

Summer Bible Story Activities

The Prodigal Son

Where to find the story of The Prodigal Son

- Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
- *Spark Story Bible: Family Edition* pages 316-231
- *The Good Samaritan and Other Bible Stories*



This week's activities

- Craft activities
 - Chalkboard Clipboard
 - Kids paint clipboards with chalkboard paint and learn that God loves us, even when we make mistakes
 - Fingerprint Mirror
 - Kids create personalized fingerprint mirrors and learn that God loves us, even when we mess up
- Cooking activity
 - Gravel Road Granola
 - Kids make Gravel Road Granola to remember that no matter what roads we have been on, God is overjoyed to welcome us home
- Activity pages
 - Prodigal Son Scramble
 - Joined Back Together
- Coloring pages
 - Let kids color their way through the story of The Prodigal Son

Making faith connections

Here are a few suggestions for ways you can enrich your child's engagement and learning with the story of The Prodigal Son.

- Family conversations
 - How do you know when somebody loves you? How do you show someone you love them?
 - How would you feel if you were the younger brother in this story? The older brother?
 - How is the father in this story like God?
- Play a lost and found game. Take turns hiding something from the story, like a ring, a stuffed pig, or fancy party clothes. Then have everyone look for it. When you find it, put on some lively music and celebrate.
- Give children some balloons to write on (with markers) with WELCOME BACK SON; or I FORGIVE YOU SON; or MAKE GOOD CHOICES, NOT BAD. Children can then blow up their balloons and have a CELEBRATION because God forgives bad choices.

A Prayer to Say Together

Thank you, God, for searching for us and waiting for us. Thank you for finding us and loving us always and no matter what! Amen.

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The Prodigal Son Craft Activity

Chalkboard Clipboard

Kids paint clipboards with chalkboard paint and learn that God loves us, even when we make mistakes!

Supplies:

- Inexpensive clipboard, one per kid
- Chalkboard paint, either spray paint or a can of paint
- Chalk, one piece per kid
- Chalk eraser, one per kid
- Paintbrushes
- Paint shirts
- Newspaper
- Permanent markers, various colors
- Texture pens (optional)
- Ribbon, bells, buttons, etc. (optional)
- Glue (optional)

Set Up:

Cover your table with newspaper. If you will be using spray paint, make sure you have a well-ventilated room.

Instructions:

In this week's story, we read about a young man who made some big mistakes and his father who forgave him. The father loved his son so much, he wasn't angry at all! Have you ever made a mistake? Allow all answers. What happened? Allow all answers. Just like the prodigal son, we have someone who loves us no matter what – God! We're so blessed that God loves us always, even when we make mistakes.

1. Ask kids to put on paint shirts.
2. Show kids how to paint the board portion of the clipboard using the chalkboard paint.
3. Set aside to dry.
4. Once paint is dry, invite kids to experiment with their chalk and erasers.

Wonderful! Now that we all have chalkboards, we can write and draw with chalk – and we can always use our erasers when we make a mistake! When we do, we can remember God loves us always, no matter what!

If you have more time. . .

Provide texture pens for the kids to add designs on their clipboard clips or around the edges. Invite kids to add embellishments like as ribbon, bells, and buttons.

The Prodigal Son Craft Activity

Fingerprint Mirror

Kids create personalized fingerprint mirrors and learn that God loves us, even when we mess up.

Supplies:

- Mirrors with wood or plastic frames, one per kid
- Acrylic paint in various colors
- Small bowls or containers
- Foam brushes
- Newspaper
- Assorted fine-tipped markers
- Soapy water
- Paper towels
- Inkpads (optional)
- Colorful paper (optional)
- Glue (optional)
- Permanent marker (optional)

Set Up:

Cover the table with newspaper. Pour the paint into small containers. Place supplies in a central location.

Instructions:

In this week's story, we heard about a son who made all kinds of mistakes. When his father gave him something special, he left home and lost it all. Talk about a big mistake! But even though the son made mistakes, his father still loved him – he even welcomed him home! I have a question for you . . . When does God love you? Allow kids to respond. I hope that everyone's answer is "God loves me all the time!" Just like the father and son in the story, we can be sure that God loves us all the time – even when we mess up!

