

THE PRODIGAL SON

VBS Lesson Outline | Luke 15:11-32

THE BIG IDEA

God loves us and welcomes us home. The prodigal son wasted everything and ended up in a pigpen, but when he came home, his father ran to meet him. No matter how far we wander, God is waiting to forgive us.

MEMORY VERSE

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion." (Luke 15:20, NIV)

OPENING (5 minutes)

Ask: Have you ever made a really big mistake and felt afraid to go home? Today Jesus tells a story about a son who messed up badly, but his father still loved him.

STORY TIME (10 minutes)

Tell the story from Luke 15:11-32. Key points: (1) A son asked his father for his inheritance early and left home. (2) He traveled far away and wasted all his money on wild living. (3) When the money ran out, he had to feed pigs and was starving. (4) He decided to go home and ask to be a servant. (5) His father saw him coming from far away and ran to meet him. (6) The father hugged him, gave him new clothes, and threw a party. (7) The father said, 'My son was lost and is found!'

DISCUSSION (5 minutes)

Questions to ask: Why did the son leave home? How did the father react when the son came back? What does this story teach us about God? Have you ever felt like you messed up too badly for God to forgive you?

ACTIVITY TIME (15 minutes)

Option A: Welcome Home Banner (see craft sheet). Option B: Coloring page. Option C: Memory verse practice with hand motions.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for this story and what it teaches us. Help us to remember the father's love. In Jesus' name, Amen.