



The Lost Son

Lesson Aim: To know God always welcomes us back to Him.
 (Salvation Message)

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.

Key Verse: Luke 15:24

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Joel 2:32

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." "Jesus said, 'Go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name.'" Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16b

| 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 rich toward Him. |
| 29 | The Talents, Matthew 25:14-30 | Jesus taught about a master who entrusted his servants with money. | To know we should be faithful with whatever God gives us. |
| 30 | The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, Luke 18:9-14 | Jesus taught about the importance of a humble attitude. | To know God looks at the attitude of our hearts, not our deeds. |
| 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 back to Him. (Salvation Message) |
| 32 | The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30-37 | Jesus taught about a man who was a good neighbor. | To show kindness and love sacrificially. |

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 come to You. Amen."

TREASURE TREAT

The Treasure Treat for Units 5 and 6 is a Kingdom Parable Journal. Each week, children receive Kingdom Parable Stickers to add to their journal. The journal and stickers are available at ResourceWell.org. You may print the stickers on sticker paper or on sturdy paper and attach with glue.

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

| Segment | Minutes | Activity | Supplies |
|-------------|----------|---|--|
| THE WELCOME | Up to 15 | Meet & Greet | None |
| | | Game: Handshake Marathon | Paper, pencils, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song CD, CD player |
| 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: "The Fruit of the Spirit" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am the Way" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "Well Done" "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Amazing Grace" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz |
| | | Worship Scripture Reading: John 14:6 | Bible |
| | | Offering | Baskets |
| | | Worship Illustration | Lesson 31 Critter Kingdom script or storybook |
| THE WORD | Up to 10 | Read the Word: Luke 15:20-24 (Abbreviated to provide more time for the salvation message.) | Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters |
| THE WAY | Up to 25 | Discuss the Word | Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters, Children's Guide for New Believers (available at ResourceWell.org) |
| | | Christ Connection: Joel 2:32 | |
| | | Golden Bowl | |
| | Final 5 | Final Five Minutes | Treasure Treat—Lost Son Kingdom Parable Stickers, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Fruit of the Spirit," CD player |
| GOT TIME? | Up to 10 | Snack: Pig Slop | Chocolate pudding, raisins, nuts, gummy worms, crushed cookies, spoons, bowls |
| | Up to 10 | Game: Homecoming Relay | 2 robes, 2 finger rings, 2 pairs of slip-on sandals, 2 spoons, 2 plastic bowls, floor tape |
| | Up to 10 | Craft: Parable Wind Chimes—The Lost Son | Ribbon, large bead, clothespin, pipe cleaners, cloth, cotton balls, glue, tape, markers, hole punch |
| | | Discussion: The Angry Brother | Bible, open to Luke 15:25-32 |
| | Up to 5 | Bonus Parable: The Unforgiving Servant | Bible open to Matthew 18:21-35, The Unforgiving Servant Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org) |
| | Up to 5 | Bible Memory Verse Activity: Fruit Concentrate | Orange paper, marker, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster |
| | Up to 10 | Bible Memory Verse Activity: Fruit of the Spirit Hopscotch | Stone, bottle cap, or shell colored like a fruit, chalk or floor tape, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, paint or markers |
| | Up to 5 | Kingdom Parable Review | Parable titles printed on footprint-shaped paper |

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is the most disgusting thing you have eaten?

GAME: HANDSHAKE MARATHON

Purpose: To introduce the welcome theme as children shake hands and collect signatures.

Supplies: Paper, pencils, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song CD, CD player

What do people do to welcome each other? (Handshake, hug, "hello.") **Let's make up our own secret handshake that we can use to welcome each other.** (Handshake example: Use right hand for traditional shake, then high-five, then snap fingers.)

Directions:

1. As a large group, children design a three-part secret handshake.
2. Each child receives a pencil and piece of paper, and writes name at top of his or her paper.
3. Start music.
4. Using the secret handshake, each child shakes as many hands as possible.
5. After each handshake, children sign each other's paper to show handshake was completed.
6. When the song ends, children count signatures to see who has the most handshakes.

People welcome each other in many ways. Today, we are going to learn the story about the lost son and how his father welcomed him home. God also welcomes you back to Himself.



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 music as children move to the designated area.

Salvation Message: This worship time includes an explanation of how Jesus made a way (like a bridge) for whoever believes in Him to no longer be separated from God, the Father. This illustration is called "The Bridge of Salvation" and it includes a personal invitation to receive Christ as Lord and Savior. It is included at the end of the Kingdom Critter script, or two leaders may present the salvation message using "The Bridge of Salvation" illustration available for download at ResourceWell.org under Children—Other Resources.



Today, we worship Jesus as our Teacher. In the Parable of the Lost Son, Jesus teaches us about a father who forgave his son and welcomed Him back with a big celebration. It is a picture of the way our Father in heaven loves us and always welcomes us to be with Him. As we give our offering, picture Him welcoming us from His throne in heaven. Sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" while collecting the offering.