1. Before the fingerprinting begins, encourage kids to write "God loves me all the time" on one side of their mirrors.
2. Let kids dip their fingers in the paint, then press their fingerprints onto the frame of the mirror to make a color pattern or a design.
3. While paint dries, have kids wash their hands in soapy water and dry them off.
4. Once paint is dry, show kids how to use fine-tipped markers to add features to their fingerprints. Kids can make an owl, a bat, a cat face, a spider, a flower, etc.

Look at your great mirrors! I hope that every time you look into a mirror, you will see the face of someone God loves: YOU! And I hope you will

remember that God loves you all the time, even when you mess up!

If you have less time . . .

Have kids make fingerprints using inkpads instead of paint.

If you have more time . . .

Have kids make paper squares to mosaic their mirrors. Cut small scraps of colorful wrapping or scrapbook paper and glue to the edges of the mirror frames. Let kids use permanent markers to write "God loves me" along one side on the actual mirror.

The Prodigal Son Cooking Activity

Scripture Reference: Luke 15:1–3, 11–32 or pages 316-321 of *The Spark Story Bible: Family Edition*.

Activity Focus: No matter what roads we have been on, God is overjoyed to welcome us home!

Read the parable of The Prodigal Son together.

What happened to the son when took his inheritance and left home? (*spent all of his money, lived with pigs*) **How did the dad and brother feel when the son came back down the road towards home?** (*Dad was overjoyed and relieved. Brother was angry.*)

God is like the father in the story. God comes to meet us on the roads of life. God loves us, no matter where we have been.

Gravel Road Granola

Supplies

- Soap
- Water
- Towels
- Dry measuring cups
- Mixing bowls, large, 2
- Measuring spoons
- Liquid measuring cup
- Rubber spatulas, 3
- Edged baking pans, 9" x 12" (22.9 cm x 30.5 cm), 2
- Oven mitts
- Sealing plastic storage bags, quart (946 mL) size, 1 per person
- Permanent markers, 4
- Cleaning supplies
- Serving spoons, 2
- Serving bowls, 1 per person
- Spoons, 1 per person
- Napkins

Ingredients (serves 8, plus 8 take-home servings)

- Quick oats, 8 cups (640 g)
- Wheat germ, 1 cup (115 g)
- Cinnamon, 3 teaspoons (8 g)
- Nutmeg, 2 teaspoons (4 g)
- Sunflower seeds, 1 cup (134 g)
- Shredded coconut, 1 cup (227 g)
- Corn oil, 5 ounces (148 mL)
- Honey, 5 ounces (148 g)
- Dried fruits, 2 cups (320 g)
- Vanilla yogurt, 32 ounces (907 g)

Set Up: Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C).

Activity Instructions

1. Make sure the kids wash their hands with soap and water before handling any food.
2. Lead kid chefs to measure and pour the oats into a large mixing bowl. **Feel these dusty oats! When Jesus traveled, he walked on dusty paths.**
3. Invite kids to measure and add the wheat germ. Pass the jar of wheat germ around to each kid. **Smell this wheat germ. It is a very small part of the wheat plant, but it is packed with vitamins. As Jesus walked, he told stories to teach the people about God's love. His stories were called parables. They were short, but they were full of information about how much God loves us.**
4. Review the story again with the kids. **Jesus told a parable about a father and his two sons. One son stayed at home and helped his father work on the farm. What did the other son do?**
5. Measure and add the cinnamon and nutmeg. **Smell these spices. While he was away, the son spent a lot of money on fancy, spicy foods.**
6. Kids may measure and stir in the sunflower seeds and coconut. **Toss in the seeds and coconut confetti. Whee! The son spent all of his time and the last of his dad's money going to fancy parties.**
7. Measure and pour in the corn oil and honey. Pass the spatula to stir the ingredients together with a rubber spatula to mix it evenly. **Watch how the oil and honey soak into the other ingredients. They turn the dusty oats into mud. The son was sleeping in the mud with the pigs. Ick! The son was sad and lonely. What did he do next? (went home, apologized to his dad)**

