

CHOCOLATE FOREST



Key Passage: Luke 15:11-32, Parable of the Lost Son

Lesson: Right in the middle of Silly Swonka's Sweet Shop is a forest full of chocolate trees; it's easy to get lost in there. In the parable of the lost son, Jesus tells us that even if we lose our way and turn away from God, we can return to Him and be welcomed with love and joy

Objective: Kids will learn "When we repent of sin, God forgives us with joy."

Video: God's Story: Two Sons and a Father (Prodigal Son)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfDfMZ6MTJs>

INTRO:

We are going to read the story of the parable of the lost son. Raise your hand if you have heard this story before? Raise your hand if you have ever been lost before? Raise your hand if you have ever sinned before? That is everybody. Anyone who has ever sinned has been lost. It's not the same kind of lost as being lost at the grocery store or far from home. But it's still lost because we are separated from God. God created us to be in a relationship with Him. When we sin, it separates us from God. This is not a good thing because we need God! He helps us in times of trouble, He takes care of us, He loves us, and we were designed not to be alone!

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If you have ever felt lost or afraid, then you know what it feels like to be alone. It's not a good feeling but we never have to be alone. Today we will talk about how we can always have God by our side! Let's read from Luke, and listen to the story of the lost son.

READ LUKE 15:11-32

MAIN POINT

The son chose to leave. He made the choice to overspend and he lost everything he owned. He was living in sin because he was living selfishly. When we sin, we are making a choice to leave God's side and go another way. We don't always realize this when we are sinning because at the time it just feels like the easiest thing to do or the thing we desire. But what we are actually doing is choosing to be lost. What a strange thought!

The good news is, God loves us and doesn't want us to stay lost. The good shepherd, Jesus, comes to find us! He offers forgiveness from our sins and a better way to live. If we follow Jesus, we live like He does and become more and more like Him. We sin less and less and begin to realize that sin was only hurting us.

The father was so happy when his son returned, wasn't he? God is so happy when we return to Him too. He loves us. He knows that sin is bad for us and that is why He warns us against it. But when we make a mistake and sin, we can ask Jesus for forgiveness and we are reunited with God!

DRIVE IT HOME

Living a life following Jesus is very rewarding! It is full of SWEET REWARDS! In fact, you could even say that if you follow Jesus there is guaranteed to be SWEET REWARDS AHEAD! Not only will you be free from the consequences of sin but you will also gain so much! God will give you kindness, self-control, love, patience, and so many other rewards.

WHEN WE GET LOST, WE CAN ALWAYS RETURN TO JESUS! Jesus will be there ready to forgive you and to show you a better way to live. And WHEN WE REPENT TO JESUS, GOD FORGIVES US WITH JOY! He is so happy to welcome us back. So, don't wander off in Silly Swonka's chocolate forest, but if you ever do, remember that all you need to do is ask for Jesus, and He will be there to help you find your way back home. And if you ever sin, Jesus will be there ready to forgive you and show you a better way to live.

Parent/Child Chat: K - 2nd grade

Read Luke 15:11-32

How is sin similar to being lost?

What should we do when we sin?

What did the father do when his son returned?

Parent/Child Chat: 3rd - 8th grade

Read Luke 15:11-32

How is sin similar to being lost?

What should we do when we sin?

What did the father do when his son returned?

Why should we celebrate when other people find Jesus? (Unlike the lost son's brother.)

Parent Time

What you need to know:

Encouraging our kids to ask for forgiveness because God is waiting with open arms, will help them to see that God is loving and forgiving, and even when they sin, they aren't too lost to be found! It is so good to

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have a loving Father like we have! Growing our relationship with Him will help us to move further away from sin and closer to a life full of blessings in Jesus!

CRAFT

ITEMS NEEDED:

Melted chocolate, paintbrushes, glue, and green glitter (You can use brown paint if chocolate is too difficult.)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Instruct our child(ren) to paint with chocolate to make a real chocolate forest! Then use green glitter for the tree leaves. When they are finished painting, hand them a small chocolate kiss so that they aren't tempted to eat their art!

Tell him/her, "We can easily get lost when we aren't following Jesus! Remember to talk to Him every day to make sure you are going the right way!"