

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for children

Life of Christ

The Lost Son comes home Luke 15:11-27

Younger Verse

Work for the Lord. Colossians 3:23

Older Verse

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23

Welcome Time

Greet each child with open arms like the father greeted the son in today's story.

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.*

Jesus told a story called a parable 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 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 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 a famine in the land, so there was very little food available.

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 and pulling his ragged clothes around his thin 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!"

Lesson Goals

Understand how much God loves us

Love others like God loves us

See what it means to repent; tell God we are sorry for what we've done wrong

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. There is a big word that means this. It is the word repentance. It means that you are sorry for the things that you did wrong.

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? Talk to me about it during activity time or snack time.

Learning Activities

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

Memory Verse Activities

Print Col. 3:23 on index cards, one phrase on each card. Make enough cards so there is at least one card for every two students. Place cards face up around the room. Divide the group into pairs. Students pair up back to back and move around the room collecting the phrases in order. When all the cards are picked up, come together and talk about what it means to work together for God.

Prayer Time

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

Snack Time/CleanUp

Make cute marshmallow pigs or bring some goodies from the mission.

Planning for Sept. 19th
The manager and the money
Luke 16:1-15

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! (Make oink noises) 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.

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

Hands-on Activities
for
The Lost Son

Bring an Etch-a-Sketch. Draw several pictures and let the kids “rate” them. Now, erase the drawing and start over. Share how God’s forgiveness allows us to “start over.” Share how God will forgive and forget our sin. It is ALSO important for us to start doing things God’s way and not do the wrong things again. (idea from Children’s Ministry magazine)

Act out the story or use the puppets.

Let the kids color a picture of the man with the pigs. For us, use either chocolate pudding or brown tempera paint to finger paint the “mud” in the picture.

Design little pigs out of marshmallows and toothpicks.

Play the lost ribbon game. Hide a ribbon in the room while everyone is not looking. Now let the kids try to find it. Share how happy the father was when the lost son was found! Share how happy Jesus is when we come to Him.

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 be repentant and tell God they are sorry for the wrongs they have done.