



# Upper Elementary

## WEEK 3 - STARTER



### Activity Name: Scripture Scramble

**What You Need:**  2 Sets of Scripture Cards  Bible

### What You Do:

- Look up Matthew 6:10 and read the Memory Verse out loud several times.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a scrambled set of the Memory Verse word strips.
- On “Go,” teams race to assemble the verse in the correct order.
- The first team to correctly assemble the verse and read it aloud wins.
- Play again, but this time, challenge them to do it with one hand behind their back or without talking.

### What You Say:

Great teamwork! You worked together to put that important prayer back together. When we pray, “May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven” (Matthew 6:10 NIV), we’re saying, “God, let more of Your goodness and love show up right here.”

Today’s parable is about a father and his two sons. It’s a perfect example of what God’s kingdom is like. 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?

**Monthly 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 do you think Jesus told this parable? What did He want us to learn?
- Have you ever felt like the older brother in the story?
- Have you ever done something wrong? Is there anything you could do to make God stop loving you?
- What is the requirement to be in God's kingdom?

## Activity Name: Praise Report

**What You Need:**  Blank paper  Coloring supplies

### What You Do:

- Remind the group how the father celebrated when his son came home. The whole house was filled with joy.
- Tell kids they are going to share “Praise Reports”
- Ask the group: “What are some things you’ve been praying about that you’ve seen God answer? It could be something big or small. What is a ‘praise report’ you can share?”
- Allow kids a few minutes to think and allow them to write or draw it before encouraging them to share aloud with the group.
- After each person shares a praise, let them make some noise to celebrate God’s goodness together!

### What You Say:

This is incredible! It’s so good to stop and celebrate all the ways God is working. This is what heaven is like when someone turns back to God—it’s a party! Luke 15:23-24 NIV says, “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattest calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.’ So they began to celebrate.” The father in our story honored his son and threw an epic welcome-home party! God is so excited when you return to Him that all of heaven celebrates! Let’s end with one big celebration prayer.

### Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray.

**Prayer:** “God, we celebrate You! Thank You for being a good Father who welcomes us home. Thank You for all the amazing things You’re doing in our lives that we wrote on this poster. We praise You because You are good, and You are forgiving. Help us to have hearts like Yours and to welcome everyone, because we know You want everyone to be part of Your kingdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”