



Lesson 49

2s & 3s

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

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, our mission is something sticky and sweet! We get to be big helpers and bring peanut butter and jelly to help families get ready for school.

Our church friends—called the ACTS ministry—share what we bring with kids and families right here in our community, and YOU get to be a part of it.

From now until August 2nd & 3rd, bring 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 time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

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.



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.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by discussing the Big 3 questions.



SAY:

Answer THE BIG 3 questions to help kids prepare for the lesson

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



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 transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."



Craft Example



6:25-6:40pm
9:25-9:40am
11:25-11:40am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video
([Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s](#))



SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!



DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class.
To access these videos, go to [Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s](#) folder.

SONG 1: This is My Commandment

SONG 2: Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam

SONG 3: Fishers of Men



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

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.

Supplies: "I Thank God" worship song in Plex

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! Let's throw a party of worship right now to celebrate that amazing news! ***Invite kids to stand and play "I Thank God" from Plex as you worship together.***



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!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: party hat



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.



SAY:

Hi Hamilton! **Hamilton waves excitedly wearing party hat.** What are you wearing? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh! You've got a party to go to? What are you celebrating? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Your friend just got back home? That's so fun! It reminds me of one of Jesus' special stories he told in the Bible. Do you want to listen to our story with us to learn more? **Hamilton nods excitedly.** Friends, if you're ready to hear our Bible story today, can you wiggle your ears with me? **Wiggle ears together.** Let's dive in!



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.



SAY:

When Jesus lived on earth, He told lots of different stories called parables to teach his followers an important lesson about how to live. Can we all say parable together? Parable! Today's parable is called the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Here's what Jesus taught:

- There was a man who had two sons.
- The younger son asked his father for all his share of his father's money. The younger son wanted to leave his family to go do whatever he wanted.
- So, the younger son left and spent all his money. He had nothing, and he was hungry. So, he went to work feeding pigs. He was so hungry he wanted to eat the pig food! **Would you want to eat pig food? No!**
- The younger son remembered what it was like with his family, so he decided to go back and beg his dad to let him be a servant in the house.
- When his father saw him coming home, he went running and was so excited! The father threw the younger son a BIG party to celebrate!

Just like the father was so happy when his son came back home, God rejoices when we come back to Him! God loves us and God pursues us!

6:40-6:55pm
9:40-9:55am
11:40-11:55am

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.



SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the kids remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing the hand motions.



SAY:

Today our God statement is **God Pursues Us!**

Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.



DO:

God (hand vertical in front of face bring down to chest)

Pursues Us (point to self)



ACTIVITY- Follow the Path Home

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: footprint cutouts



SAY:

Today, we learned about a son who left home but realized he missed his family and wanted to come back. Even though he had left, his father was so excited when he came back. That's how God is with us - no matter how many bad things we do or if we walk away from God, He always welcomes us back and celebrates when we come back to Him!



DO:

Lay the footprints out to make a path from one side of the room to the other. Have kids stand on one side of the room while the leader stands on the other side. Tell kids to walk on the footprints over to the leader. When they reach the leader, the leader can give them a hug and say "God pursues you!"

6:55-7:10pm
9:55-10:10am
11:55am-12:10pm

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class.



DO:

- Play “I Spy” focusing on color, shape, and letter recognition
- Freeze Dance
- Duck, Duck, Goose
- Hot Potato
- Charades
- Odd One Out Game
- Hokey, Pokey
- Popcorn Parachute Game
- Read a book or a story out of picture Bible
- Gather paper and crayons and practice drawing

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 Explore craft, utilize the prayer station or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.