Today's story is about celebrating how much Jesus loves us! Keep the party atmosphere going and have lots of energy!

First 5 minutes of the service hour:
Engage kids in cooperative play activities to help them connect to other kids

Next 10 minutes: Connect Time

Next 25 minutes: Large Group

Last 25 minutes: Snack and Small Group

Today, we’re talking about the story of the Prodigal Son. It’s a chance to show kids that no matter what we do, or where we go, God will always welcome us back with open arms!

God loves us no matter what.

Luke 15:11-32, Pg 272 Jesus Storybook Bible

When there is a craft/activity that kids will do individually, write their names on the back of the item as they come into the room. This will save you time later and allow you to spend more time helping kids with the activity. Plus, it is easier to distinguish which craft belongs to which kid at check-out time.
GOAL: Connect time is all about engaging kids in a short, interactive game to prepare them for Large Group.

- **Clean up!** *(When you get the 10-minute warning from the presenter, have children clean up and go sit on the rug.)*
- **Today, we’re going to talk about two brothers. One stayed home; one went to a far-off country.**
  - The older brother that stayed home helped his dad work in the fields. Let’s pretend to work in the fields *(Pretend to dig in the dirt, feed chickens, etc.)*
  - The younger brother decided to take his money and leave home. Let’s pack our suitcase and pretend to walk for a long time. *(Give them time to respond.)*
  - How do you think his dad felt when he left? *(Sad)*
  - Well, while he was gone, he spent all his money on things he didn’t need, and eventually ran out. He was so sad, and he had to go work with the pigs. What do you know about pigs? *(Noisy, messy, stinky, etc.)*
  - When we go into the big room we are going to hear what happens next in our story. What do you think the younger brother might do next? *(Allow time to respond.)*

As you walk into Large Group, encourage kids to put on their listening ears and a bubble in their mouth! Remind them that HOPS will be showing us how we should act in Large Group, so we have to listen!
WELCOME AND INTRO

Main Goal: Review the beginning of God’s story and rescue plan.

Notes:

- *Click to play intro music.
- **Say:** Hi Friends! Welcome to Kids’ Club. I’m ________ and I’m really glad you’re here today. Before we get started, I want you to meet my friend HOPS.
- **Video:** HOPS Obey Your Leaders!
- **Say:** (Holding up the Bible.) *This* is God’s story. Out of all the stories in the world, this is the most important. Do you know what it’s called? (Let kids respond “the Bible.”) That’s right, the Bible! It’s God’s Rescue plan. It shows us how He rescued us from all the wrong things in the world.
- **Say:** In the beginning, God made the whole world and everything in it. He created the sun and the moon, the water and the land, the plants and the animals, and people like you and me! Everything was good. Give me a big thumbs up! (Let kids respond. Then change your tone.)
- **Say:** But THEN, something bad happened. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and all the wrong things came into the world. Things like sadness and death. Show me your sad face. (Let kids respond.)
- **Say:** Even though Adam and Eve disobeyed God, God loved them anyway! He planned a great rescue so that Adam and Eve, and you and me, could be close to God again! Do you know who the Rescuer is? (Let kids say: Jesus!)
### TWO SONS AND A DAD

**Main Goal:** Set up Jesus' story by describing how the younger son made his dad sad, but the dad still loved him.

- **Say:** Did you know that Jesus loved to tell stories? (Let kids respond.) He did! And today, we’re going to hear a special story that Jesus told his friends. It’s all about how much God loves us. Can you put your hands on your heart to show how much God loves you? (Let kids respond.) Good job!
- **Say:** This story is about two brothers. One went to a far-off country. Let’s all stand and walk in place! (Let kids respond and “walk” for a few seconds.) The other brother stayed home. Let’s all sit down, like we’re at home. (Let kids respond.)
- **Ask:** Do you think their dad only loved one of them, or did he love BOTH of his kids? (Let kids respond.) Yep, he loved them both! But he became very sad when the younger son went far away. Can I see your sad face? (Let kids show their sad faces.)
- **Say:** Even though the young son made his dad very, very sad, his dad still loved him. We’re going to watch a video about it. As we watch, see if you can figure out how we know that the dad still loves his son.
- **Video:** God’s Story / Two Sons and Father

