



Elementary Family Group -- Sunday March 22nd Bible Story: Prodigal Son -- Luke 15:11-24

Discussion Question:

- What is a parable?
- Why was it a big deal that the younger son asked for the inheritance early?
- Why do you think Jesus told this parable?
- How is our Heavenly Father like the father in the parable?
- How can repent and be close to our Heavenly father again?
 - A: Admit you have sinned
 - B: Believe that Jesus is God and died on the cross to forgive your sin
 - C: Chose to follow Jesus and live His way today and forever
- Have you ever made the choice to repent and become a part of God's family?
 - IF YES: Can you tell me about that time? How does it make you feel knowing you are close to God your Heavenly Father?
 - IF NO: Do you have any questions about what it means to repent and live for Jesus? Is that a choice you would like to make today?

Craft

- DIRECTIONS: Take a **white piece of paper** from the supplies kit. Challenge your kids to follow the step by step directions to draw a pig. If you are feeling adventurous have the kids go outside and get a cup of dirt, mix it with a small amount of water and "paint" on some mud for the pigs to play in.
- SAY: Today we learned about the prodigal son. He was so embarrassed to ask forgiveness that he ended up feeding pigs and being so hungry that he wanted to eat the pig food before he finally went back to his father.

- ASK: What is an embarrassing moment you have been in? Should asking God for forgiveness ever be embarrassing? Why do you think it sometimes feels embarrassing?

Seated Game

- SAY: In this game you will get to push boundaries by poking a hole into the tissue paper that is holding up the coin. You can make a tiny hole or a big gash but be careful - you do not want the coin to fall into the cup on your turn.
- DIRECTIONS: Take the **cup, tissue paper, rubber band, and toothpicks** out of your supplies kit. Put the tissue paper on top of the cup and use the rubberband to seal it on top. Place a quarter on top of the tissues. The first person will take the toothpick and poke a hole then pass it to the next person. When the coin falls into the cup the game ends. Restate the
- SAY: God loves you so much that when we go to Him and ask forgiveness He will forgive us everytime! BUT that is not an excuse to push the boundaries and sin just because He forgives. True repentance means that we turn away from our wrong choices and turn back to living God's way.

Active Game

- DIRECTIONS: Take **one piece of white paper** out of your supplies kit. Grab a bucket or large bowl from your house and place it in an empty area as the basket. The first person to go will stand anywhere in the room and shoot anyway they would like. If they miss, the next person has a turn to stand anywhere and shoot anyway they would like. If they make the basket everyone else must shoot in exactly the same way from the same spot. If anyone else misses the shot they will get a letter of PIG. Once you have gotten all the letters to spell PIG you are out. The last person standing wins.
- SAY: In the parable of the prodigal son the youngest son spent everything he had and ended up so hungry that he wanted to eat pig food. When you mess up, remember that you can always ask forgiveness - you never have to wait until things get that bad to repent and turn back to God!