

TODDLER-PRESCHOOL: JESUS, THE GREAT TEACHER: SESSION 4—JESUS TOLD ABOUT A LOVING FATHER (MARCH 22)

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING: Jesus taught people about what God is like.

BIBLE STORY: JESUS TOLD ABOUT A LOVING FATHER—Based on Luke 15:11-32

Jesus was teaching people about God's love. He told a story about a father and his two sons. "The younger son told his father he wanted his part of the family money and property. The father gave the son what he asked for. The son took all that was his and moved far away. He began to do many wrong things. He spent all his money. He did not have any food to eat, so he went to work taking care of pigs. The son remembered that his father's workers had food to eat. He decided to go home and work for his father. "While the son was still far away, the father saw him. The father ran to him and hugged and kissed him. The son said that he had done many wrong things. He said, 'I should no longer be your son.' "The father did not listen. He called to his helpers to bring the best robe and sandals for his son. He told the helpers to cook a big dinner. The father wanted to celebrate because his son had come home." Jesus wanted the people to know that God is a loving Father like the father in the story.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: We know God loves us. *1 John 4:16*

LIVE IT OUT: Review the Bible story with your child. Remind him that God loves people the way the father loved his son. Say with your child the verse "We know God loves us. 1 John 4:16." Repeat several times.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: Parents, today your child learned that Jesus taught that God always loves us. In the parable of the loving father, Jesus taught that God loves His children and wants them to return to Him.

LIFE POINT: *Jesus taught that God always loves*

CRAFT: DECORATE A BIBLE VERSE HEART

Cut one large heart shape from construction paper for each child. Print the Bible Verse on each heart.

~Invite your child to decorate a heart.

~Read the Bible Verse aloud.

~Talk about God's love for your child and for the family in the Bible story.

~Pray, thanking God for loving us even when we do wrong things.

SING: Jesus loves the little children

ELEMENTARY (KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE)- JESUS, THE GREAT TEACHER — SESSION 4: JESUS TOLD THREE PARABLES (MARCH 22)

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING: Jesus taught about faith, trust, and obedience to God.

BIBLE STORY: JESUS TOLD THREE PARABLES—BASED ON LUKE 15

Jesus used parables to teach people. A parable is a story Jesus told to help people understand the kingdom of God.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Jesus taught, “Is there one here among you who would not leave his herd of ninety-nine sheep to search for a lost sheep until he finds it? When he finds the lost sheep, the shepherd puts him on his shoulders. He calls out to his neighbors and friends: ‘Rejoice with me! I have found my lost sheep!’ ” Jesus said that in heaven there will be more joy over one lost person who repents of his sin than over ninety-nine people who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

A woman had ten silver coins. One of them was lost. The woman looked everywhere. She swept the house and kept on searching for the coin. When she found it, she called her friends to celebrate with her. Jesus said that in that same way, the angels rejoice when one person turns to God.

The Parable of the Lost Son

A man had two sons. One day the younger son said to his father, “Give me my share of the inheritance.” So the father gave the younger son his part. The younger son packed his bags and went to a distant land where he lived foolishly and wasted his inheritance. Being tired and hungry, he decided to go home. He said to himself, “Even the servants in my father’s house eat better than this! I will go to my father and ask if I can work for him because I am no longer worthy to be called his son.” So the son headed for home. While he was still a long way off, his father saw the son coming toward home. The father ran to him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. The son said, “I have sinned against God and against you.” But the father told his servants, “Bring the best robe for my son. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Let’s have a feast and celebrate! This son of mine was lost, and now he is found!”

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. -1 John 1:9

LIVE IT OUT: Challenge your child to recall the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. Talk about what Jesus was teaching about God’s love through the parables. Pray with your child, thanking God for His love.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: Parents, today’s Bible story focused on how Jesus taught about God’s love. Jesus told three parables to emphasize how much God loves His people and how He rejoices when one person trusts Him as Savior and Lord.

LIFE POINT: *Jesus taught about God's love.*

REVIEW QUESTIONS: DISCUSS

- »Who told the three parables (stories) to teach a lesson? (Jesus)
- »What made a shepherd happy after one of his sheep is lost? (finding it)
- »How might a shepherd celebrate when he finds a lost sheep? (bring it home and tell his friends)
- »What did a woman do when she lost a coin? (She searched until she found it and called her friends to celebrate.)
- »What did the son decide he could do for his father? (work for him)
- »How are the three parables alike? (They all tell about things that were lost and found: the sheep, the coin, and the son.)

SING: Here I am to Worship

DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: 1 John 4:9

Monday: Jeremiah 31:3

Tuesday: John 15:9

Wednesday: Psalm 136:26

Thursday: Ephesians 2:4-5

Friday: Nehemiah 1:5

Saturday: 1 John 4:7

TAKE IT FURTHER: Check out the *Jesus Told Three Parables* section of the Bible Studies for Life: Kids Family App

[LifeWay Kids on the App Store](#)

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