

3-6 | June 21

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

Bottom Line: God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.

Conversation Starter: What is the requirement to be in God's kingdom?

Monthly Memory Verse: *"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven."* Matthew 6:10 NIV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Pig face printouts
- Baskets/containers
- Floor tape
- Beanbags/ball pit balls/snowballs

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Print out a Pig face and tape it to the container or basket
- Make a start line opposite the "pig" with floor tape.
- Place the beanbags/ball pit balls at the start line.

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to line up on the start line.
- Tell them, "In our story today, someone gets very hungry and has to work with pigs! Let's see if we can feed the pig."
- Let the kids take turns tossing beanbags or ball pit balls into the pig's "mouth."
- Cheer for every attempt, whether the ball goes in or not.

What You Say:

"Great job feeding the pig! You all have great aim. Today, we're going to hear a story Jesus told about a person who went on a journey and ended up feeding some pigs. Jesus used stories called parables to teach us about God's love and God's kingdom. Let's go hear the story!"

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- *For kids who have difficulty with aiming or throwing, allow them to stand closer to the box, as close as they need.*
- *Use soft, lightweight balls (like ball pit balls) to ensure safety for everyone in the room.*

2. Video on Jellyfin

Lead the children in worship to one song and then watch today's video lesson.

3. Prayer

“Let’s open up today in prayer. Dear God, thank You for being like the father in the story and always waiting for us with a big hug. Thank You that no matter what we do, You still love us. Help us to remember that You want everyone to be in Your family. Help us to be welcoming to others, just like You are to us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

4. Father’s Day Handprint Trophy Keepsake

“Hands Down, You’re the Best Dad!”

What You Need:

- Trophy picture frame activity page (one per child)
- Gold cardstock foil paper
- Markers, pens, and metallic markers
- Glue sticks and scissors
- Washable paint, thumbprint ink pads, or optional no-paint supplies (if they prefer to trace their hand)
- Stickers and themed decorations
- Whiteboard with prompt ideas

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

Set out all decorating supplies and display a few example trophies with different styles and themes. Provide prompts on the whiteboard to help children think of meaningful messages to include.

During the Activity:

Invite children to personalize their trophy keepsake however they would like. They may:

- Add a handprint, fingerprints in the shape of a trophy topper, or hand tracing
- Write/draw favorite memories with Dad
- Create a “Top 5 Things I Love About You” list written on their paper around the trophy
- Write an encouraging message
- Write encouraging notes or Bible verses

Encourage creativity while reminding children the goal is to create something meaningful and personal.

After the Activity:

Give children the opportunity to share part of what they wrote or designed and talk about ways they can honor and appreciate their parents or caregivers.

What You Say:

Before the Activity:

“Hey everyone! Today we’re creating a Father’s Day keepsake called, ‘Hands Down, You’re the Best Dad!’ Even though this is a fun craft, it’s also something meaningful that your dad or special person can keep for years. You’ll have the chance to personalize it with memories, messages, designs, and creative details that reflect your relationship with them.”

During the Activity:

“These are turning out awesome! I’m seeing so many unique ideas and personal touches. Think about what makes your dad or special person meaningful to you. Maybe it’s a favorite memory, something funny they always say, or a way they encourage you. Adding personal words can make a simple gift become something really special.”

After the Activity:

“You all created something thoughtful and meaningful today. Sometimes the most valuable gifts aren’t expensive things—they’re reminders that someone is loved and appreciated. The Bible teaches us to honor and care for the people God has placed in our lives, and your keepsakes are a beautiful way to do that. I think these are going to mean a lot to the people receiving them.”

5. Memory Match [OPTIONAL]

What You Need:

- Prodigal Son Memory Match
- Scissors

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid the Prodigal Son Memory Match activity pages
- Explain that you’re going to play Memory Match, but with pictures of today’s bible story!
- Have the kids cut the pictures out and then shuffle the cards to mix them up.
- The kids may then pair up to play the game. Just play with one child’s set of cards.
- When playing the game, put the cards in rows with the picture face down. Then the children flip over two cards, trying to find a matching pair of pictures from today’s story.
- When a match is made, the kid who made it says, “God loves everyone!”
- Continue until all the matches have been found.

What You Say:

“We found all the matches from today’s bible story! This game reminds us that God knows each one of you by name, and He loves you so much.

“Sometimes, we’re like the younger son from the Bible Story. We do what we want instead of what God wants. We don’t feel like we’ve earned God’s love. But that’s the whole point! You can’t earn God’s love. God loves you because He made you. God’s love is deeper than your greatest sins or your biggest mess-up. There is nothing you can do that will make God love you any less.

“And the moment you turn back to God, you’ll find that He’s running to meet you. God is so excited when you return to His love that all of heaven celebrates! *(Point to kids.)* God wants you, and you, and you to be part of His kingdom. **[Bottom Line] God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.**”

6. Hand Clap Game [OPTIONAL]

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:*During the Activity:*

- Invite the kids to join you sitting in a circle on the floor.
- Teach them a simple, repeating hand-motion pattern. For example: Slap your lap twice, clap your hands twice, snap your fingers twice. *(Slap, Slap, Clap, Clap, Snap, Snap.)*
- Practice the pattern together until everyone gets the rhythm.
- Explain the challenge: “We’re going to pass the motion around the circle. We can’t stop until everyone has done it!”
- Start the motion. The person to your right joins in on the next beat, then the next person, and so on, until the whole circle is doing the hand motions together.
- Try it a few times, and celebrate when the whole group is moving together.
- Challenge: see how fast you can all do the clapping motion pattern together.

What You Say:

“That was awesome! Look how we all worked together to do the same motion. Our circle wasn’t complete until everyone joined in. That reminds me of God’s kingdom. God wants everyone to be in His family. He doesn’t want anyone to be left out.

“Sometimes, we’re like the younger son from the Bible Story. We do what we want instead of what God wants. We don’t feel like we’ve earned God’s love. But that’s the whole point! You can’t earn God’s love. God’s love is deeper than your greatest sins or your biggest mess-up.

There is nothing you can do that will make God love you any less. And the moment you turn back to God, you'll find that He's running to meet you. God is so excited when you return to His love that all of heaven celebrates!

“And sometimes, we're like the older son from the Bible Story. We feel like we've done all the right things and earned God's love, so we deserve for Him to give us what we want. But you can't earn God's love in those times either! God wants you to rest in His love and all the good things He's already given you. And then you can pass on that love to other people when they mess up. Remember, God loves everyone, no matter what! And **[Bottom Line] God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.**”

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- *Encourage kids to carefully select motions so all kids can participate.*