

At Home Lesson **The Forgiving Father** **(Luke 15:11-32)**

Gather your family together. Start off in prayer. Pray for each other, the church, the leaders around the world, and people who you know are in need. Ask God to teach your family something during this time together. Tell the Bible story and discuss. Stay open and make sure kids are invited to participate however, they are comfortable.

BIBLE STORY

Today's lesson comes from Luke 15:11-32. You can read the verses from the bible you have at home, watch the video on <https://jcbc.org/jcbc-kids-online/>, and/or read below (NIRV):

"Jesus continued, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger son spoke to his father. He said, 'Father, give me my share of the family property.' So the father divided his property between his two sons.

"Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away. There he wasted his money on wild living. He spent everything he had. Then the whole country ran low on food. So the son didn't have what he needed. He went to work for someone who lived in that country. That person sent the son to the fields to feed the pigs. The son wanted to fill his stomach with the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything.

"Then he began to think clearly again. He said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough food! But here I am dying from hunger! I will get up and go back to my father. I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven. And I have sinned against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" So he got up and went to his father.

"While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him.

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattest calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.' So they began to celebrate.

"The older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants. He asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come home,' the servant replied. 'Your father has

killed the fattest calf. He has done this because your brother is back safe and sound.'

"The older brother became angry. He refused to go in. So his father went out and begged him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've worked like a slave for you. I have always obeyed your orders. You never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But this son of yours wasted your money with some prostitutes. Now he comes home. And for him you kill the fattest calf!'

" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of yours was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.' "

CONNECT AND DISCUSS

Ask these questions and explain these things to your children. Break it down on their level and adapt to their age group. The older your kids are, the more they can explain and think outside the box. Instead of defining words, ask them what it means. For younger kids, make sure to explain in the simplest terms. No matter the age let them answer before you do. Accept their answers and make sure they know you are proud of how hard they are thinking, even if they don't get the "right" answer.

Bible Background Questions

- What is a parable? (A story that didn't really happen, but that teaches us something true about God and people.)
- Who was teaching this parable? (Jesus)
- What part of the Bible is Luke in? (New Testament, it's a Gospel book.)

Parable Questions

- What happened in the story?
- What part of the story do you think is most important?
- If the father in the story represents God, what can we learn about God from this story?
- If the sons in the story represent us, what can we learn about ourselves?
- Think about your father, grandfather, uncle, or any other man in your life who helps teach and lead you. What are some words that describe him/them?
- If you could get your father/grandfather/uncle any gift in the world, what would it be?
- How can you show "thanks" and love to your father/grandfather/uncle this week?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Pray and thank God for being loving, forgiving, and welcoming to God's children. Thank God for the parents, grandparents, and other family and friends who take care of you and show you the love of God.

WORSHIP, CREATE, & PLAY TOGETHER

Sing and dance along to some of our VBS 2020 songs!

[Knights of North Castle](#)

[Jesus Loves Me](#)

[Our God](#)

Act out the story!

Create by doing one of the crafts below!

Pig Plate Craft



What you need:

- paper plate
- white and pink construction paper
- pink paper shreds (find at Dollar Tree or Michaels)
- glue
- a black marker
- scissors

What you do:

- Put glue all over the paper plate.
- Trace and cutout eyes, ears, and a nose.
- Glue the face cutouts on top of the paper shreds.
- Remind kids: *The prodigal son spent all of his money and was so hungry he wanted to eat pig's food. He was sad and lonely, so he went back to his dad. His dad forgave him because he loved him! God will also love you no matter what!*

Father's Day Popsicle Craft



What you need:

- Printable cards (next page)
- White cardstock or printer paper
- Watercolor paints & brushes (optional)
- Markers
- Popsicle sticks
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Eye stickers or googly eyes (optional)

What you do:

- Print the popsicle printable
- Paint or color the popsicle designs and accessories you pick
- Once kids are done painting and coloring in their designs (and everything is dry), they can cut everything out.
- Using a glue stick, glue on the sunglasses or mustache and add the eye stickers or googly eyes.
- To put the card together, glue the back of one of the cards, place a popsicle stick in the middle and the other card on top, pressing firmly.











