

Lower Elementary

WEEK 3- STARTER



Activity Name: Feed the Pig

What You Need: Bean bags or ball pit balls Bucket w/pig face attached tape or chalk

What You Do:

- Set up the “pig” bucket on one side of the room.
- Make a start line opposite the “pig” with floor tape or chalk
- Place the beanbags/ball pit balls at the start line.
- Instruct the kids to line up on the start line.
- Tell them, “In our story today, someone gets very hungry and has to work with pigs! Let’s see if we can feed the pig.”
- Let the kids take turns tossing beanbags or ball pit balls into the pig’s “mouth.”
- Cheer for every attempt, whether the ball goes in or not.

What You Say:

Great job feeding the pig! You all have great aim. Today, we’re going to hear a story Jesus told about a person who went on a journey and ended up feeding some pigs. Jesus used stories called parables to teach us about God’s love and God’s kingdom. Let’s go hear the story!

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: The Story of the Lost Son • *Luke 15:11-32*

Bottom Line: God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.

Conversation Starter: What is the requirement to be in God's kingdom?

Memory Verse: "May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • Matthew 6:10 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did Jesus tell this story? What did He want us to learn?
- Have you ever felt upset like the older brother?
- Have you ever made a bad choice? Does God still love you?
- What do we need to do to be in God's kingdom?

Activity Name: Memory Match

What You Need: Bible Index cards Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid two index cards.
- Ask kids to draw a picture of themselves on both cards and write their name above or below their picture. Assist kids in writing their names as needed.
- Collect the cards, mix them up, and lay them face down on the floor in a grid.
- Explain that you're going to play Memory Match, but with pictures of your friends!
- Let the kids take turns flipping over two cards, trying to find a matching pair of a friend's pictures.
- When a match is made, the kid who made it says, "God loves [friend's name]!"
- Continue until all the matches have been found.

What You Say:

We found all our friends! It's so fun to see everyone's faces. This game reminds us that God knows each one of you by name, and He loves you so much.

Sometimes, we're like the younger son from the Bible Story. We do what we want instead of what God wants. We don't feel like we've earned God's love. But that's the whole point! You can't earn God's love. God loves you because He made you. God's love is deeper than your greatest sins or your biggest mess-up. There is nothing you can do that will make God love you any less.

And the moment you turn back to God, you'll find that He's running to meet you. God is so excited when you return to His love that all of heaven celebrates! (Point to kids.) God wants you, and you, and you to be part of His kingdom. **[Bottom Line] God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.**

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray.