



The Lost Son

Lesson Aim: To know God always welcomes us to Him.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Teaches

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 15:11-24

What He Has Done: Jesus taught about a father who welcomed his lost son home.

THE WAY

Bible Memory Verse: "Guide me in Your truth and teach me." Psalm 25:5

Unit 6: The King Who Teaches—Parables 2			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
28	The Rich Fool, Luke 12:15-21	Jesus taught about a rich man who stored up things for himself.	To know God wants us to share.
29	Let Your Light Shine, Matthew 5:14-16	Jesus taught that we should not hide our light.	To be the light of the world.
30	Do Not Worry, Matthew 6:25-34	Jesus taught that He takes care of the birds and the flowers.	To know God takes care of everything.
31	The Lost Son, Luke 15:11-24	Jesus taught about a father who welcomed his lost son home.	To know God always welcomes us to Him.
32	The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30-37	Jesus taught about a man who was a good neighbor.	To show kindness to others.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Revelation 7:9-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for opening Your arms and welcoming anyone who wants to come to You. Pour out Your Spirit so the children's hearts will be open to Your call. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Welcome! Today's lesson teaches us that God always welcomes us to Him. Take opportunities throughout class to talk with the children about what that means. When they are sad or scared, God is always there. When they do the wrong thing, God will always forgive them. God loves them and wants them to know how special they are to Him.



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, sticker of two people hugging or a heart
		Coloring Center: The Lost Son	Coloring pages of a father and son, crayons or markers
		Play-Dough Center: My Family Loves Me	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Dramatic Play Center: A Celebration	Dishes, cups, napkins, play food, tablecloth or placemats, supplies that might be used for a party
	Game Center: God Loves Me!	Three beanbags, basket, heart taped to the side of the basket	
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "This Little Light of Mine"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Guide Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "A New Creation" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Guide Me" "How Wide?" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "We Love"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 6, Lesson 31
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 15:11-24	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 15:20 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, party hat, party noise maker
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Lost Son Puppets	Sturdy white paper, cotton ball, felt or cloth, label or slip of paper, glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Musical Hugs	Praise music
		Game: Welcome!	None
		Snack: Welcome Party	Party snacks and party hats
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 6, Lesson 31
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 15:11-24	None
	Up to 10	Game: "Guide Me" Memory Hop	None
	Up to 10	Game: Follow the Leader	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Guide Me"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about how God welcomes everyone

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a sticker* of two people hugging or a heart. **Let this sticker remind you that God is always happy when you come to Him.**

*Families will be encouraged to keep each child's crafts and stickers for the next ten weeks (Lessons 23-32) in a "Kingdom Stories Treasure Box." See the Craft page and Ponder, Pray & Play card for details.

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: THE LOST SON

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of a father and son, crayons or markers

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Our story today is about a father who welcomed home his son. His son had been gone for a very long time. Have you ever been away from home? (Children respond.) **Were you happy when you went back home?** (Children respond.) **Who were you happy to see?** (Children respond.)

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: MY FAMILY LOVES ME

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about their families. Encourage children to make a happy face out of play-dough to show how they feel when they are loved.

TALK ABOUT

Who is in your family? (Children respond.) If you are comfortable, share who is in your family. **Every family is different, isn't it? But they are all special.**

How do we show love to people in our family? (Hugs, kisses, share, acts of kindness, gifts.) **How do you feel when someone in your family shows you love?** (Happy, loved.) **Let's make a heart and a happy face with the play-dough to remember what it is like to feel loved.**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: A CELEBRATION

SUPPLIES

Dishes, cups, napkins, play food, tablecloth or placemats, supplies that might be used for a party

DO

Children work together to prepare a party.

TALK ABOUT

In today's story, a father has a big party to celebrate his son coming home. Let's pretend we are having a party. Can you make a meal and set the table? Help the children work together to set the table. **What do you like to eat at parties?** (Children respond.)

GAME CENTER: GOD LOVES ME!

SUPPLIES

Three beanbags, basket, heart taped to the side of the basket

DO

Children take turns tossing beanbags into the basket as they talk about God loving them.

TALK ABOUT

God loves when we come to Him. When we pray, sing a song of praise, or read our Bible, we grow closer to God. That makes Him happy. Each time you get the beanbag into the basket, let's cheer and shout "God loves me!"

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"Guide me
in Your truth
and teach**

(guide) Grab fingertips of left hand with right hand. Pull left hand forward.

(truth) The forefinger starts at the chin and moves out and down.

