

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY:

THE PRODIGAL SON "GOD WAITS PATIENTLY" — LUKE 15:1-7, 11-32

As kids arrive, greet them by name and tell them you're glad they are at church today. While kids filter in, ask the below questions and get to know them!

1. What is something you have always wanted to do?
2. What do you lose most often?

ACTIVITY #1 - EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: "Prodigal Son Dot to Dot" activity page, crayons

1. As the kiddos come in, hand them the "Prodigal Son Dot to Dot" activity page and encourage them to sit with their friends while they work on the worksheet.
2. Ask them the ice breaker questions while they color.

SAY TO THE GROUP: "Hello, friends! I'm so glad you're back to learn about another hero of the Bible this weekend! Today we are going to learn about a very well known story in the Bible called the Prodigal Son. Who has heard about this story before? What do you know about it?"

*** POST-LARGE GROUP ACTIVITIES ARE ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE!**

ACTIVITY #2 - SPARKLE MEMORY VERSE

WHAT YOU NEED: No Supplies Needed

1. Gather kids into a circle
2. Choose 1 person to start the game by saying the first word in verse.
3. The next child will say the second word and so on, moving clockwise.
4. If anyone says a word incorrectly, or pauses for more than 5 seconds, they are out.
5. Move on to the next person in the circle to see if they know the missed word.
6. Repeat a few times, particularly if they are not getting the verse!
7. Once they get the verse without missing a word see how many times they can do it, going faster and faster!

SAY TO THE GROUP: "I always love playing Sparkle with each of you!! That's a LONG verse but it is so worth memorizing. The more of the Word of God we can memorize and get in our hearts and head the more we are set for life!! Keep working at it!"

SMALL GROUP TIME (POST-LARGE GROUP)

ACTIVITY #3 - PRODIGAL SON STORY SPINNER

WHAT YOU NEED: “Prodigal Son Story Spinner” activity page, metal brads, scissors, crayons

1. Give each kiddo the “Prodigal Son Story Spinner” activity pages. Invite them to color their story spinners and then have them cut out each page.
2. Then, give each kid a metal brad and help them poke it through the middle of both pages.
3. Encourage the kiddos to use their story spinners to share what they learned today with their friends.

SAY TO THE GROUP: “Wow! That was such a fun Bible story. Did you know God’s love for us is just like the father’s love for both of his sons in that story? That’s pretty amazing!”

ACTIVITY #4 - SWITCH!

WHAT YOU NEED: Two playground or soft foam balls (two different colors)

1. Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
2. Join the circle too with both of the balls.
3. Give one ball to the kid on your left to pass around the circle counterclockwise.
4. Give the other ball to the kid on your right to pass around the circle clockwise.
5. The tricky part will be when the balls cross over one another!
6. After a round or two, say “SWITCH!” and direct kids to change direction they’re passing the balls.
7. As you finish up, praise the kids for sharing and switching so quickly.

SAY TO THE GROUP: “That was a blast! You all did such a great job sharing and switching the balls even when it was hard. Way to go!”

PRAY WITH THE GROUP

“Dear God, thank You that we are never too far off for You to find us. Thank You that you will always seek us out even when we feel too lost for You to see us. We love You Lord, Amen.”

AMEN!