8. Pour the granola into two baking pans, spread thin. **This granola mixture looks like the rocks of a gravel road. The son walked a long, bumpy road to return home.**

9. Put the pans in the oven and bake at 350°F (177°C) for 15 minutes.

10. Remove the granola from the oven and scrape it into a large mixing bowl. Stir the granola as soon as it comes out of the oven. Add the dried fruits and stir it again. **Lots of feelings were stirred up in this story.**

12. Twist the spatula in the granola to make the sounds of footsteps. **Hear the footsteps of the son as he returned home? How did the son feel?** (*embarrassed, afraid, worried*) **How did his brother feel?** (*angry, jealous, sad*) **How about his dad?** (*excited, happy, joyful*)

13. **This story had a surprise ending! The dad wasn't angry at his son. He was so excited and happy that his son came home, so he threw a party! God is like the dad in the story. No matter what roads we have been on, God is overjoyed to welcome us home!**

14. Give each kid a bowl of vanilla yogurt, a spoon, and a napkin. Pass the granola to be sprinkled over the yogurt. **Let's have a party, like the family did in the story when the son returned home. Sprinkle this Gravel Road Granola over your yogurt. Eat up!**

Prayer Time

Dear God,

We thank you that you always welcome us home and that you always love us. Help us to share your love with everyone around us.

Amen.

The Prodigal Son



“Dad, I want to get away from here.” This made the father sad.

The Prodigal Son



The younger son packed his bag and headed out away from home.

The Prodigal Son



“What am I thinking,” he said to himself.
“I’ll go home and say to my father, ‘Dad, I made a big mistake.’”

The Prodigal Son



While he was still far away from his house, his father saw him.

The Prodigal Son



“I’m not good enough to be your son, but would you let me work for you?”

The Prodigal Son



His father ran and threw his arms around him.

Prodigal Son Scramble

How much do you know about the prodigal son? Unscramble the words below to complete the sentences. Then write each circled letter on the blank line to solve the riddle!

The prodigal son had to work with these animals:



_____ GIPS

This person was overjoyed when the prodigal son returned:



_____ THERAF

Who was jealous of the prodigal son?



_____ ROBOTHER

"My son was _____ and has been found!"

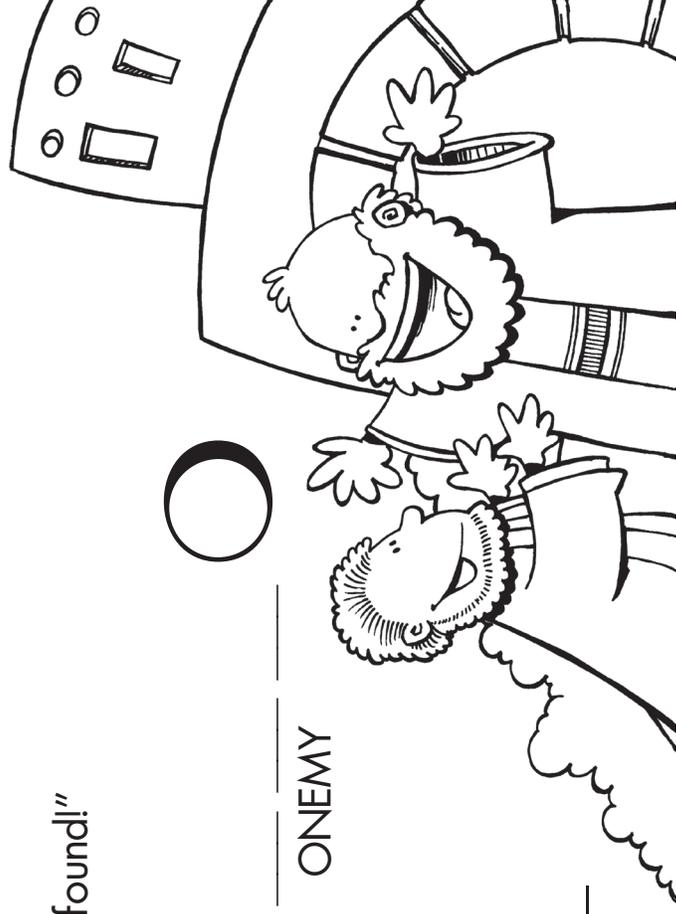


SOTL

The prodigal son was hungry after he ran out of:



_____ ONEMY



Prodigal Son Scramble Solution

How much do you know about the prodigal son? Unscramble the words below to complete the sentences. Then write each circled letter on the blank line to solve the riddle!