Just as the father welcomed the son, our heavenly Father welcomes us when we come to Him. Jesus clearly explains the way we can come to God the Father in John 14:6. Read John 14:6.



Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 6, Lesson 31.



Present the salvation message using "The Bridge of Salvation," or invite children who want to come back to God through believing in Jesus to pray the ABC prayer (or a similar prayer of salvation) with you now.

ABC PRAYER (Admit – Believe – Come)

Lord Jesus,

I Admit I am a sinner.

I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away.

Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.



Now, we will celebrate anyone's choice to come back to God! Sing "I Am the Way." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on being close with God.



The lost son

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Teacher Tip: The Bible reading below has been abbreviated to provide more time for the salvation message. If time allows, read Luke 15:11-24. The rest of the story is located in the Got Time Discussion: The Angry Brother.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned about the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. In that parable we learned that God wants our hearts to be humble, not proud. Today, we've heard the Parable of the Lost Son. The son took his money and left home. What happened to his money? (He spent it on wild living.) After he spent all his money, he had to work feeding pigs. He was so hungry, he longed to eat the pig food! He decided to return home and ask to work for his father.



Let's play Find It First and then read what happened when the son returned home. Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 15:20-24. Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go! Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. Let's highlight our Key Verse: Luke 15:24.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. Be seated. Read Luke 15:20-24.



God the Father forgives and welcomes us

THE WAY

What did the son do when he left his father? (He spent his money on wild living in a distant land.) **What did the father do when he saw his son coming home?** (Hugged and kissed him.) **What did the son say to his father?** ("Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.") **How is the lost son like us when we choose to do things our way instead of God's way?** (Children respond.)

This parable is like a picture of the times when our hearts go to a distant land far from our heavenly Father. Display coin, ring and sandal strap. **Here are three symbols of the parable to remind us of the ways our heavenly Father welcomes us when we come to Him.**

1. **MONEY (Coin or currency):** The money reminds us of forgiveness. The father forgave the son for taking the money and spending it all on wild living. Just as the son went far from his father, when we spend our time and savings on something else, our hearts feel far from God. **What kinds of things keep our hearts far from God?** (Children respond.) **Take seven seconds of silence to think about something you do that keeps your heart far from God. Silently ask God to forgive you and He will!** Children bow heads in silent confession for seven seconds.
2. **RING:** When the son came back, what did the father give him? (Ring, robe, sandals, feast.) **What do those gifts mean to you?** (Children respond.) **The ring reminds us of God's love because it has no end. The robe reminds us He cares for us. We belong to Him.**
3. **SANDAL STRAP (Leather shoelace or twine):** What does the gift of sandals mean to you? (Children respond.) **The sandals remind us we can walk with God every day. When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts forever. The Holy Spirit helps us do things God's way instead of our way.**

Earlier today, some of you may have prayed the ABC Prayer. If you prayed that prayer or one like it, you will live forever close with God! Did you know that whenever anyone prays a prayer like that, all of heaven celebrates, just as the father celebrated with his son in the parable? What do you think heaven's celebration looks like? (Children respond.) Supply any child who prayed the ABC prayer of salvation with a Children's Guide for New Believers available at ResourceWell.org for next steps in nurturing their spiritual growth.

If time allows, read the The Angry Brother discussion located in the Got Time? segment.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Without Jesus, we are like the lost son, far from our heavenly Father. God the Father welcomes and forgives us when we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Jesus saves all who believe in Him from a life forever apart from God. 800 years before Jesus told this parable, the prophet Joel explained how we can be saved for a life forever close with God.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Joel 2:32. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Joel 2:32.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is the Lost Son Kingdom Parable Sticker. You will also receive a bonus sticker for the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (see Bonus Parable in GOT TIME?). You can discover more about this parable in this week's Daily Way. Keep your Kingdom Parable Journal at home and collect all twenty Kingdom Parable Stickers by joining us here each time.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 31 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the father hugging his son. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The Fruit of the Spirit," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: PIG SLOP

Purpose: Children mix their own visually unappealing, yet tasty, snack representing the pig food from the parable.

Snack Suggestion: Chocolate pudding, raisins, nuts, gummy worms, crushed cookies, (or other ingredients locally available to you), spoons, bowls

The son in our story ran away from home. What happened when he ran out of money? (He was so hungry he ate pig food.) **Pigs dig through dirt to eat roots, bugs, and worms, or they eat a mixture of people's food scraps called slop. How do you think the hungry son felt to watch the pigs eat?** (Children respond.) **Mix together as many snack items as you want to make your own pig slop. You can use chocolate pudding as mud, raisins and gummy worms as bugs, and crushed cookies as dirt! How do you think this meal compares to the fancy feast the father gave his son upon his return?** (Children respond.)

