

WEEK 4 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE

PAGE-TURNER

THE BIG IDEA

God celebrates us.

THE BIBLE

Parable of the Lost Son:

Luke 15:11b-32

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Epic Praise!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead the kids in worship with any songs you like, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Jump Around" (Kidspring)
 - "My God is So Big" (Life Kids)
 - "Power Up Dance Moves" (Orange Music)
 - "Looking At My Heart" (Kidspring)

ACTIVITY | Pin the Candles on the Cake

- It's our final week of Page-Turner! It's been so fun traveling to all these different storybook lands with all of you! We have gone on so many adventures this month that it's time to wrap it all up with a celebration!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw a picture of a cake on a poster board and place it on the wall. Make sure you have a blindfold handy. The kids will try to place the candles on the cake in a similar fashion to the game, "Pin the Tail on the Donkey."
- **Do you love parties and celebrations?** Birthdays and holidays are my absolute favorite!
- Today, our storybook adventure takes us to the kitchen of a grand palace, and we are the chefs! We are preparing the biggest, fanciest cake ever for the king and queen of our kingdom. They have a birthday on the same day!

- The king and queen want a huge cake to celebrate! **What flavor do you think we should make the cake?** Oooh! Those flavors sound so good, royal chefs! I think the king and queen are going to love their cake!
- Now, we need to put on the final touches, and we really need your help! We need to put the candles on the cake.
- We're going to spin you around three times while blindfolded. Then, you're going to try to put the candles on top of the cake!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Spin younger kids only once or twice. Then, stand by to guide them in the right direction, if needed.*
- That is the wildest cake I have ever seen, but I think the king and queen are going to love it anyway!

ACTIVITY | Party Shaker Parade

- You all did such a great job preparing the birthday cake for the king and queen! Now, the king and queen are having a huge parade for their birthday!
- **Do you love parades?** I do! Imagine a huge, royal parade full of horses, carriages, loud bands, dancing, flowers, bubbles, and popcorn! We are going to make some party shakers so we can celebrate during the big parade, too!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give two paper plates to each kid. Encourage them to decorate their paper plates with markers and stickers. Once they are finished, instruct the kids to bring their plates to a leader. Staple their plates together all the way around, leaving a small hole. Fill the inside of the plate with dry beans, and then staple the rest of the plate closed. The finished product should look like [this](#), but without the popsicle stick. Add pieces of streamer to make it more festive.*

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Parable of the Lost Son

- Today, we are going to watch an incredible story acted out by all of you! The story is based on another parable from the Bible. Like we said last week, a parable is a story that Jesus told to teach something important.
- During the happy parts of the story, I want you to shake your party shakers! Let's practice right now! *[Encourage the kids to shake their party shakers as loudly as they can.]*
- I am also going to need three volunteers to help me tell the story today. *[Before telling the story, decide who the younger kid, the older kid, and the father will be.]*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Seat the kids on the floor and turn to today's Bible story found in Luke 15:11b-32. In today's Bible story, you'll need a few student volunteers to act out parts of the story. The rest of the kids who are watching will participate as an engaged audience. Have them bring their paper plate party shakers from the previous activity.*
- There once was a father with two kids. *[Point to the kid who plays the father.]*
 - There was an older kid. *[Point to the kid who plays the older kid.]*
 - And there was a younger kid. *[Point to the kid who plays the younger kid.]*

- The father loved his kids very much!
 - That's pretty happy, right? So, let's shake our shakers! Now, let's set our shakers on the floor. We won't need them for a few minutes.
- The younger kid came to the father and said, "I want lots of your money!" *[Tell the younger kid to repeat that to the father.]* Wow. **The younger kid didn't ask very nicely, did they?**
- But the father said, "Okay." *[Tell the father to give the younger kid some fake money.]*
- The younger kid went off to the big city and spent all of his money on sports cars, fancy houses, and expensive clothes. *[Give the younger kid sunglasses to wear.]*
 - After a short time, the younger kid spent all of his money, and he lost everything. He didn't have his fancy cars, his big houses, or expensive clothes. He had nothing! So, he went to work with stinky, dirty pigs! *[Give the younger kid a stuffed animal pig.]* Yuck!
 - The younger kid didn't have any food. He was so hungry, he would have eaten the gross pig food! But then he had a great idea. He realized that even his father's workers on the farm had food!
 - He thought, "Maybe my dad will hire me to be one of his workers. At least then I'll have food! I am going to go home." *[Tell the younger kid to say, "I'm going to go home."]*
- When he was still far down the road, the father saw his son coming. He was so happy. He ran down the road to meet his kid and gave him a big hug! *[Tell the father to run to the younger kid and give him a big hug.]*
 - This is happy news! Let's shake our shakers!
- The younger kid said to the father, "I have made a lot of mistakes. I spent all of your money. I'm sorry, dad." *[Tell the younger kid to say, "Sorry, dad."]*
 - The dad was not mad! In fact, he was so happy that his son was home, he decided to throw a party! *[Cue the kids to shake their party shakers.]*
 - The father said, "I thought my kid was lost forever, but now my kid is found. I am so happy!" *[Give the father a party blower to blow. Tell the kids to shake their party shakers.]*
- The older kid, though, wasn't so happy. The older kid said, "I never left, dad. I have been here the whole time. You didn't ever have a party for me." *[Tell the older kid to say, "Boo! I am upset!"]*
 - The father gave his older kid a hug, too, and said, "You are always with me. Every day is a party when we are together!
 - But today, we are inviting your sibling back into the party because he was lost and now he is home.
 - I love and celebrate both of you . . . So, let's have a party!" *[Tell the father to blow his party blower.]*
- Just like the dad in our story celebrated the return of his son when he went away, God does the same for us.
- No matter where we go and what we do, we are God's kids and God will always be happy to see us!

