

# Prodigal's Son

Luke 15:11-23

Grade 4,5

## Large Group (Where we all meet together and introduce the lesson)

Materials needed - play house, stuffed animals, cards, wanted sign, sold sign, why did the younger brother run away sheet, actors

- Greet all the kids as they come in. Ask them how they are doing, and chat with them about their week. Pray together, ask anyone if they have any prayer requests.
- Our memory verse for the month is Psalm 55:22. Play this video while singing along, or have a little dance party. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZwSL4Y3tQk>
- Use the "Why did the younger brother run away" sheet to set up the room for a bit of a mystery. Ask the kids to talk to the actors, asking them yes or no questions to find out why the younger brother ran away, and what he is doing now.
- In the end the kids need to find out that the younger brother was tricked, or he thought that life would have been better without his father than with him.
- Let's watch these video together - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJgROx4wFKM>

## Break up into small groups

## Review The Story (a chance to review the bible passage with the small group)

Materials needed - Bible, checklist

- Greet everyone in your small group, make sure everyone knows each others names. Say a prayer together either by repeating after one of the teachers or just letting them pray.
- Read Luke 15:11-23 in the bible with the kids. Read the story through twice, during the second time give the kids the check list, and have them check the things off as they happen. Let the kids know that every time something on the check list happened it was like humiliating for the father. These were some of the meanest things a son could do to a father during bible times.
- Ask kids questions about the story.
- How many kids did the dad have?
- What did the younger son ask the dad?
- Why was the dad sad?
- What did the younger son do with all his money?
- What did the younger son do once he didn't have any more money?

## Life Application (an opportunity for kids to apply the lesson to their own lives)

Materials needed - "Can I still go back to Jesus if I..." sheet

- Have a discussion with the kids. Talk about how the younger brother was tricked, what was he tricked into thinking?
- Tell the kids that when they grow up at some point they are going to get tricked into thinking that they don't need Jesus any more or they have done something so bad that they can't go back to Jesus. All of these things are lies, you can always go back to Jesus.
- Hand out the "Can I still go back to Jesus if I..." pieces of paper. Ask the kids to read what is on their sheet ex. Can I still go back to Jesus if I am mean to my mom and dad? and have all the other kids answer really loudly "yes, you can!"

## Memory Verse (a way to introduce and reinforce this month's memory verse)

Materials needed - memory verse sheets, ball

- Tape the memory verse sheets on the wall. Get a ball and have the kids throw the ball at the wall while saying that part of the memory verse.

## Large group activity

### Regroup (a chance to come back together to see what you have learned)

Materials needed - Ask some older parents in the church who have grown up kids who don't come to church anymore to come to kids church

- Ask the people in the church who have grown up children who don't come to church any more to come down and share their stories with the kids. Keep their stories short and simple. ie. Their child grew up going to church, but now they don't come any more
- Tell the kids that this is happening more and more, kids are growing up hearing about Jesus but when they get older they leave him. It's just like the prodigals son. One day when they get older they might get tricked as well into thinking that they don't need Jesus, or they don't need to go to church. It's good to start thinking about these things now so that when they are older they will know how to respond.
- pray with the families who's kids have left Jesus. Pray as a group for them to come back.