

ELEMENTARY Flight Plan

August 30th

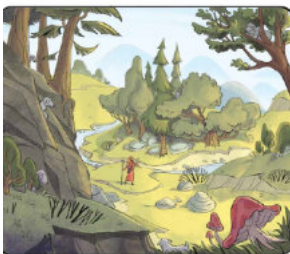


Lesson	The Prodigal Son
Bible Passage	Luke 15
Story Point	God is our FATHER
Key Passage	Psalm 23
Big Picture Q & A	How can we know what God is like? We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible



Shepherd's Roundup

DIRECTIONS: Find and label 10 items hidden in the picture below.



Images from the Bible
Unit 25 - Devotion 2
Theme: Parables

OBJECTIVE: Identify the main message of the parable.

KEY VERSE: Luke 15:11-13

QUESTIONS:

- What does the parable teach us about God's love?
- What does the parable teach us about the importance of repentance?

ANSWERS:

- The parable teaches us that God's love is unconditional and that He will always forgive those who repent.
- The parable teaches us that we should always be ready to repent and return to God.

ACTIVITY:

Draw a picture of the parable and label the items hidden in the picture.

DOWNLOAD THE LITERARY GUIDE

KEY NOTES: RAINFOREST FALLS SUMMER

Discovering God's character is a great adventure! Every story in the Bible shines a light on who God is—His love, power, faithfulness, and grace. Every story we explore this summer will show us amazing truths about God that are revealed to us in the Bible. The more we learn about our Creator, the more we understand who we are and how deeply we are loved. It gives us confidence to trust Him in every moment.

Let's explore the nature of God!

Grace Airways Rainforest Falls Curriculum in Children's Ministry will focus on discovering God's character through Bible stories. Each story chosen highlights a specific attribute of God.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 23 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 13th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

July 11th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 23rd All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Aug 30th Film all classes doing the Summer Psalm

Sept 13th FALL KICKOFF

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER



JOB



TOWER OF BABEL



TABERNACLE



BALAAM & BALAK



THE ARK RETURNS



ELIJAH & MT CARMEL



EZEKIEL



FIERY FURNACE



HOLY SPIRIT



PHILIP & THE ETHIOPIAN



PAUL MET JESUS



PRODIGAL SON



CHILDREN OF GOD

Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

In Luke 15, Jesus told three parables about things that were lost. In each story, something valuable is missing, and when it is found, there is great joy. These stories help us understand what God is like. The story we will focus on today is the story of the Prodigal Son.

In this story, a younger son asks his father for his inheritance early. He leaves home and wastes everything on foolish and sinful living. Eventually, he has nothing left, not even food. He realizes that he has made a terrible mistake. Broken and humbled, he decides to return home, hoping just to be treated as a servant.

But when the son returns home, something unexpected happens. The father sees him, runs to him, and embraces him. Instead of punishment or rejection, the father welcomes him with compassion, forgiveness, and celebration. He restores him fully as his son.

This is a picture of God as **our Father**.

God is not distant or eager to condemn. He is loving, patient, and full of mercy. He watches for us, and when we turn back to Him, even after making wrong choices, He runs to meet us. He forgives us, restores us, and rejoices over us.

We all need our Father's grace. This parable teaches us that God is a loving Father who seeks and welcomes His children. His love and forgiveness are full and complete. He is a Father who loves us deeply, and no one ever is too far gone to return to Him!

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



10 min **Take Off**

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to imagine that they gave someone (a sibling or a friend) something special and they wasted it, ruined it, or broke it. What would they do? How would they feel? Today, we will hear about a time when Jesus told a story about a father whose child wasted what was given to him. The father's reaction was very different from what we might expect!

Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Summer Psalm
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

Summer Truth

We can explore the nature of God

Big Picture Question

How can we know what God is like?

We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible

Summer Psalm

Psalm 23 ESV

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Remember that the Bible is made up of many different stories, but they all fit together to tell one big story, which is the story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus. In the New Testament, Jesus spent three years teaching people about God and His kingdom before He died on the cross to rescue people from sin and death. Jesus often told parables, or stories, to help people understand what the kingdom of heaven is like. Today, we will hear a Bible story about a lost son and the forgiveness of a father. Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.

**First Service:
Around 9:45**

PICK UP:

**Second Service:
Around 11:45**



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to Luke 15. Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. The “lost” are people who do not yet have a personal relationship with Him. These people are separated from God because of sin. And this is what makes God’s love so amazing: because He is perfect and holy, He would be completely just to leave us in our sin. But instead, He chose to come after us. He sent Jesus so we could be forgiven and brought close to Him.

