

## LESSON SNAPSHOT

**BOTTOM LINE:**

When we repent of our sins, Jesus will forgive us.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that God loves us and will forgive our sins when we repent and ask Jesus to be our Savior.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Luke 15:11-32, Parable of the Lost Son

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NirV)*

**SUMMARY:**

Jesus told the parable of a son who took his father's money and went his own way. Eventually, when the son had been reduced to a job of feeding pigs, he returned home in disgrace. But the father took him back with joy and celebration. That is the same way Jesus rejoices when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and come into our hearts as our Savior.

**SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for your amazing love.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*

## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

When we repent of our sins, Jesus will forgive us.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn that God loves us and will forgive our sins when we repent and ask Jesus to be our Savior.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Luke 15:11-32, Parable of the Lost Son

### **INTRO:**

If you've ever been to the zoo, you know who the messiest animal is. It's the warthog. Warthogs love mud. Warthogs spend all day wallowing in filth and muck. Give a warthog a bath, make 'em look nice and pretty – as pretty as a warthog can be – and set them loose in their pen. They'll go right back into the mud and muck.

If you've ever been to a farm with pigs, you know they're pretty much the same as their animal kingdom cousins. Pigs love to roll around in filth. The pigpen is often the dirtiest, smelliest, grossest part of the farm. If any of your parents have ever called your room a "pigpen," that's what they mean.

Caring for pigs is an important job. Without pig farmers, we wouldn't have any bacon! Can you imagine such a terrible thing as that? But just because a farmer cares for pigs doesn't mean he spends all day in the muck with them. They may get a little muddy when one of the pigs needs some special care, but they're quick to clean up afterwards. Nobody spends all day in the pigpen, and nobody would ever spend the night out there.

That is, except for the young man we call the prodigal son. The prodigal son is the title and the star character from one of the most popular stories Jesus ever told. He was the son of a very wealthy man, a boy who grew up with everything. In other words, the Kardashians would have been trying to keep up with him.

All those blessings weren't enough for the boy, so he asked his father to give him his inheritance – his share of his father's fortune – so he could go out into the world. Long story short, things didn't work out for the boy, and he went from the penthouse to the pigpen. This is how the story played out.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## READ LUKE 15:11-32

### MAIN POINT:

The young man was foolish with his money. He wasted it all on luxury items and having a good time. It was fun for a time, and the boy had many “friends” who helped him spend all that money. But when the money was gone, the friends vanished. He was penniless, friendless, and homeless. The only place he could find to sleep was in a pigpen.

It was there the boy decided to go home and beg for his father’s forgiveness, knowing that even the least paid of his father’s servants lived better. But when the boy’s father saw him coming home, he ran to him! He hugged his son and welcomed him back. He threw a big celebration to welcome home his son!

Jesus told this story to show us why He Himself had come to Earth. We are that prodigal son. Humankind had everything, and we chose to do our own thing when Adam and Eve chose sin. In spite of all the mistakes we have made, our Heavenly Father loves us still. He sent Jesus to tell us to come home, and God waits to welcome each one of us when we accept Jesus. This is the message not just of the gospels, but the whole Bible. God loves us, and He wants us to come home to Him!

### DRIVE IT HOME:

I can only imagine what the prodigal was thinking that first night he slept with the pigs. No doubt he thought a lot about the smell and taking a bath, but I am sure he had a lot of guilt over the mistakes he had made. Maybe he thought about going home right then and there, but his pride got in the way. Maybe he thought, “I can’t go back and face my father. I just wasted the money that he spent a lifetime saving for me. I’d rather sleep with the pigs than go home and admit I was wrong!”

I don’t know how things are in your family, or how easy it is to admit mistakes to your parents, but I know this, your heavenly Father is the prodigal son’s father. He is watching for you every day. His eyes are always on you, hoping that you will hear this message and respond by giving your heart to Jesus.

God doesn’t look on us with judgment. He looks with love. He wants to forgive our sins and give us a clean heart. He wants to send the Holy Spirit to live inside us. He wants to give us eternal life!

We were born in the pigpen. We were born into a world of sin. Try as we might, there’s nothing we can do on our own to get out of this muck. God sent Jesus to die for us so HE could reach into the muck and pull us out. He will embrace us and welcome us with the joy of the prodigal’s father. How many of you would like to feel a love like that today?

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

If you've never given your heart to Jesus, it's time to come home. God will lift you out of the mud and make you clean. He loves you, and He's waiting for you to take the first step. Will you do it today?

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for your amazing love.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER:

Which do you like better: bacon or sausage?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Psalm 25:4**

See who can recite the memory verse in a piggy voice.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give each of the kids a ping-pong ball. Set the balls on the ground, and have everyone get on their hands and knees like a pig. Then see who can roll their ball the farthest by pushing it with their snout - I mean, their nose.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Luke 15:11-32**

What did the young man ask his father to do?

What did the young man do with all his father's money?

What did the son decide to do when he was feeding pigs?

Why did his father forgive him?

What does this story teach us about the love of God?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Forgive our sins!*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER:

Which do you like better: bacon or sausage?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

**Psalm 25:4**

See who can recite the memory verse in a piggy voice.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Give each of the kids a ping-pong ball. Set the balls on the ground, and have everyone get on their hands and knees like a pig. Then see who can roll their ball the farthest by pushing it with their snout - I mean, their nose.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

**Read Luke 15:11-32**

How did the young man end up feeding pigs?

Why did the son decide to go back and ask for his father's forgiveness?

Why did his father forgive him?

What does this story teach us about the love of God?

How can we have our sins forgiven?

### SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,*

*Forgive our sins!*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*