



The Lost Son

Lesson Aim: To know God welcomes us.

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

Whisper Verse: "You are welcome."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior." 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 be generous.
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 welcomes us.
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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, sticker of two people hugging or a heart
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "You are welcome."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Guide Me" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "How Wide" "It's Praise Time" "Love One Another" "Sing Praises" "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "This Is the Day" "This Little Light of Mine" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Cedarhurst Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		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: "Lost Son Puppets" craft sample
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, optional: yarn, eye stickers
		Game: Scramble for Hugs	None
		Game: Welcome!	None
		Snack: Welcome Party	Party snacks and party hats
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 6, Lesson 31 Color This Story: "The Lost Son"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 15:11-24	None
	Up to 10	Game: "Guide Me" Memory Hop	Bible open to Psalm 25:5
	Up to 10	Game: Follow the Leader	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about how God welcomes everyone

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



You are welcome

THE WELCOME

Teacher Tip: For lessons 23-32, use stickers in the Treasure Chest for children to add to their Kingdom Stories Treasure Box. See the craft page for further instructions.

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 to see you. Imagine how it would feel to have God give you a great, big hug to welcome you. Today's Whisper Verse is "You are welcome."** Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "You are welcome."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"You"	The index finger of the right hand points forward as the arm moves forward from body at waist level.
"(are) welcome."	With right palm facing up, move arm toward the body as if bringing something to yourself.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "You are welcome," Judges 19:20. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WORSHIP

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 “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to that designated area.

It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to King Jesus. In the Bible, Jesus tells us stories that help us understand God’s kingdom. Last time, we learned Jesus said, “Do not worry.” Just as God cares for the birds and the flowers, He will take care of all our needs. Today, we will hear Jesus’ story about a father who welcomed his son. That’s what our Whisper Verse is about. Let’s whisper, “You are welcome.” Review Whisper Verse together: “You are welcome.” Include sign language.



When we say, “You are welcome,” we are saying, “Come join us—we are glad you are here!” Turn to your neighbor and say, “You are welcome.” God welcomes each of us into this place to praise Him today. Sing: “This Is the Day.”

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.

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: “Guide Me.”



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, our heavenly Father, loves us like that father loved his son. Even when we do wrong, God still loves us. Because God loves us and makes us feel welcome, we can love and welcome others. Sing: “We Love.”



The lost son

THE WORD

Additional Supplies: Classroom Kingdom Stories Treasure Box, Lesson 30 “Don't Worry Flower” craft sample

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.

Open the Classroom Kingdom Stories Treasure Box to display the Lesson 30 “Don't Worry Flower” craft sample. **Last time, we learned you don't need to worry because God will always take care of you. Who would like to tell the story, we learned last time, about how birds and flowers don't worry?** Let one or two children take a turn telling the story while they hold the craft sample.

Today, we will hear the story of how the father welcomed his son. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 15:20.

WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 15:11-24

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a “Lost Son Puppets” craft sample. Other visual options include Color This Story or any related picture.

- **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 and kiss? (His son.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Luke 15:20 from the teacher's Bible. **The father was happy and welcomed his son back home.**

Is God happy to see you? (Yes!) God says, “You are welcome.” That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it together: “You are welcome.” Include sign language or hand motions.



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.

Teacher Tip: 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, optional: yarn, eye stickers

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**

Optional: Add yarn for hair and/or wiggle eyes.

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!**
- **God says our Whisper Verse to you. Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse, "You are welcome," together with the hand motions.

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: SCRAMBLE FOR HUGS

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

Supplies: None

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

Directions:

1. Children spread out around the edges of the room.
2. On your signal, children say and sign the Whisper Verse, "You are welcome."
3. Children run to gently hug as many other children as they can before you say "Freeze!"
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, "Name of child, **you are welcome! I am 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 and signing, "**You are welcome,**" 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 cares for everything.

Snack Suggestion: Party snack and party hats

Directions:

1. Serve drink. Wait to hand out the party hats and to serve the snack.
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. Let's put on our party hats and eat our party snack.** Hand out the party hats and serve the snack.
 - **Have you ever had a birthday party? How did you feel?** (Children respond.) **Did you feel loved and welcomed?** (Children respond.)
 - **God always loves and welcomes you. Close your eyes and pretend God is giving you a big welcoming party. Imagine getting a big hug from God and hearing Him say, "You are welcome." Now, open your eyes. How do you feel?** (Good, happy.)
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "You are welcome." **God always welcomes you!**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Lost Son Puppets" craft. Use your puppets to tell the story of the lost son. Put your "Lost Son Puppets" in your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box when you get home. You can make your Treasure Box from any box. Remember to put your sticker of two people hugging or a heart on the outside of your Treasure Box.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God loves and welcomes you.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Lost Son." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Guide Me" as children color.



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, for You are God my Savior." Psalm 25:5

GAME: "GUIDE ME" MEMORY HOP

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

Supplies: Bible, open to Psalm 25:5

Let's review our 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: None

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. Walk around the room acting 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.
3. Play for a few minutes.
4. **You did a good job of following me. I am your teacher. I led you in the game by showing you the way to play. 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.
5. **Everything God teaches us is called His Truth. We can always find His Truth in the Bible. In the Bible, God teaches us about Himself and His world. He guides us in knowing how to love Him.**
6. 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! Read Luke 15:11-24 with your family. Use your puppets to tell the story. How did the father welcome his son home? He welcomed him with a hug and a party! God always welcomes you. Does He welcome you even when you do wrong? He does! 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! Find and decorate a box to be your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box. Put today's craft inside your Treasure Box. Put your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box Sticker on the outside. During the week, take out your craft treasures to remind your family of Jesus' stories. Act out the story of the lost son.

Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse: Psalm 25:5

"Guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior."