

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Dads are a gift from God.

OBJECTIVE:

Little ones will learn ways to show their Dad they love him today.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 15:11-24, The Parable of the Lost Son

MEMORY VERSE:

*"Honor your father and mother, just as the Lord your God has commanded you."
Deuteronomy 5:16a (NirV)*

SUMMARY:

Sometimes we don't obey our mommies and daddies, but we must remember that God gave us parents to take care of us and raise us. We should thank God for daddies and find ways to show daddy that we love him.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Read the prayer, and have the kids repeat along with you.

Dear Jesus (*Dear Jesus*),

Thank you for our dads. (*Thank you for our dads.*)

Amen (*Amen*)

MEMORY VERSE

*“Honor your father and mother, just as the Lord your God has commanded you.”
Deuteronomy 5:16a (NirV)*

LARGE GROUP MV ACTIVITY:

Repeat the verse for the kids a few times. Have them repeat after you. Have them read it in a quiet voice, and then have them read it in a loud voice.

SMALL GROUP MV ACTIVITY:

Play telephone with the memory verse. Whisper it to one child, and have them whisper to the next. When it gets to the last child, have them repeat what they heard aloud. Then repeat the real verse again and have the kids say it with you.

SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

TITLE: THE RUNAWAY SON

ITEMS NEEDED: Monopoly money

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2 M or F

CHARACTERS: TWO NARRATORS

Narrator One and Two enter. In this skit, the narrators will pull kids from the audience to act out different characters in the Bible story.

NARRATOR ONE: Once upon a time there was a little boy who had a very nice dad.

Pick two kids to be the son and Dad.

NARRATOR TWO: One day, the little boy asked his Dad to give him half of his money. His father gave it to him...

Give the Dad a wad of Monopoly money to give to the Son.

NARRATOR TWO: And the little boy went off to the big city.

Lead the Son over to the other side of the stage.

NARRATOR ONE: The boy made a lot of friends because he had a lot of money.

Pick a few kids to be the Friends.

NARRATOR ONE: But soon all that money was gone.

Take the money away.

NARRATOR ONE: And all those friends, who weren't really good friends, left the boy all alone.

Send the friends back to their seats.

SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

NARRATOR TWO: The boy had nothing, and he was forced to get a job feeding pigs.

Pick a few kids to be the pigs. Have them get on the ground and oink.

NARRATOR TWO: The boy was very sad. But one day he said to himself...

Get the Son to repeat each line.

NARRATOR ONE: Why am I here feeding pigs?

NARRATOR TWO: My father treats his servants better than this.

NARRATOR ONE: I will go home.

NARRATOR TWO: I will work for my Dad.

NARRATOR ONE: The boy left the pigs behind and headed for home.

Send the pigs to their seats.

NARRATOR TWO: But while he was still a long ways off, his father saw him and ran to him!

Have the Dad run to the boy.

NARRATOR ONE: His father forgave his son and welcomed him back. Why? Because he loved him!

NARRATOR TWO: Our Dads know we make mistakes, and good fathers forgive their kids, just as God forgives us.

NARRATOR ONE: Fathers are a gift from God, and they show us how much God loves us.

NARRATOR TWO: Let's thank God for our Dads, and let's tell our Dads how much we love them!

SNACK

ITEMS NEEDED: Goldfish crackers

ADVANCED PREPARATION: Put Goldfish crackers in small cups for snack time.

A template should be created that says something simple such as, "Today's Snack is GOLDFISH CRACKERS. Please let your child's teacher know if it is not ok for your child to have this snack."

SAY: Some Dads love to fish, so let's eat some fish in honor of them. For each fish you eat, think of one thing you love about your Dad - or a grandpa or uncle who is like a dad to you.

CRAFT

Flower Feet

ITEMS NEEDED: Construction paper, scissors, markers

ADVANCED PREPARATION: Create templates for a football, a necktie, and a fish.

Let each kid pick a template to trace on construction paper and cut out. Have them decorate their football, tie, or fish, and write, "I Love My Dad" on them. The kids will give these to their Dads as gifts.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

ITEMS NEEDED: Monopoly money

ADVANCED PREPARATION: None

Pass the money around to the kids. Ask each kid if they can guess how much money is there.

SAY: The prodigal son was given a lot of money. His dad worked hard for all that money, and the boy wasted it. Even though the boy messed up, his father still forgave him. Jesus told this parable to show us how much God loves us. Like a loving father, uncle, or grandfather, God is always willing to forgive us and welcome us back when we make a mistake.

MAIN LESSON

BOTTOM LINE: Dads are a gift from God.

OBJECTIVE: Little ones will learn ways to show their Dad they love him today.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 15:11-24, The Parable of the Lost Son

Sing two worship songs before going into the lesson.

SAY: Today is Father's Day. It's a special day when we honor our Dads. Dads are fun-loving people who play with us, take us exciting places, tell us bad jokes, and teach us many things. Sometimes Dads have to straighten us out, too. When we disobey our parents, Dads correct and teach us that there are consequences when we break the rules. Dads discipline us because they love us. They want to teach us right from wrong, and they want us to make good choices.

Jesus told a story about a Dad whose son made some big mistakes. It's the story of the prodigal son. In this story a young man asked his father to give him his inheritance – all the money he was supposed to receive after his father passed away – so that he could go out and live his life. The father gave the son the money, and the son went to the city. He spent money like crazy, and pretty soon, he had no money left. He had lots of friends for a time, or so he thought, but once the money was gone, he was left all alone. He had to get a job feeding pigs.

The son was sorry for wasting all his dad's money. He decided to go home and ask his father to hire him as a servant, but as soon as the father saw his son coming home, he ran to him! The father was so happy his son had come home, he forgave his mistakes and welcomed him back into the family.

If you have a Dad like that, or even an uncle or a grandfather, who loves and forgives you like the prodigal's father, you have reason to be thankful. The love and forgiveness our Dads and father figures show us remind us of the love and forgiveness of our Heavenly Father. Let's tell those special men in our lives how much we love them for all they do for us. And let's say a prayer to thank God for our loving fathers.

SIMPLE PRAYER: Read the prayer, and have the kids repeat along with you.

Dear Jesus (*Dear Jesus*),

Thank you for our dads. (*Thank you for our dads.*) Amen (*Amen*)

MAIN LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WIGGLE TAMER: Play a few rounds of Duck Duck Goose.

SMALL GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Play telephone with the memory verse. Whisper it to one child, and have them whisper to the next. When it gets to the last child, have them repeat what they heard aloud. Then repeat the real verse again and have the kids say it with you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What did the father give his son?

What did the son do with his father's money?

What did the father do when his son asked for forgiveness?

What does this story teach us about how God loves us?

SMALL GROUP GAME OR ACTIVITY:

Have each kid say one thing that their dad does or enjoys. When that child shares their dad's favorite thing, tell the other kids to stand if their dad likes that thing too.

SPECIAL 1 PAGE LESSON FOR 1 & 2 YEAR OLDS

PLAY TIME: Spend the first 15 minutes playing with the kids. Cars, dolls, blocks, and simple puzzles are great for this time.

BIBLE TIME: Seat the kids in the place they will be having snack. Hold up a Bible or Illustrated Kids Bible and say, "This is the Bible. God wrote the Bible. Everything in the Bible is true." Then allow each child to pat the Bible with their hand.

LESSON: In Luke 15 we read about a boy who took half his dad's money and went to the big city. The boy wasted all that money, and he had none left. He was feeding pigs and decided to go ask his father to forgive him. His father was so happy when he came home, he forgave him and hugged him. God gave us fathers to show us how God loves us and remind us that He always forgives!

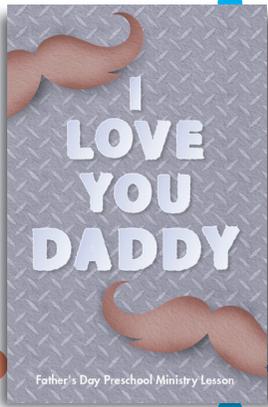
MAKE IT REAL: After the lesson say, "God gave us Dads, and their love is a gift from God!" Then point to each child and say, "Your Dad is a gift from God!"

PRAYER TIME: Ask each child to fold their hands and bow their heads and say, "Let's pray before our snack. Thank you God for our mommies and especially our daddies. Thank you for church. Thank you for this snack we get to eat. Amen"

SNACK TIME: Wash each child's hand with a wet wipe and then serve the snack. At this age crackers or goldfish with water are generally best, but you always want to be mindful of any food allergies.

POTTY BREAK: After snack is a great time to ask those who are potty trained if they need to use the bathroom or change diapers of those who are not yet potty trained.

PLAY TIME: Finish the day with more play time until it's time for pick up.



MAKE IT STICK

4 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

I LOVE YOU DADDY LESSON

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: I LOVE YOU DADDY LESSON



DRIVING:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Ask your kids to list all the fun things their Dad does with them



PLAYING:

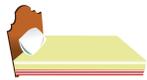
Make this week's lesson real:

Using some of your child's toys, help them to reenact the story of the Prodigal son.



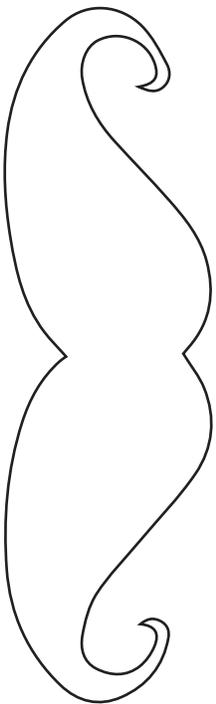
EATING:

Let Dad and the kids go to one of Dad's favorite places for dinner or a snack.

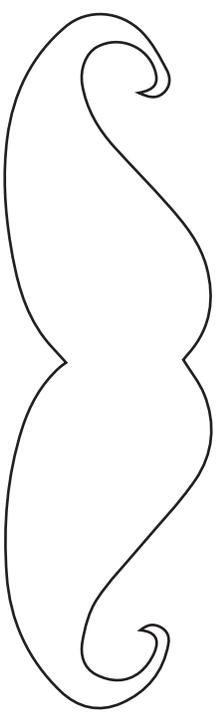


SNUGGLING:

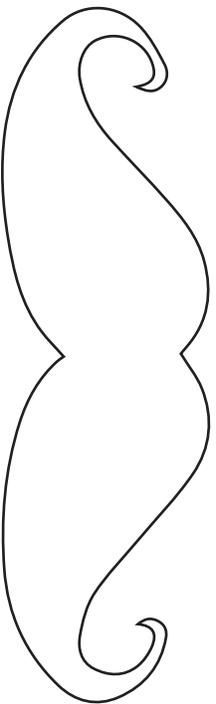
When you're rocking with your child at night, or reading a bedtime story, choose to read this week's Bible lesson at least one night of the week. Ask them how God's love for us is like the father's love for the prodigal son.



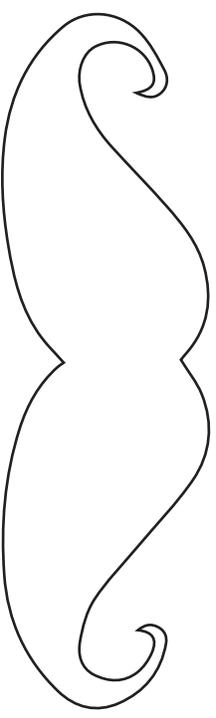
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