Jesus explained this love by telling three parables about things that were lost. In the story of the prodigal son, the younger son made foolish choices and ended up far away from home, with nothing left. He had turned his back on his father and everything good his father had given him.

But when the son finally decided to return, his father didn’t reject him or make him earn his way back. Instead, the father welcomed him with joy. This is what God is like. God is **our Father**.

He doesn’t stop loving us when we make wrong choices or wander away. God’s heart is full of mercy, compassion, and love for His children.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: JESUS CAME TO SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST.

Jesus told the religious leaders three parables to teach about God. In the third story, “A man had two sons. The younger son said, ‘Father, give me my inheritance today.’ So the father did. The younger son left home. He wasted his money and lived foolishly. The younger son decided to go back to his father and admit he was wrong. He would ask to work for his father like the servants.

“His father ran to him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. The son began to apologize.

“But the father told his servants, ‘Let’s celebrate with a feast! This son of mine was lost, and now he is found!’

“At this time, the older son came from the fields. ‘What’s going on?’ he asked one of the servants.

“‘Your brother is here,’ the servant said. ‘Your father is celebrating.’

“The older brother was angry!

“‘Son,’ the father said, ‘everything I have is yours. We have to celebrate. Your brother was lost and is found.’”



Christ Connection: The religious leaders complained that Jesus welcomed sinners. Jesus told these parables to teach about God’s forgiveness. God sent Jesus so sinners can be forgiven. As Savior, Jesus seeks sinners. He paid the ultimate price—His own life— to save people from sin.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find Luke. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** God is our FATHER
2. **What did the younger son ask his father for?** (*his inheritance, Luke 15:12*)
3. **How did the son's father react when he returned?** (*he was filled with compassion, ran, threw his arms around him, and kissed him, Luke 15:20*)
4. **How are we "lost" before we trust in Jesus?** Lead kids to recognize that *being lost means not knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Bible says that apart from Jesus, we are in darkness and are dead in sin. Jesus makes us alive and brings us into His kingdom. He shows us what is true about God and about ourselves.* (Option: read Eph. 2:8-9.)
5. **How does it make you feel that God came looking for you?** Allow kids to share their feelings. Remind kids that *God created us, so He knows us and sees us. He seeks after us because He loves us.* (Ps. 139:1-2.)



God's attributes- In today's story we see that God is:

FATHER

Storytelling Studio

Invite kids to work together to retell the Bible story using clay models.

In the parable of the lost son from Luke 15:11-32, assign roles of narrator, set designers, model builders, and so forth to give each kid a chance to participate.

Allow kids several minutes to design a scene and practice retelling the story, moving their models throughout the scene. Consider providing a digital camera for kids to take photos of each scene. Then invite the group to present.

- Jesus came to seek and save the lost. When someone who was lost trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior, we should celebrate! The religious leaders complained that Jesus welcomed sinners. Jesus told these parables to teach about God's forgiveness. God sent Jesus so sinners can be forgiven. As Savior, Jesus seeks sinners. He paid the ultimate price—His own life—to save people from sin.

Celebrate!

Explain to kids that you are going to make some announcements. Kids should respond to the news according to how excited they are about it (boo/hiss, clap softly, jump and cheer). Read the sample announcements or give your own one at a time, pausing for kids to respond. You may choose volunteers to explain why they reacted in the way they did.

Teachers have decided to have school on Saturdays.

Your parents are going to serve spaghetti for dinner every night this week.

You can eat candy for breakfast.

You are getting a new brother or sister.

Your lost pet has returned home.

- In the Bible story today, something happened that made a father rejoice and celebrate. But the same news made an older brother upset and angry.

Key Passage Activity

Before the session, write out the key passage, omitting a single word. Write that word on a sticky note and hide it somewhere in the room. During the session, challenge the kids to identify the word that is missing. Then instruct them to find the word somewhere in the room. When the kids find the sticky note, place it on the board to fill in the blank. Read the key passage a few times together.

Welcome Home

Each child creates a simple house using cardstock or paper. Use two layers of paper to be able to create a door that opens and closes. This can be done by folding a paper in half to resemble a card. Students can cut around the edges, cutting the paper into a house shape. Just be sure to leave the folded edge of the card. Inside the house, they draw or glue a picture of the father joyfully hugging his son, and write a message like, “God welcomes me home!” On the outside, they can decorate the house with bright colors, hearts, or even the words “Welcome Home.”

As they work, remind them that just like the father in the story, God is not angry or distant when we make wrong choices. He is a loving Father who is always ready to open His arms, forgive us, and bring us back home.

5 min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide*.**

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space— a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're ready for Sunday!