(teach) For both hands, hold fingers and thumb together. Place them near the head and move them outward two times.

me."

The index finger points to yourself.

Psalms 25:5a

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.

Gather the children by welcoming each child to Praise Time by name: **"Welcome name of child!"**



Today, we celebrate because God is happy when we come to Him. Let's come to Him right now in prayer. Have children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for always loving us. We know You are always happy when we come to You. Amen.**



Because God loves us and makes us feel welcome, we can love and welcome others.
Sing: "We Love."

God welcomes us because He loves us. Let's sing about His love as we give our offering.
Sing: "How Wide?" as background music while collecting the offering.



Let's see if Ranger Ryan knows the story about the father who welcomed his son.
Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 6, Lesson 31.



God welcomes us to remember His Word. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together.
Say the Bible Memory Verse together with the motions.

"Guide me	(guide) Grab fingertips of left hand with right hand. Pull left hand forward.
in Your truth	(truth) The forefinger starts at the chin and moves out and down.
and teach	(teach) For both hands, hold fingers and thumb together. Place them near the head and move them outward two times.
me."	The index finger points to yourself.
Psalm 25:5a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



The stories Jesus taught help us understand more about God. Let's ask God to teach us something about Himself by singing our Bible Memory Verse Song. Sing Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Guide Me."



A father welcomes his son home

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 15:20, picture of the Bible story, party hat, party noise maker

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Wear your party hat and make noise with the noise maker. **Today, I have a special hat and a special toy. Where do you see these kinds of hats and toys?** (Parties.) **What kinds of things do we do at parties?** (Children respond.) **Sometimes, we have parties to let someone know we think they are special. In today's story, a father had a big party for his son. Let's find out why.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 15:20.



WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 15:11-24

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **There once was a man with two sons.**
- **The younger son packed up his things.**
- **He spent all his money on fun,**
- **Until he had spent everything.**

- **He worked at his job feeding pigs,**
- **But was hungry and all alone.**
- **He planned to say, "Father, I'm sorry,"**
- **So he started to walk back home.**

- **The father came running to hug his son.**
- **He kissed him and welcomed him home.**
- **He gave him a party. He gave him a ring.**
- **He gave him new shoes and a robe.**

Who did the father hug? (His son.) **The father was happy and welcomed home his son. Is God happy to see you?** (Yes!) **God loves you very much!**



God welcomes you

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

Kingdom Stories Treasure Box: Encourage families to use the instructions on the Ponder, Pray & Play card to make a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box to store children's Kingdom Stories Treasures for the next ten weeks (Lessons 23-32). Children should place their Treasure Chest Sticker on the outside of the box and their parable story crafts inside. Create a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box for the classroom to review the stories each week.

CRAFT: LOST SON PUPPETS

Purpose: To remind the children God always welcomes them to Him.

Supplies: Sturdy white paper, cotton ball, felt or cloth, label or slip of paper, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: Draw or print an outline of a father and a son to cut out from sturdy white paper. Along the bottom, cut two holes which are large enough for a child's fingers. Cut a square of felt or cloth for clothing for the son. On a label or slip of paper, print:

**The Lost Son
Luke 15:11-24**

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. To adapt the craft for younger children, you may choose to simplify or pre-make portions of the craft. One possible adaptation for this craft is to omit the finger holes and instead attach the father and son figures to craft sticks to create puppets.

Directions:

1. Children color the father and son.
2. Glue cotton on the father's chin for a beard.
3. Glue the square of felt or cotton to the son for clothing.
4. Attach the label or slip of paper to the back of the father puppet.
5. Show the children how to put their fingers through the holes to make the father and son walk.

Craft Discussion:

- Read the WATCH THE WORD story again while the children use their puppets to act out the story.
- **Was the father happy to see his son? (Yes!) Use your puppets to show what the father did when he saw his son.** Children make their father puppets run to their son puppets.
- **The father welcomed his son because the father loved him.**
- **God welcomes you, too. God loves you very much!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: MUSICAL HUGS

Purpose: Children will give gentle hugs and see how God's love is like a welcoming hug.

Supplies: Praise music

The father welcomed his son home with a big hug. Let's welcome each other with big hugs.

Directions:

1. Children spread out around the edges of the room.
2. Play song #11 "We Love." Lead the children in dancing and marching around the room.
3. Periodically pause the music and lead the children in finding other children to hug.
4. Play the game several times.

When you get a big, gentle hug, do you feel welcome? (Yes!) Hugs make us feel loved and welcome. God always loves you and He always welcomes you.

GAME: WELCOME!

