



Life of Christ

Will Jesus ever leave us?

Luke 15:11-27

Younger Verse

No one can snatch you out of God's Hand. John 10:28 paraphrased

Older Verse

I (God) give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.
John 10:28

Lesson Goals

Know that Jesus will never leave us if we believe in Him
Understand how much Jesus loves us

Welcome Time

Have you ever had a friend that promised to be your friend forever? Then, one day they weren't your friend anymore? Do you think Jesus would ever do that? Let's see as Jesus tells one of His stories.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Some people may wonder if Jesus will ever leave them if they do something wrong. Jesus tells a story to help us learn how much God loves us and how He will never leave us.

Once there was a man who had two sons. One day the younger son said to his father, "I'm tired of being at home, doing lots of work. I want to go away; so give me my share of the family fortune now."

Without a word, the father handed him his share of the fortune. With money in his bag, the son started off for the big city. He spent his money partying and doing whatever he wanted.

One morning he woke up to find that his money was all gone. He had spent all he had. Worse still, there was very little food available.

He was in real need. He finally found a job looking after pigs! He was so hungry that he would have been glad to eat the pig-food himself.

At last he had an idea. "Here I am starving when back at home even my father's servants get plenty of food to eat. I will go back and tell my father how sorry I am. He won't take me back as his son, but maybe he will let me work on the farm with the other servants."

He started off at once, painfully walking on bare feet and pulling his dirty clothes around his body.

When he was still a long way from home, his father saw him and ran to meet him, full of love and joy. He threw his arms around him and tears of joy fell from his cheeks.

"I'm sorry, Father," the boy said, "I'm not fit to be your son."

But the father would not let him say another word. He turned to the servants.

"Get my son the best robe and bring sandals for his feet. Put my ring on his finger. Then get ready--we're going to have a party to celebrate his return!"

We can learn several things from this story. First, Jesus told this story to show that God loves everyone and wants them to come to Him. Just like the son told the father that he did wrong, we must tell God we are sorry for the wrong things we have done.

Just like the father forgave the son and welcomed him home, God forgives us and welcomes us into His family! Did you know that God loves us that much? He does! Would you like to be part of God's forever family?

Another lesson is that once you are part of God's family, He will NEVER leave us or forget us. The father in the story never gave up on the son. He loved him and cared for him even when the boy wanted his way. Sometimes we want our way and run far from God. God loves us and cares for us. He promises that when we are part of His family, He will always stay with us.

That doesn't mean that we can do whatever we want because God will always forgive us. We should always want to do things God's way and follow Him. If we do sin, He promises to forgive us and clean out our sin. We must promise to do right.

Learning Activities

Use the activities that will help the children learn and live the lesson!

Memory Verse Activities

Talk about how God promises that nothing can take us out of His hand. Share how God guarantees that we will always be part of His family if we believe in Him.

Prayer Time

Circle up and ask God to help us forgive others like He has done for us.

Snack Time/CleanUp

There are some cute snacks to make for this week or bring some goodies from the mission.

Planning for March 17th
Jesus rides a donkey
Matthew 21:1-11

Preschool Lesson
For
The Lost Son

Jesus told a story to a crowd of people:

There was a man who had two sons. One day the younger son said to his father, "I'm tired of being at home, doing lots of work. I want to go away; so give me my share of the family money now."

Without a word, the father handed him his share of the money. (Bring pennies and jingle them in your hands) With money in his bag, the son started off for the bright lights of the town. He spent his money partying and doing whatever he wanted.

One morning he woke up to find that his money was all gone. He had spent all he had. Worse still, there was very little food to eat.

He was soon in real need. He finally found a job looking after pigs! He was so hungry that he would have been glad to eat the pig-food himself.

At last he had an idea. "Here I am starving when back at home even my father's servants get plenty of food to eat. I will go back and tell my father how sorry I am. He won't take me back as his son, but maybe he will let me work on the farm with the other servants."

He started off at once, painfully walking on bare feet. When he was still a long way from home, his father saw him and ran to meet him, full of love and joy. He threw his arms around him and hugged him.

"I'm sorry, Father," the boy said, "I'm not fit to be your son."

But the father would not let him say another word. He turned to the servants. "Get my son the best robe and bring sandals for his feet. Put my ring on his finger. Then get ready--we're going to have a party to celebrate his return!"

Jesus told this story to show that God loves everyone. Just like the father ran to see his son, God loves us and always wants to hear from us. We can pray to Him and He hears and listens to our prayers.

Pray and thank God that He loves us and cares for us. He will never leave us or forget us.

Try using little puppets to act out the story. Let all the kids help.

Hands-On Activities
For
Will Jesus ever Leave us?

Act out the story or use the puppets.

Make the pods and peanuts snack.

Design little pigs out of pink marshmallows and toothpicks.

Play the lost ribbon game.

Try the Senses game. Talk about all the good and bad things that the lost son saw, heard, smelled, tasted, and touched.

Be sensitive to the needs of the kids today. There may be some that want to trust Jesus today. Help them understand what it means to tell God they are sorry for the wrongs they have done.

Talk about how God promises that He will never leave us or forget us if we believe in Him. Some kids can relate to what it means for someone to leave them. They may have had a Father, Mother, or relative leave them. They know what it means to hurt and feel sad that someone has not kept their promise. Reassure them that Jesus promises to never leave us when we believe in Him. He will be our best friend forever.