

Lifegroup Kids Guide:

The Prodigal Son

INTRO

We encourage family Lifegroups to do welcome & vision, Lifegroup house rules, and worship all together – then have the kids and adults separate for discussion.

WELCOME & VISION DANCE (5 MINUTES)

Who loves Lifegroup?! Who can tell me why we do lifegroup?

We're going to teach you a simple way to remember why we do Lifegroup. It's called the vision dance. Are you ready?!

- Because Jesus loves us (point up, then point to yourself)
- We want to walk with Jesus (walk in place)
- Become like Jesus (cross arms over chest)
- Help others follow Him (point out to others, then point up to Him)

Do it again in slow motion or super fast. Have fun with it.

LIFEGROUP HOUSE RULES (2 MINUTES)

We have 3 Lifegroup rules.

1. Be kind and respect ourselves
2. Be kind and respect others and their things.
3. Listen and obey the first time.

Who can repeat these back to me?

Discipline Plan: 1st time is a warning, 2nd time you talk with kids leader, 3rd time we get your parents and you leave kids portion of lifegroup, but are welcome to come back next time

note to share any house specific rules

EX: No going into people's bedrooms, we take our shoes off at the door, etc.

BIBLE STORY (10-15 MINUTES)

Opening question/activity

See if anyone can retell the Bible story of the prodigal son from our time together this past Sunday.

Bible Story

Read Luke 15:11-24 or use script below:

“Hello, friends! I’m [your name]. I am here to share a true story from the Bible with you! (Open Bible for children to see, then set it down) Today’s story begins with Jesus teaching something very important. One day, Jesus told some people a story about a dad and his son. The dad had saved a lot of money to give to his son when the son was MUCH older. But, one day the son asked his dad to give him all the money right NOW. And the dad gave it to him. What do you think the son did? Raise your hand if you think the son stayed with the dad. (Pause.) Raise your hand if you think the son left and went somewhere else. (Pause.) Yes, the son left. He took the money and went far away from home. The son took his dad’s money and spent it on EVERYTHING! He bought fancy clothes. He ate really fancy food. The son spent money with all of his friends and then...whoops! The money was ALL GONE. There was NO MORE money. The son didn’t know what to do. He didn’t have a bed to sleep in or any food to eat. He was so hungry he even thought about eating pig food! Everyone, say: ‘Eew!’ (Pause.) The son was really hungry, and he was so sorry for what he had done. The son wanted to go back home, but he didn’t know if his dad would let him. After thinking about it, the son decided to go home. And, when his dad saw his son coming, he was SO happy to see him. The dad ran to his son! The dad hugged his son, and he gave his son a new robe and ring and shoes. The dad loved his son no matter what. He even threw a big party because his son was home! Jesus told this story because He wants to teach us something VERY important. He wants us to know that God loves US no matter what!”

Thankfulness Prayer

Ask kids to share ways God has cared for them/provided for them. (given them food, shelter, clothes, friends, family, etc.) After they share, close in prayer or ask kids to pray with each other thanking God for all the ways he has provided for us and thanking him for always loving us no matter what!

GROUP GAME - WARM HUGS (5-10 MINUTES)

- Stuffed animal

Ask children to stand against a wall or on one side of the room opposite the leader and stuffed animal. Call children one at a time to run and give the stuffed animal a BIG hug. Repeat as desired. Remind them that this is how God runs towards us, with arms open full of love and ready to scoop us up in a big hug because he loves us so much!

GROUP GAME - HUGGY BEAR (5-10 MINUTES)

- Music

Have kids spread out in the room, play music and have kids dance until music stops. When the music stops they have to freeze and listen to what the leader says. "Huggy Bear (any number)" and then they have to get in a group of that many people to create a group hug. Huggy bear 0 = lay flat on the floor, Huggy bear 1 = they hug themselves, Huggy bear 2 = they hug one other person, Huggy bear 3 = group hug of 3 people, etc.

EXTRA IDEAS IF YOU STILL HAVE TIME...

ART

Give each child a paper and something to write with. Have them draw what they envision God looking like with outstretched arms wanting to embrace them. Take time to share when they finish drawing.

PRACTICE MEMORY VERSE

Early Childhood

"The people were amazed at his teaching." - Matthew 7:28

'The people (spread arms out) were amazed (hold O-hands like binoculars to eyes) at his teaching,' (pull O-hands like binoculars out from eyes) Matthew 7:28. (Open hands like a book.)

Elementary

"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching." - Matthew 7:28

They worked in small groups to create different songs, motions, dances, etc. to memorize the verse. Ask if anyone can recite it!

Share the importance of meditating on and memorizing God's word! Do you have a kid appropriate story of when God brought to mind scripture you had memorized to help you or encourage you or remind you of truth that you can share with them?

PLAY!

- Simon Says
- Rock/Paper/Scissors
- Play the monkey video and dance along. [Monkey video](#) (if you're trying to calm kids down - do not play this song 😂)