



Family Worship Guide 18 PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15:11-31

Read the Scripture Together

Teach your kids the rhyme that follows. Rhymes (just like music) go into long-term memory, so this is a great way to help everyone remember this parable. (The underlined parts are syllables you should say with extra strength as a heavy beat.)

Hey Dad, give me my money
So I can go away
To find myself a new life
Where I will want to stay.

A parent will read the scripture, Luke 15:11-31, but stop after each of the following verses, at which time the entire family will repeat the rhyme they just learned.

- After verse 12
- After verse 16
- After verse 19
- After verse 21 – and add “He was sorry he ever said ...” before saying the rhyme.

Two Sons and a Father

You can watch and listen to the parable on Vimeo, called “God’s Story: Two Sons and a Father”.
<https://vimeo.com/35595649>

A Parable Race

Set up 4 stations in the backyard or just throughout your house. Each station represents part of the parable. One member of the family at a time will see how fast they can go through the course, to retell the parable. Use the timer on your phone to time each person.

Station 1: You’ll need a container of loose change. Each player needs to find a penny, a nickel, a dime, and a quarter to give to the son who was leaving. **SHOUT: The son asked his dad for money.** *Now, run, run, run to the next station!*

Station 2: Set out a bowl of cereal or popcorn. Get down on the floor/ground on all fours and eat some cereal out of a bowl, like a pig ... Don’t forget to oink! **SHOUT: He wanted the pigs’ food.** *Now, run, run, run to the next station!*

Station 3: Put a long board or rope on the ground. This represents the road home. Walk heel-to-toe from one end of the board/rope to the other. **SHOUT: The boy headed home.** *Now, run, run, run to the last station!*

Station 4: Put on a ring, a robe, and a pair of adult shoes. Before taking them off, someone must take your picture. **SHOUT: His dad gave him a party when he came home!**

Talk Time

- How would you describe the younger son?
- How would you describe the older son? Why was the older son upset when his little brother came home after throwing away all his money?
- How did you expect the dad to react when his younger son came home?
- In our own ways, each one of us has run away from God. The good news is, God is waiting for us to come back to Him, no matter how far away from Him we've gotten. He's waiting for you, and wants to throw a party for you!
- God also wants you to be happy when someone you know comes back to Him and loves God.
- Which son have you been more like?

Prayer

Dear God. Forgive me for the times I've run away from You. Thank You for always being willing to welcome me back. Thank You for loving me with a big, big love. Amen.

Video

"Finding Nemo" is a delightful children's movie that speaks to this issue of a son who defied his father and how the father, out of great love for his son, kept searching for him. Watch scene 6, "Nemo Swimming Out to Sea", with your kids.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RhX3IRJQMg>

- When Nemo reached out and touched the boat even after his father told him not to, what was Nemo saying to his father?***
- What was the father's immediate reaction to Nemo being taken away by the boat?***
- Why was it wrong for Nemo to be out of his father's care?***
- Even though Nemo had disobeyed his father in front of the other fish, how did his father feel about Nemo?***

Finding Nemo is one of my favorite movies. It would be a great one to enjoy on family movie night. Get out some popcorn and put pillows on the floor for loads of fun.

