

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

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!
- That is the wildest cake I have ever seen, but I think the king and queen are going to love it anyway!

TEACHING 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.*
 - "Jump Around" (Kidspring)
 - "Power Up Dance Moves" (Orange Music)

BIG IDEA | God celebrates us.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the Big Idea poster.*
- 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!

MEMORY VERSE | Happy Birthday Tune

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Sing the memory verse to the tune of the Happy Birthday song!*
- "But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."

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 cheer with excitement! Let's practice right now!
- 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:** *Today's Bible story is 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 and cheer with excitement when prompted.*
- 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 cheer.]*
 - 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 cheer.]*
- 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!

VIDEO | Page-Turner, Episode 4

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

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, cupcake, frosting, plastic knives, and sprinkles. Once kids are done decorating their cupcakes, you can take a picture of each kid with their cupcake.*
- **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!

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.*

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