Purpose: Children are greeted as they walk through an entrance to remember God always welcomes them.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Children stand on the other side of a door or entrance. Note: If you are unable to use the door to your classroom, use two chairs for an entrance.
2. For each child, open the door and say, "**Welcome Name of child! We are glad you are here!**" Warmly welcome each child.
3. After being welcomed, have children help greet the remaining children as they come through the door by saying, "**Welcome Name of child! We are glad you are here!**" with you.

I am so glad you are here! Did you feel special when I welcomed you through the door? (Yes.) God welcomes you like that all the time. He always wants you to feel special!

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: WELCOME PARTY

Purpose: Children will enjoy a snack that reminds them God welcomes them.

Snack Suggestion: Party snacks and party hats

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **The father was very happy to see his son. He had a big party to show how much he loved him. Have you ever had a birthday party? How did you feel? (Children respond.) Did you feel loved? (Children respond.)**
 - **Close your eyes and pretend God is giving you a big party. Imagine getting a big hug from God and hearing Him say, "I am happy you are here." Now, open your eyes. How do you feel? (Good, happy.)**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Guide me	(guide) Grab fingertips of left hand with right hand. Pull left hand forward.
in Your truth	(truth) The forefinger starts at the chin and moves out and down.
and teach	(teach) For both hands, hold fingers and thumb together. Place them near the head and move them outward two times.
me."	The index finger points to yourself.
Psalm 25:5a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: LUKE 15:11-24

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the Bible Story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **There once was a man with two sons.** (Raise two fingers.)
- **The younger son packed up his things.** (Walk in place.)
- **He spent all his money on fun,** (Pretend to hold money.)
- **Until he had spent everything.** (Show empty hands.)

- **He worked at his job feeding pigs,** (Pretend to toss food.)
- **But was hungry and all alone.** (Pat tummy.)
- **He planned to say, "Father, I'm sorry,"** (Clasp hands.)
- **So he started to walk back home.** (Walk in place.)

- **The father came running to hug his son.** (Run in place.)
- **He kissed him and welcomed him home.** (Blow a kiss.)
- **He gave him a party. He gave him a ring.** (Point to imaginary ring.)
- **He gave him new shoes and a robe.** (Point to shoes.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Guide me in Your truth and teach me." Psalm 25:5

GAME: "GUIDE ME" MEMORY HOP

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Let's learn our new Bible Memory Verse! With each word I say, I want you to repeat it and take one hop toward me. When you get close enough to touch the Bible I'm holding, you may sit.

Directions:

1. Children stand shoulder to shoulder at one end of the room. If you have a large class, divide them into groups and have the groups take turns playing.
2. Teacher stands at the opposite end of the room, holding an open Bible.
3. Teacher says each word of the Bible Memory Verse. As the children repeat each word, they take one hop toward the teacher.
4. When each child is close enough, they touch the Bible and then sit down.
5. Teacher repeats the Bible Memory Verse until each child has touched the Bible and is seated.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: FOLLOW THE LEADER

Purpose: Children will play "Follow the Leader" to understand God is their leader who guides them in understanding His truth.

Supplies: Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Guide Me"

Directions:

1. **Let's play "Follow the Leader." Follow me and I will show you what to do.**
2. Line the children up behind you.
3. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Guide Me."
4. As you walk around the room, act out various actions for the children to imitate as they follow you. Actions may include hopping, skipping, patting your head, turning in circles, dancing, etc.
5. Play for a few minutes.
6. **You did a good job of following me. I was guiding you to know where to go. God guides us and teaches us in His Word, the Bible. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together.** Children say the Bible Memory Verse with the motions.
7. If time remains, let children take turns being the leader.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about how God welcomes everyone.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 6, Lesson 31: The Lost Son

PONDER! Jesus told the story of the lost son (Luke 15:11-24). How did the father welcome his son home? (With a hug and a party!) God always welcomes you. Hug everyone in your family to show how God's love is like a big hug!

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for always welcoming us. Help us to remember You love and welcome us every day no matter what. Amen."

PLAY! Open your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box (any decorated box). Put today's craft inside. Put your Treasure Box Sticker on the outside. During the week, take out your craft treasures to remind your family of Jesus' stories.

UNIT 6 BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Guide me	(guide) Grab fingertips of left hand with right hand. Pull left hand forward.
in Your truth	(truth) The forefinger starts at the chin and moves out and down.
and teach	(teach) For both hands, hold fingers and thumb together. Place them near the head and move them outward two times.
me."	The index finger points to yourself.
Psalm 25:5a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.