



THE GRACEFUL FATHER (LUKE 15:11-24) 'OUR FATHER'



Jesus shows us what God is like, and He is better than we think.



FAMILY NOTES

- Reminder that these come out every second Sunday when our River Kids Video is out
- Check out the app Lectio for Families for more great opportunities for family discipleship

DATES OF INTEREST:

72 Hours of Prayer – Sunday 7-10 March
Baptisms – Sunday 17 March



TEACHING

Please note this is how we will start each teaching time as our aim is that our kids read the story in the bible (as they get it in video form in the video), and learn to see for themselves what it shows us about God, before we show our truth bomb!

READ THE BIBLE STORY - LUKE 15:11-24

Use our stacks of bibles so every kid gets one to practice looking it up and finding it. Read it together.

For our younger groups, you can use our Jesus Storybook bible and read it to them all if you prefer.

Explain to them that Jesus told this story to SHOW us what God was like.

THEN ASK OUR BIBLE QUESTION and USE THE VISUAL MIND MAP

Show [this poster](#) to ask them, 'What does this story show us about God?'

Go around the circle and have every member of the family pick 1-3 describing words for what God is like in this story. (eg forgiving, father, kind, loving, unashamed etc)

PRAYER EXERCISE

THE LORD'S PRAYER - Intro Our Father

Explain we are going to be looking at the Lord's prayer all term this year and we are going to memorise it all by the end!

This is a prayer that Jesus gave us to help us to pray. This prayer also reminds of who God is.

Today we are looking at OUR FATHER.

This matches today's story Jesus told - God is our Father, a good loving, forgiving Father.

It's important when we pray that we aren't praying to a God who is far or distant, but is close and loves us like a good Dad. So let's give it a go:

FATHER PRAYER ACTIVATION - He is close.

- **G**et the kids to lie down on their tummies so they don't get distracted
- Ask them to take some deep breaths
- Ask them to picture God like a Father in their imagination, 'You are looking at Him, and He is looking at you, full of love for you.'
- God is a kind and caring father. Tell Him how three things you are feeling now. It doesn't matter what those are, Jesus is always close.
- Now think back and picture something that happened in the past week. It could be a really happy time or sad time. Now imagine where God was when that was happening? He is with you.
- Thanks God for always being with us and close.