

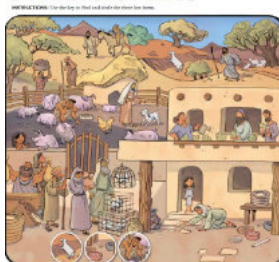
PREK & K Flight Plan August 30th



Lesson	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



Find What's Lost



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

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

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!

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.

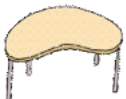
We all need our Father's grace. This parable teaches us that God is a loving Father who seeks and welcomes His children. His love and forgiveness are full and complete. He is a Father who loves us deeply, and no one ever is too far gone to return to Him!

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

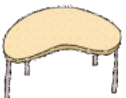
Morning Routine



Stay with this order.
Adjust pictures on schedule according to your plan.
Review schedule with the children at the start of the morning.

	Take Off VBS song Prayer BPQ & A		5 Min
	Journey Worship & Wiggles Psalm 23 Bible Story Discussion		15 Min
	Flight Lab Bible Story Activity		10 Min
	Free Play Inside or on playground		10 Min

At congregation last song—clean up/move inside

	Pilot's Log Prayer Take Home Page Settle & Review		5 Min
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5 min Take Off

Celebrate & being here! Introduce the morning

Gather

As the children enter, have them gather at the TV to begin with worship/singing. Have your co-pilot check attendance.

Song

Do a song or 2 of your choice as time allows to help children prepare for the lesson.

Summer Truth: We can explore the nature of God

This week we will look at the story of the **Prodigal Son**

Summer Psalm

Practice the **Psalm 23 song during Worship & Wiggles**

Encourage and build excitement for memorizing, we will video the children on Sunday, August 30th

Transition to the Bible Story

Clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy, use a finger play, etc...
Set expectations for the children: "my turn to talk, your turn to listen, eyes on me, hands in your lap"

Choosing the same transition every week works super well with child and kindergarten ages.

Bible Connection Ideas

Bible FingerPlay:

1, 2 (hold up fingers) The Bible is true (hands like book), God loves me (cross arms, point to me) and God loves you (cross arms, point to class)

Bible Foundation Motions:

- The Bible is **True** (*thumbs up*)
- The Bible is How God **Speaks to Us** (*cup hands around mouth as if you were shouting*)
- The Bible is **Different** from other stories (*cross your arms and point in opposite directions*)
- The Bible points to **Jesus** (*ASL sign for Jesus*)

Fingerplay Ideas

Open Shut them:

Hold hands in front as you open and shut them while saying:

Open shut them, open shut them, give a little clap

Open shut them, open shut them, lay them in your lap.

Creep them creep them, slowly to your chin

Open wide your little mouth (pause), but do not let them in!

Active Preparing to sit and listen:

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I jump up from the ground.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I turn myself around.

I stomp my feet , I clap my hands, I sit myself right down

I stomp my feet (*while sitting*) , I clap my hands, I do not make a sound (*finger over lips, spoken in a whisper*).



10 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Introduce the Bible Story

Use our Bible Finger play each week to transition to the Story.

• The Bible tells us true stories about God. Today's Bible story is from the Book of Luke. **Point to the Bible story picture on their timeline.** The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Tell the Bible Story

Using the pictures, tell the Bible Story or watch the video (*This lesson is in It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook on page 198*). Tell the story using your own words keeping eye-contact with the children.

• Jesus told of his love by telling the three stories 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. When the son finally decided to come home, his father welcomed him with joy! This is what God is like. God is our Father!

Talk about the Bible Story

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** God is **FATHER**
2. **Did the younger son make good choices?** (no)
3. **What did the father do when his younger son came home?** (*welcomed him and celebrated*)
4. **How can we know what God is like? We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible**



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

Have a student place the story picture on the 'timeline'

Age Appropriate Bible Story

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you

Prodigal Son — Luke 15

Jesus told people parables, or stories, to teach them about God. He told the people a story about a father and his sons.

Jesus said: “A man had two sons. The younger son asked his father to have all the money that would be his when his father died. The father agreed and the son went far away with his father’s money.

The son spent all his money. Soon he had nothing. He worked feeding pigs, was so hungry he wanted to eat what the pigs ate. The son felt sorry for what he had done. He decided to go home and apologize to his father.

The son came home and when his father saw him, he ran and gave the son a big hug. The father was so happy! They threw a huge party for the lost son.

The older son who had stayed with his father did not want to celebrate. “Why don’t you throw me a party” the older son asked. The father said, “Everything I have is yours. But today we celebrate because your brother was lost, and now he is found.” Jesus looks for people who are lost.

Christ Connection: Jesus told a story about a father who welcomed his son home after he made mistakes. The father loved his son just as God loves us. God loved us so much that He sent His son, Jesus to Earth. Jesus gave His life to save people from sin.

Picture Card Lesson

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you!

Prodigal Son — Luke 15

Card 1: Jesus told people parables, or stories, to teach them about God. He told the people a story about a father and his sons.

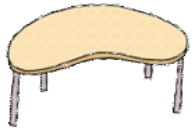
Card 2: Jesus said: “A man had two sons. The younger son asked his father to have all the money that would be his when his father died. The father agreed and the son went far away with his father’s money.

Card 3: The son spent all his money. Soon he had nothing. He worked feeding pigs, was so hungry he wanted to eat what the pigs ate. The son felt sorry for what he had done. He decided to go home and apologize to his father.

Card 4: The son came home and when his father saw him, he ran and gave the son a big hug. The father was so happy! They threw a huge party for the lost son.

Card 5: The older son who had stayed with his father did not want to celebrate. “Why don’t you throw me a party” the older son asked. The father said, “Everything I have is yours. But today we celebrate because your brother was lost, and now he is found.”

Christ Connection: Jesus told a story about a father who welcomed his son home after he made mistakes. The father loved his son just as God loves us. God loved us so much that He sent His son, Jesus to Earth. Jesus gave His life to save people from sin.



15 min Flight lab

Learning the story in an interactive way

Choose from below or use your own idea-however the Lord leads.

Then go into free-play.

Make Mud

Pour a handful of dirt and a little water in a ziplock bag. Add small plastic pigs. Seal the bag with duct tape. Encourage children to squeeze the bags to make mud. Talk about the Bible story as they play.

- Jesus told stories about God's love. A son left home, wasted his money, and was so hungry he wanted to eat pig food! The father was happy when his son came home. God is happy when sinners trust Jesus.

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.

Welcome Home

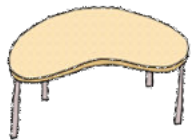
Each child creates a simple house using cardstock or paper. Use two layers of paper to be able to create a door that opens and closes. This can be done by folding a paper in half to resemble a card. Students can cut around the outline of their house to create a house shape, or this can be done before class. Just be sure to leave the folded edge of the card un-cut. Inside the house, they draw or glue a picture of the father joyfully hugging his son. 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.

Feed the Pigs

Have a bucket or a tub labeled "pig pen." Print off a picture of a pig for the "pig pen." Use crumpled up paper or balls as food. Kids will take turns tossing "pig food" into the bucket from different distances. Make it harder each round. Pinch your nose if the "pig pen" is extra smelly!

The son became so poor that he had to feed pigs. He was even hungry enough to eat their food. The son was ready to return to his father and be treated as a servant. But when his father saw him, he welcomed him home as his son and was filled with joy! He even threw a party!



5 Min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to go home

After flight lab, allow the children to play. **When congregation begins last song, move to the tables.**

Pause and settle

- Signal the end of free play, (use the time-timer to count down)
- Sing the clean-up song and guide children to clean their areas. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer if needed.
- Have children sit around the table.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

- After prayer, hand out the activity/coloring page. Direct children accordingly to complete the page. Remind children of what they can take away from today's lesson.

If a child finishes the activity/coloring page while waiting for mom and dad or is not interested, only offer options that can be completed at the table (playdough, puzzle, select a book to examine, practice the verse, etc) **Keep children at the table to maintain a calm and quiet environment for easy transition to mom and dad.**

When parents pick up their children, as appropriate share something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the morning.

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents. Have your Co-Pilot encourage parents to use this to talk to their kids about what they learned in class today.

PREK/K Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain — in small groups, ask children for their prayer requests and have the Pilot or Co-Pilot write them on a few strips of paper. Connect strips into a chain and display our growing conversation with the Lord. Feel free to revisit old prayer requests as well.

Pointing to a Globe — Have a child or Co-Pilot spin the globe and place their finger on a country. Place a star sticker on the place(s) and pray over it as a group. We will provide a PreK/K age geography book to help guide discussion and prayer. 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 or draw these things on the window then pray over them.

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.

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.)