The prodigal son had to work with these animals:

P I G S
GIPS

This person was overjoyed when the prodigal son returned:

F A T H E R
THERAF

Who was jealous of the prodigal son?

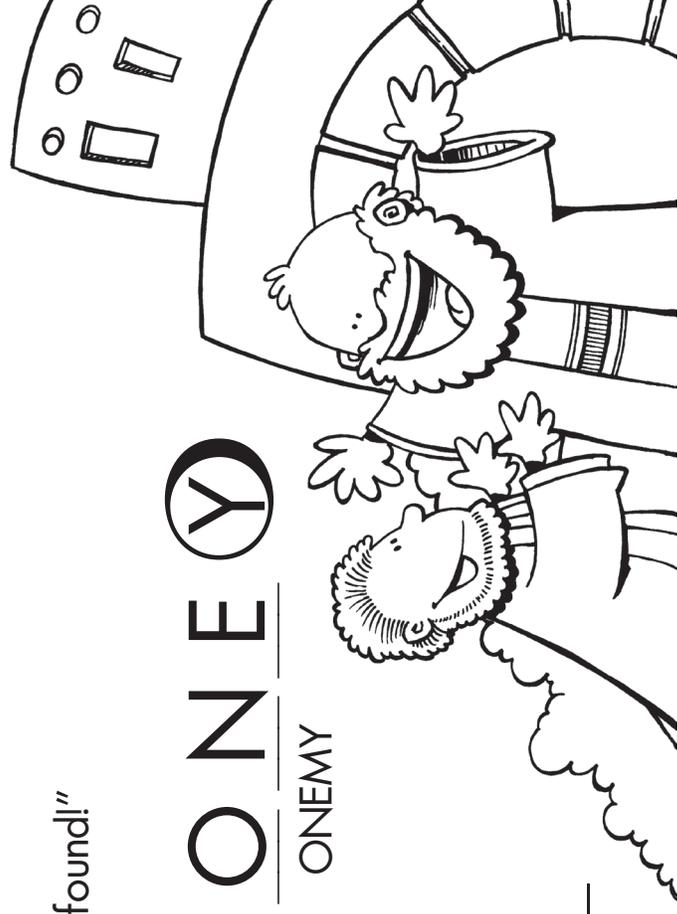
B R O O T H E R
ROBTHER

"My son was **L O S T** and has been found!"
SOTL

The prodigal son was hungry after he ran out of:

M O N E Y
ONEMY

P A R T Y



Joined Back Together

The prodigal son left his family to travel and live off his father's wealth. He was separated from his family until they reunited. Nine words from the story have been separated from some of their letters. Can you join them back together? You'll have to solve the clues first and then write the missing letters.

S T A N _____

Nickname for Stanley _____

S T A N _____ t

Di _____ t

Another name for girl _____

Fa _____ e

Something you tie _____

T _____ led

Black _____ white _____

P _____ rty

Rant and _____

Squ _____ er

Not max but _____

Prodi _____

A free ticket _____

Fat _____

Nickname for Theodore _____

Com _____ ion

An unpleasant child _____

Cele _____ e

Joined Back Together Solution

The prodigal son left his family to travel and live off his father's wealth. He was separated from his family until they reunited. Nine words from the story have been separated from some of their letters. Can you join them back together? You'll have to solve the clues first and then write the missing letters.

Nickname for Stanley S T A N

Another name for girl G A P L

Something you tie R O P E

Black white A N D

Rant and R A V E

Not max but M I N

A free ticket P A S S

Nickname for Theodore T E D

An unpleasant child B R A T

Di S T A N t

Fa M I N e

T R A V E led

P R O N P E rty

Squ A N D er

Prodi G A L

Fat T E D

Com P A S ion

Cele B R A T e