### THE DAD LOVES HIS SON

**Main Goal:** Understand that God is like the dad in today’s story, which means that God loves us no matter what!

- **Say:** Wow, so after the son took all the money and ran away, he came back! And we know the dad still loved his son because he RAN to see him. Everybody, run in place (Let kids pretend while sitting, or standing.) Good job!
- **Say:** After the dad got to his son, he KISSED him! Can you guys blow a kiss? (Let kids blow a kiss.) Good job! No matter what the young son did, his dad still loved him.
- **(Loop: Confetti Cannon)** After that, the dad threw a party! Woohoo! He wasn’t even mad—he was just glad his son was home.
- **Say:** The dad in that story is like GOD, and we’re like the son. Sometimes, we mess up and do wrong things. Sometimes, we are mean, or we don’t share. (Pause.) That makes God sad. Can I see your sad face? (Let kids show sad faces.)
- **Say:** But no matter what, God still loves us! Just like that father who RAN to his son and kissed him. Now give me the biggest smile you’ve ever had because that’s AMAZING news!
WRAP UP AND WORSHIP

Main Goal: Help kids interact through prayer and worship!

- **Say**: Right now let’s talk to God and tell him how glad we are that he loves us. When we talk to God, we call it “praying.” Are you ready to pray? (Let kids respond.) Great!
- **Pray (Breaking it into small, repeatable phrases)**: Hi God! Thank you that no matter what we do, you will always, ALWAYS love us! Aaa-men!
- **Set up worship**: Let’s show Jesus how happy we are that he came to the world to rescue us. Let’s stand up and worship!
- **Music Video**: Be Strong
- **Music Video**: Let All That I Am Praise the Lord
- **Music Video**: Come With Me

Dismiss kids to small groups.
**Goal:** Kids will (1) retell the story and (2) connect the love of the father in the story to the love of God for us!

**Why?** This isn’t just a story Jesus told; it’s the story of US, and how we sometimes run away from God. But no matter what we do, he’ll welcome us back as a loving father.

**Tip:** Emphasize that today is a PARTY! Have fun with kids and help them understand how much God loves us, and how he celebrates us, just like the father in today’s story.

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**REVIEW THE STORY**

1. How many sons are in this story? (Two; hold up two fingers.)
2. Did the young son stay home, or run away? (He ran away—remind kids how he spent the money his dad gave him, and then had to work with pigs.)
3. When he had nothing left, he decided to go home. When he was getting close, what did his dad do? (Ran—run in place—and kissed him—blow a kiss!)
4. His dad was SO excited, he threw a big...(Party!)
5. Who is like the dad in the story? (God—you may have to help kids with this.)
6. And does God love US just like the dad loved his lost son? (Yes! Yay!).

*Read the story in the Jesus Storybook Bible! It’s called “Running Away”.

**MAKE IT PERSONAL**

- Hand each kid a party hat and a streamer, and a straw. Help kids tape the streamer to the end of the straw to make a party wand!
- Turn on some music and do some of the following “party” activities, and let kids wave around their streamers as they play!
  - Lead the kids in a parade around the room! Let kids wave their streamers around, clap, and do silly dances while they follow you.
  - Have the kids repeat “God loves us” several times as you celebrate
  - Simon Says: Have kids do exactly as you say.
  - Follow the Leader: Let kids follow behind you as you lead them in funny walks and dances around the room.
  - Dance Party: Turn up the music and dance!

*Extra time? Have kids do a coloring sheet. After that, play the Connect Time “rope” game again!*
Tell me about the boy who ran away.
What happened when he came home?

Lesson supplies

### Connect Time

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### Small Group

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Tell me about the son who ran away. What happened when he came home? 

Read more about this week’s story in Luke 15:11-32.
1. **Song slide:** for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. **Video:** Hops / Obey Your Leaders! ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd43Tf_J1lg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cd43Tf_J1lg&feature=youtu.be))
3. **Video:** God’s Story / Two Sons and a Father ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfDfMZ6MTJs&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfDfMZ6MTJs&t=2s))
4. **Loop:** Confetti Cannon ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Lw_smO-CjQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Lw_smO-CjQ))
5. **Music Video:** Be Strong ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZFMqFrc__c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZFMqFrc__c))
6. **Music Video:** Let All That I Am Praise the Lord ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlBhafcbCEI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlBhafcbCEI))
7. **Music Video:** Come With Me ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1DtCRDhvlE&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1DtCRDhvlE&t=1s))