Directions:

1. Distribute snack and drinks.
2. Children mix together ingredients to create the most disgusting mix they are still willing to eat.
3. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is the best meal you have ever eaten?"**

GAME: HOMECOMING RELAY

Purpose: To remind the children of the gifts the father gave the son upon his return

Supplies: 2 robes, 2 finger rings, 2 pairs of slip-on sandals, 2 spoons, 2 plastic bowls, floor tape

Prepare: Use floor tape to mark the starting line. Place the bowls on the opposite end of the play area. Place the robes, rings, sandals, and spoons in two piles at the starting line.

In today's parable, the father welcomed his lost son home with gifts of a robe, a ring, sandals, and a feast. In this relay race, we will put on these gifts and run the race.

Directions:

1. Divide the children into 2 teams standing single file behind the starting line.
2. On your signal, the first child from each team puts on the robe, ring, and sandals.
3. The first child then takes the spoon, races to tap the bowl with the spoon, and then returns to the starting line.
4. The child then takes off the robe, ring, and sandals and gives the spoon to the second child who repeats steps 2 and 3. The first child sits near his or her team.
5. The first team to have all their children complete the race is the winner.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PARABLE WIND CHIMES—THE LOST SON

Purpose: Create a wind chime strand to remember the Parable of the Lost Son.

Supplies: Ribbon, large bead, clothespin (doll-style), pipe cleaners, cloth, cotton balls, glue, tape, markers, hole punch

Prepare: Cut a 20-inch and a 4-inch piece of ribbon. Cut pipe cleaners in half. Cut cloth into 3-inch x 3" squares for robes (adjust for the size of the clothespin). Cut slits in the cloth for armholes. To keep the wind chime balanced, punch a hole about 1-inch from the edge, directly opposite from the strand attached in the previous lesson.

Optional: Use a large bead to secure the 20-inch ribbon above the plate. Substitute beads with any materials available: buttons, shells, stones, small metal objects, etc. Display a finished craft.

Teacher Clue: Parable Wind Chimes will be completed in Lessons 23-32 as the parables of Jesus are taught. Each session, a new strand representing the parable will be added to the paper plate base of the wind chimes. To maintain balance in the wind chimes as they are being created, punch holes directly opposite from each other when adding a new strand. Be sure to have extra paper plates and 30-inch ribbon hangers available for new children who come in future sessions.

What did the father do when his son came home? (He gave his son a hug, kiss, ring, robe, sandals, and a party.) **What are the three ways God welcomes us back when we come to Him?** (Forgives us, loves and cares for us forever, helps us walk with Him every day.) **Let's make a wind chime strand of the father with open arms, waiting for his son's return. Each time you look at the strand, remember that God welcomes you back every time you wander from Him.**

Directions:

1. Thread the 20-inch ribbon through the hole on the edge of the plate and tie a knot large enough to prevent the ribbon from pulling back through the plate.
2. Tie a bead to the bottom of the 20-inch ribbon.
3. Draw a father's face on the round top of the clothespin.
4. Glue cotton to the father's head as hair and to the father's face as a beard.
5. Glue the back of the father to the middle of ribbon.
6. Bend half of a pipe cleaner around the father to create arms. Secure with tape or glue.
7. Put a robe on the father by sliding the pipe cleaner arms through small slits in the cloth.
8. Tie the 4-inch ribbon around father's robe to secure.
9. Spread pipe cleaner arms open as if ready to hug a son.

DISCUSSION: THE ANGRY BROTHER

Purpose: To read and discuss the older brother's role in the Parable of the Lost Son.

Supplies: Bible, open to Luke 15:25-32

At the end of the Parable of the Lost Son, we learn about the older son. Check it out in Luke 15:25-32. Read Luke 15:25-32. **How did the brother feel about the celebration?** (He was angry because he had never been given such a celebration.) **He knew his father gave his younger brother many gifts he did not deserve or earn. How do those undeserved gifts remind you of our gifts from God?** (We don't deserve or earn forgiveness or blessings—they are free gifts.) **Was the father wrong to forgive the younger son and have a big celebration?** (No.) **What would have been the right thing for the brother to say and do when he heard his lost brother was back?** (He should have been happy for his whole family, welcomed his brother, and enjoyed the celebration.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

BONUS PARABLE: THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

Purpose: To introduce and discuss another parable Jesus taught His followers.

