

## LESSON 1:

### Father's Heart

**Memory Verse: "...he was lost and is found." Luke 15:32B**

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#### **Connect:**

Welcome the kids, introduce yourself, and tell them something about yourself. (Today, mention your favorite color to them) Have the children tell three other people their favorite color.

Ask someone to invite the Holy Spirit to be with us today as we study the Word of God.

#### **Intro:**

Stand up if you've ever thrown a baseball with your dad or mom  
(have them sit)

Stand up if you've ever played basketball with your dad or mom.  
(have them sit)

Stand up if you've ever played a board game with your dad or mom.  
(have them sit)

Stand up if you've ever played a video game with your dad or mom.  
(have them sit)

Stand up if you've ever talked to your dad or mom.  
(have them sit)

Now, I want you to stand up if you've ever talked to your heavenly father.  
(Explain that every time we pray we are talking to our Heavenly Father)

Stand up if you think Jesus would want to play sports with you and games with you if he was standing right next to you, right now.

Today we are going to discover our heavenly Father's heart for us.

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# Bible Study

Have some volunteers help you tell the story. Invite two kids up to the front.

Begin to explain that you are a very wealthy person and these are your two children. (continue in character)

Now, my oldest child was very responsible and did anything I asked. He took care of the family business and continued to care for me as I aged. But, one day my younger child asked me to give them all of their inheritance money now, instead of waiting until they grew older.

I decided to do as they pleased.

So my youngest child took the money and ran. He left our town and moved to the city, found there own place, and began to party with the locals. Before you know it he ran out of all of the money I had given him. Nothing was left. It got so bad that he began living on the street and eating the food thrown out in the trash by the local restaurant.

*(ask them why they think the child didn't come home to their dad and ask for help)*

My youngest didn't want to come home and face me, for he knew he had wasted everything and gained nothing. But one day in the distance I saw someone walking up the path that led to my house. It was my youngest child!! I was so excited to see my child that I dropped everything and ran down the path to meet him there. I was so excited that I gave him a big hug and kiss. I took my jacket off and wrapped it around him to keep him warm, and I gave him the ring off my finger, the very ring my grandfather gave my father, and my father gave me.

He was home and all I wanted to do was celebrate. For I had waited so long to see him, and spent many nights wondering if he was okay. But now he was home, he was safe, he was back with me!!'

This is what happened in our bible story today.

(reference: Luke 15: 11-32)

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# Going Deeper

#### Seeking Jesus:

Luke 15:11-32

*The Prodigal Son---Paraphrase this bible passage.*

*In the scripture we see that this man gave his son everything, and he wasted all of it on worthless things. By the time he realized what he had done, it was too late. He had lost everything and was eating the pigs food to survive. He finally got desperate enough and went home---not as a son, but thinking he could be a servant. The father had other plans and celebrated his son's return.*

*Who reminds you of Jesus in this passage? (let the kids respond)*

*Well, this story is supposed to show us the love of Father God. We had everything in him (in the Garden of Eden) and threw it all away on worthless things. (a fruit)*

*We went and lived on our own, but finally returned to God, thinking if he would just take pity and make us the lowest in his kingdom it would be better for us. Thankfully God has other plans. You see, he waits for us to return to him and when we finally do, he celebrates our return by clothing us with honor and having a feast for us. All heaven celebrates when a child of God comes home!! We should not live in the shame of what was, for that only keeps us from coming home to him. Remember his love covers a multitude of sins.*

#### Altar Call:

Ask the kids if they would hope that God would greet them with the same love the Father of the prodigal son greeted him. Have them stand up and come forward if they want to experience the love of the father in that way. Tell the kids who come forward to hold their hands out in front of them like they are receiving a gift.

Have helpers and yourself walk around and prayer over the children who come forward as you lead in a prayer for more of the Father's love to invade their hearts. God, reveal your love to them!

Have them repeat this prayer:

I want more of You Father. More of You Jesus.

More of Your Love. More of Your Spirit.

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# Encounter Time

## 1) PRAYER:

Set up a pig food bowl (which could contain pellet food and seeds), a money bowl (with fake money), cardboard box (made to represent homeless living), and a few pictures to represent addictions (drugs and alcohol). Have the kids pray that God would help those in your city struggling in these different areas. Each area representing an area the prodigal son struggled with.

HUNGER; (Pig food bowl) He was so desperate and hungry that he ate the scraps from the pigs food.

Pray for people in your city not to go hungry.

FINANCES: (money bowl) He squandered his money until he had none. Pray for God to end poverty in your city.

HOMLESSNESS: (box shelter) He lived in the pigs shelter.

Pray for shelter for the homeless.

ADDICTIONS: (pictures) He squandered his wealth in wild living.

Pray that people in your city struggling with addictions would find freedom and be made well again.

## 2) PRAISE:

Testimonies are great ways to praise God for what he has done. A testimony is a personal experience of what God has done for you.

Do you have a testimony? Well, if you are a Christian, then you have a testimony of the way Jesus saved you from your sin. Do you have a testimony of something else God has done for you?

(have some of the adults share a testimony of healing, provision, or something else to help the kids get a picture of what a testimony is.)

Have you ever had someone in your family be healed by God? Did your family ever have a time when God provided for you in an amazing way?

Let the kids share their testimonies and praise God for what he has done!

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# Encounter Time (continued)

### 3) PROPHECY: HGVGame-

Have five objects displayed for the kids to see. They should be related to fathers. For example: a hammer, a tool belt, a coffee mug/thermos, car keys, a shovel) Give the kids a chance to see all of the objects and make sure they know what all of them are.

Tell the kids that today we are going to play a game with Jesus. We are going to ask His Holy Spirit to speak to us and help us hear his voice. Have the kids ask the Lord which object is meant for them. Whatever object is highlighted in their minds should be picked. Have the kids write their name on the piece of paper next to their objects picture. Collect all of the papers. Now, tell the kids to ask the Lord what object is meant for the person sitting next to them. Tell them that the first object highlighted to them is the one they should pick. Once you have finished, have them take turns sharing what object was meant for their friend. Once you have done this, reveal what they wrote on their sheet of paper. See if it matches their friends results. If you have time have the kids and helpers prophesy over each child, asking why God chose this object for this person?

### 4) Power:

God wants us to believe for the impossible, because with God all things are possible.

Many times we are diagnosed with something like asthma, dyslexia, or ADHD. We are told that we will always be this way so just accept it. Because of that we don't ask for God's power to invade that area of our lives. We don't go to God believing for healing and freedom from these things. Today we are going to ask God for the impossible things, believing he can change them. Ask the kids what things they are wanting to see God do in their lives. Do they have a learning disability , ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia, Depression, ANXIETY, Fear, Asthma, Eyesight loss, or any other problem? Have the kids gather around the child you're praying for, lay hands on them, agree in God's power over this ailment, and pray—commanding it to go in Jesus' name. Make sure to ask the child receiving prayer for follow-up immediately after prayer or in the next few weeks to see if they have noticed a difference.



Car Keys

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Shovel

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Coffee mug

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Tool Belt

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Hammer

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# Addictions





# Time With God

## Lesson 1: Father's Heart

Use this as a 5 minute family devotion around the dinner table, or you can use it in your personal alone time with God.

**Day 1:** Read- Luke 15:32 *"But we had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was dead and is alive; he was lost and is found."*

-Think about the day you decided to follow Jesus and gave your life to Him.

-Now, imagine Father God welcoming you home to a huge celebration and feast in your honor. All of heaven is there celebrating you.

*Pray: Thank you Jesus that you made a way for me to come home to my heavenly Father. Thank you that my life matters so much to you that you would have a celebration for me, who was once lost but is now found because of Jesus Christ.*

**Day 2:** Read- Romans 15:7 *"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."*

-How can we welcome others like Christ? He welcomes us unconditionally---Have mercy on others.. He welcomes us generously-giving us his inheritance. He welcomes us boldly—be bold in welcoming others.

*Pray: God help me to be bold and have courage to welcome others even in tough situations. Help me to always be merciful and show grace to others. And help me Lord to be generous to others, just as you have been to me.*

**Day 3:** Read- Psalm 86:5 *"You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you."*

-When you read this scripture what part sticks out to you? Why? Underline it.

*Pray: Thank you Lord for forgiving me. Thank you that you are always good to me. Please show (list name of someone who doesn't know Jesus) that love for them will cover their sins as well.*

**Day 4:** Read-John 3:1 *"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are."*

-Think about what makes God the kind of Father that we want to have.

*Pray: Praise Him for who He is to you. Finish this statement.*

*Jesus, you are \_\_\_\_\_.*



# Time With God

(continued)

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**Day 5:** Read-Zephaniah 3:17 *"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."*

-Read this scripture again, but this time say your name every time it says you.

-The Lord \_\_\_\_\_'s God is in \_\_\_\_\_'s midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over \_\_\_\_\_ with gladness; he will quiet \_\_\_\_\_ by his love; he will exult over \_\_\_\_\_ with loud singing.

*PRAY: Jesus you love me. You rejoice over me, You sing over me. I am amazed by your love. You are a Good Father. Thank you for loving me.*

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15:32b***