BIG IDEA | God celebrates us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Open the Big Idea storybook.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *If younger kids get antsy after sitting during the Bible story, have them stand and lead them in a verse or two of the song, "If You're Happy and You Know It" to help them use some energy before sitting back down.*
- God is like the father in our story. God forgives us when we make mistakes. God loves us so much, and loves to be with us because guess what? We are God's kids!
- This leads us to our Big Idea today: **God celebrates us!** Will you say that with me?
- Let's stand and shake our party shakers one more time!

VIDEO | Page-Turner, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).*

ACTIVITY | Welcome Home

- It's time to put on your imagination caps! Have you ever thought about what it would be like to shrink? What if we were the size of our fingers? What if we were the size of a blade of grass?
- That would be wild to be that small, wouldn't it? The whole world would look so different! We would need somewhere really small to live instead of a giant house, right?
- **Where would you want to live if you were the size of your pointer finger?** *[Hold up your pointer finger. Give them time to share their ideas.]*
- I like those ideas! Here is another idea: what about an envelope? *[Hold up an envelope and open the flap.]* Look! This is just like a little house!
- Let's recreate our Bible story using these materials. Don't forget to draw some balloons and party decorations! The father was so glad for his younger kid to be home! He celebrated big time!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Seat the kids around tables and gather envelopes, paper, popsicle sticks, and markers to create [this craft](#) to represent today's Bible story. Have kids draw each of the Bible characters on popsicle sticks, make the envelope look like a house, then glue the envelope onto a piece of paper.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *For the younger kids, glue the envelopes to the construction paper in advance.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for loving and celebrating me! Thank you for forgiving me when I make bad choices. Help me remember that every time I come back to you, you have a party waiting for me. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | One-of-a-Kind Cupcakes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a paper plate. Set out small bowls of different colored frosting, plastic knives, and sprinkles. Once kids are done decorating their cupcakes, you can take a picture of each kid with their cupcake.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Frost the cupcakes for younger kids ahead of time.
- **Were any of your cupcakes the same? Did you notice that your cupcake didn't look like anyone else's cupcake?**
- Your cupcake was unique . . . just like you! **God celebrates us** not for being exactly the same as each other but because we are different. We bring our own unique flavors!
- God loves to celebrate you! You are so special!

ACTIVITY | Lost and Found

- This is a magical box. In this box are items that just appear on their own. Many times, we don't even know where they came from.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the short story, "[Lou](#)" (or a story with a similar premise). Then prepare a box of items to be your lost and found prop (or use your actual lost and found bin).
- The items in this box are what we call lost and found. They're lost because the owner lost them. They're found because somebody found them. But they're not fully found until it goes back to the owner.
- [Bring out any item from the box.]
 - **Who do you think this might belong to?**
 - **How do you think the owner of this item feels?**
- Sometimes we are like the lost and found items. Except, God didn't lose us. We kind of got lost on our own. Every time we don't do what God tells us to do and do things our own way, we get lost.
- Do you remember our Big Idea for the day? Let's say it together: **God celebrates us!**

ACTIVITY | Birthday Every Day

- Imagine we live in a land where every single day is your birthday. Wouldn't that be awesome? **What's your favorite thing about your birthday?**
- Here's another awesome part about this land. . . It isn't just your birthday, every single day is everyone's birthday!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of construction paper and strips of scrap paper. Help kids make their own [scrap paper birthday cake cards](#). Set out decorating supplies.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** For younger kids, fold the construction paper in half like a card prior to the activity.
- Use the piece of paper and drawing supplies to create a birthday card for someone who makes you feel special. It could be for your friend, mom, grandpa, aunt, or your small group leader.

- Draw them pictures to show them how much you love and appreciate them. Let's celebrate the people who make us feel special!
- **How do your friends and family members make you feel special?**
- **Other than this card, how can you make others feel special?**
- If God were to write me a birthday card, I think God would say, "I am proud of you. You are thoughtful and kind. I love you." **What do you think God would say to you?**
- **God celebrates us** and reminds us that we are special. God also wants us to celebrate other people!

MEMORY VERSE | Happy Birthday Tune

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sing the memory verse to the tune of the Happy Birthday song!

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTION:** Print and distribute this week's coloring page along with crayons or markers. Discuss today's Bible story and Big Idea as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Balloon Party

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to try to keep the balloons from hitting the floor. Alternatively, this would a great week to bring in a balloon artist and have them make cool balloon art for the kids!
- When I think of celebrations, I think of balloons! Let's see if you can work together to keep the balloons from hitting the floor. Let's get creative and keep them afloat!

ACTIVITY | Page-Turner Corner

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a storytime book and compile a bunch of books with fun heroic adventures. Invite volunteers to read them to the kids using silly voices and sound effects. Check out lists like [this one](#) for suggestions.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.