Supplies: Bible, open to Matthew 18:21-35; The Unforgiving Servant Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)

Today's bonus parable is the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. Child or teacher reads Matthew 18:21-35. **A debt is something that is owed. Forgiving a debt is choosing to never collect on that debt. When the servant couldn't pay, what did the king do?** (He forgave the debt, the servant owed nothing.) **God's punishment for sin is death. We can't pay that punishment, so God sent Jesus to die in our place. What did it mean for believers when Jesus took our punishment for us?** (All who believe in Him are forgiven for all our sins.) **Just as we are forgiven, we should forgive others. Did the forgiven servant forgive the servant who owed him? (No.) What did the king do about that?** (He sent the unforgiving servant to prison.) **Is there someone who has wronged you or owes you something? If so, ask God to help you forgive as God has forgiven you. In the Lord's Prayer, what does Jesus teach us to pray about forgiveness?** ("Forgive us our debts/sins/trespasses as we forgive those who have debts/sin/trespass against us.")



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." "Jesus said, 'Go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name.'" Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16b

GAME: FRUIT CONCENTRATE

Purpose: Children will match pairs of fruit of the Spirit listed in the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Orange paper, marker, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut 18 6-inch circles to resemble the shape of an (oversized) orange fruit. Print a fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) on each of the orange circles. Create two identical sets. Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Choose a child to shuffle all 18 oranges, keeping the printed side down.
2. Choose another child to lay all 18 oranges face down on the floor or a table.
3. Children take turns turning over two oranges at a time to see if they can find a match.
4. When a correct match is made, the pair remains in the face-up position.
5. When an incorrect match is made, both are returned to the face-down position.
6. Continue making matches until all of the words are face-up.

Who can remember all nine fruits of the Spirit? (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.) **The opposite of love is hate. What are the opposites of the other fruits of the Spirit?** (Children respond.)

Name a fruit of the Spirit that others already see in your daily life. (Children respond.) **Name a fruit of the Spirit that others rarely see in you.** (Children respond.) **All who believe in Jesus have the Holy Spirit in their hearts. This week, ask God to help you show the fruit of the Spirit that others don't usually see in you.**

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT HOPSCOTCH

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse by repetition as they play hopscotch.

Supplies: One stone, bottle cap, or shell, one piece of chalk or floor tape, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, paint or markers

Prepare: Paint or color the stone, bottle cap, or shell to look like a fruit. Use chalk or floor tape to create a hopscotch pattern on the floor. Use 10 squares for your hopscotch pattern. Number the squares consecutively. Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. For large groups of children, create additional hopscotch patterns and provide additional "fruit" to toss so groups can play simultaneously.

Teacher Clue: Assist younger children by having all children chant the words with each hop the child takes. Assist in "fruit" toss as needed.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a single-file line at the bottom of the hopscotch pattern.
2. The first child tosses the "fruit" into square number 1.
3. The child then hops through the hopscotch pattern, skipping the square with the fruit marker. With each hop in squares 2-10, the child says one word of the first part of the Bible Memory Verse: **"The—fruit—of—the—Spirit—is—love—joy—peace..."**
Note: Single squares are hopped on one foot, either foot may be used. Both feet are used in side by side squares, one foot in each square.
4. After hopping into square number 10, the child turns around and returns through the course saying the rest of the first part of the Bible Memory Verse in squares 9-2, again skipping the square with the fruit marker: **"...patience—kindness—goodness—faithfulness—gentleness—and—self—control."**
5. The next child in line tosses the "fruit" into square number 2.
6. The child then hops through the hopscotch pattern, skipping the square with the fruit marker. With each hop, the child says one word of the second part of the Bible Memory Verse: **"Go—and—bear—fruit—fruit—that—will—last.—Then..."**
7. After hopping into square 10, the child turns around and returns through the course saying the rest of the first part of the Bible Memory Verse again skipping the square with the fruit marker: **"...the—Father—will—give—you—whatever—you—ask—in—My Name."** Say "My Name" in the last square.
8. Repeat steps 2-7 each time, tossing the "fruit" into the next square in numerical order until everyone has had a turn. If there are more than nine children in line, have the next child return to tossing the "fruit" in square number 1.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



KINGDOM PARABLE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus. Lessons 23-32 explore the parables Jesus told to teach us about His kingdom. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

The Talents: In Bible times, a talent was a large amount of money. What did the first two servants do with the money they were given? (They made more money for their master.) What did the master say to the first two servants? ("Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and share your master's happiness.") How can you serve God with the gifts and blessings He has given you?

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector: Describe the Pharisee's prayer. (He bragged about fasting and giving his offering. He looked down on the tax collector.) How was the tax collector's prayer different? (He humbly asked for mercy as a sinner.) To be justified by God is to be forgiven and in a right relationship with God. Which man was justified by God? (The tax collector.)

The Lost Son: What did the son do when he left his father? (He spent his money on wild living in a distant land.) What did the father do when he saw the son coming home? (He ran to him to hug and kiss him.) What did the father give the son? (A ring, robe, sandals, and a feast.) How does the father in this story remind you of God the Father? (Children respond.)

How to create a display for reviewing the Kingdom Parables:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the footprints.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the display using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan