



# I Am Loved

MARCH 2024

**March 3**

**I am Loved**

**Kindergarten - 5th grade**

## Leader Notes

**Bible Passage:** The Story of the Lost Son- Luke 15:11-32

**Bottom Line:** God's Love Never Gives Up

**Leader Context:** God's love never gives up. We see a great example of that in the parable of the lost son. There is no limit to God's love, and we can never run too far from Him.

**THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS:** Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

## Social

**Games and Music (10 minutes)**

**What You Need:** Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, blank paper (1 per kid), markers/crayons, pom-poms, stickers

**What You Do:**

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

**Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

## Videos

**Bible Story Video (10 minutes)**

**Bible Story Recap- Say This**

After the son spent all of his father's money and made foolish choices, life got really hard for him. He thought the only way he could go back home was as a servant instead of a son. But do you remember what happened while the son was coming home? The father saw him while he was still far away. He didn't wait for the son to make it the whole way. The father ran to his son and gave him the biggest hug! He celebrated and threw a huge party because his son, whom he loved, had come home! Even though the son had made foolish choices and disrespected and dishonored his father, the father's love had no limits. He forgave his son and welcomed him home with a big celebration. Jesus told this story to help people understand more about God's love. God loves you with a never giving up, no limits kind of love. He never gives up on us. Like the younger son, you may have asked or thought about questions like Am I really loved? or Does God still love me even when I mess up? The answer is yes! God loves you with a never giving up kind of love. Even when you make foolish choices, even when you are disrespectful or mean, even when you hurt other people- God still loves you. There are no limits to His love for you!

Let's pray together. Remember prayer is listening and talking to God.

God, it is so amazing to think that Your love is bigger than all of space. And it is even more amazing to know that Your love never gives up, no matter what. I pray that all of us would know the amazing love of Jesus and that we would love You in return. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen!

**Timed Timer (20 minutes)****What You Need:** stopwatch or timer**What You Do:**

Today we are going to play a game called Timed Timer. Let's get in a circle and sit down. I'm going to throw out a time to you and you'll have to sit with your eyes closed and raise your hand when you think that time is up. There is no peeking! The person closest to the actual time wins.

*Leader Tip: Start with 15 second and build from there as kids show interest. Utilize multiple leaders as one can watch the timer and others can watch the kids.*

**Say:** "Some of those seconds felt like they took forever! It might have been easy to give up. In our Bible story today, we heard about a father who was so patient in waiting for his son to come home. I'm sure the minutes and hours felt like forever! But when his son returned, his dad ran to meet him. His father never gave up on him. God's love never gives up on us either. No matter what, God always loves us. He celebrates when we trust Him and His amazing love has no limits!

**Discussion Questions:**

- What are some things you know about space? What do you think it was like for the first people to walk on the moon? Or the first person to discover a new star? How do you think they celebrated?*(Allow kids time to answer and share your own answer.)*
- When we celebrate, we like to invite other people in! That's what's fun about confetti and confetti poppers- it gets everywhere and lets people know you are celebrating. Jesus' story of the lost son gives us a small picture of what God's love is like for us. God's love never gives up, and it has no limits. How can it be encouraging to know that God celebrates us?*( We fell loved; we know that God is with us; we know that we're not alone; we know that God forgives us no matter what.)*
- The Bible tells us that we are loved, and that God's love never gives up. Let's open our Bibles to Luke 15:22-24 and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open up their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.)* What is this passage teaching us?
- Jesus told the story of the father and his sons so that the people around Him could understand that God's love never gives up. God loves all of us. When we believe in Jesus for life, God's love changes us. We want to follow God's way instead of our own way. What are some things that might be different when people start following God?

*(They are secure in His love, knowing it has no limits; they are excited and want to tell others about His love; they forgive others because they know God has forgiven them.)*

- God promises that He will always love us, no matter what. Even when we sin and choose to do what we think is best instead of what God says is best, God still loves us and will forgive us when we ask. Do you have any questions about the never-giving-up love of God? Do you want to share about how God's love makes a difference in your life? *(Allow kids time to answer and share your own response.)*
- If you had friends who wondered if they were loved by God or not, how could what we learned today help them? *(Allow kids time to answer and share your own answer. We can tell them God loves them; we can talk about how they don't have to earn God's love; we can pray with them to love and believe in Jesus.)*

The creator of the universe loves us. The God who placed every star in its place loves us. The God who created galaxies, the planets, and our solar system loves us. God's love for you has no limits! His love never gives up on you. There's never a limit on how much God loves you. It never runs out. His love for you is consistent, steady, unchanging, and everlasting! No matter what, we can know that we are loved by God.

**Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.**

- Pass out coloring pages for kids to take home.
- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.