgives us and wants us to come back to Him.

Luke 15:11-32

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Awana

Wednesday, September 10th
Rockrimmon, Heights & Monument

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Farmer Pete



KEY VERSE:

“The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory.”

John 1:14, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

PB&J DRIVE

This month, we are preparing for the school season with a mission that’s sticky and sweet! We are gathering peanut butter and jelly for families in need.

PB&J is super important for families getting ready to go back to school. That’s why we are partnering with our ACTs ministry to serve kids and families right here in our community, and YOU get to be a part of it.

From now until August 2nd & 3rd, bring a peanut butter and jelly to help share God’s love with those in need!



5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, *(insert child/parent name)*!

Grab today's **Lesson Card**. Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and leave your card there as a bookmark. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God Statement here!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.

SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first!
Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.

SAY:

Today, we are learning about how **God Pursues Us**. This story comes from the Bible in **Luke 15:11-32**. Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?

DO:

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who is our story about today?

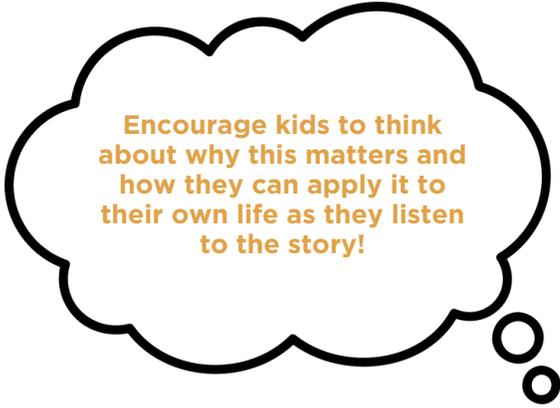
Jesus, the older & younger son, the father, us

2. What is the problem?

The younger son left his father to go do what he wanted to do, and it didn't turn out how he expected

3. What will God do?

The dad welcomed his prodigal son with open arms and celebrated - Just like God does for us



MAKE: Prodigal Son Coloring Page

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: coloring page, crayons/markers



DO:

Pass out one coloring page per child. Have kids color their pages.



SAY:

Today we are learning about a special story where a son leaves and makes some decisions that aren't very wise. His father welcomes him home and cares for him! Even though we make mistakes, God (our father) cares for us too and wants us to come back to Him.



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



6:25-6:50pm
9:25-9:50am
11:25-11:50am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: The 99

SONG 2: The One



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you feel safe and joyful knowing God celebrates when you come to Him! God loves you!



TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: God Pursues Us!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: “Who I Am” worship song



SAY:

Jesus used this parable to teach an important lesson about listening and believing God’s Word. Today, we learned again how God pursues us, just like the father celebrated when his son returned home! God loves and cares about each of us, individually. Even when we make mistakes and turn away from God, He forgives us and wants us to come back to Him!



DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - ***God pursues us! Remember what happened when the son returned home to his dad? His dad threw a big party to celebrate!***
 - ***That’s what God does for each of us when we come back to Him because God loves us!***
 - ***Whether you feel like the younger son, far away from God because of your sin, or the older son, jealous and confused, God loves YOU. God pursues you!***
 - ***Let’s throw a party of worship right now to celebrate that amazing news!***
 - Invite kids to stand and play “Who I Am” from PowerPoint.
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.



SAY:

May you feel safe and joyful knowing God celebrates when you come to Him! God loves you!

6:50-7:10pm
9:50-10:10am
11:50am-12:10pm

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Jesus, the older & younger son, the father, us

2. What was the problem?

The younger son left his father to go do what he wanted to do, and it didn't turn out how he expected

3. What did God do?

The dad welcomed his prodigal son with open arms and celebrated - Just like God does for us

4. Why does this matter to me?

Even when I make a mistake or turn away from God, He forgives me and wants me to come back to Him

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Example: I can ask God for forgiveness and come back to Him; I can show love to those who return to God; I can pray for those who might be far from God right now



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents arrive after service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing them the announcement card and ensuring they take their weekly **Lesson Card**.