

GAME: The Prodigal Hunt



Lost and Found

Theme: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

Purpose: To reinforce the story of the Prodigal Son and give campers independent opportunities to search for and complete tasks.

Supplies

- 1 Father Costumes
- 10 Clues per crew, numbered
- 2 jars/decorative boxes to hold the clues
- 2 Treasure chests
- Collection item photos and symbolism sheets for each station
- 2 bags of coins
- 2 party hats
- 2 stuffed pig stuffies
- 2 bread rolls
- 2 hand mirrors
- 2 fake rings (jewellery)
- 2 washcloths
- 2 VISTO bells
- 2 angry theatre masks
- 2 robes

Instructions

Crews will follow clues to find lost items that represent different stages in the story of the prodigal son. Each item will be numbered, and campers must return to the “father” (designated leader) Once found to be given their next clue. Returned items to the “father” will be placed in their crews’ treasure chest. At each station, a sign with a photo of the item they are looking for and the symbolism will be printed out so that campers can see how their item ties into the story. Crew leaders can empower students in different tasks: reading clue, uncovering clue, find task, give to dad, etc. and MUST ensure that campers are working as a team and not just running ahead on their own. Game master can also enforce an incentive at the beginning of the game, that the crew that works most as a team will receive a special reward at the end of the game.

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Hidden Items & Clues:

1. Basketball court - The Inheritance (Bag of Coins or Gold Coins)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “He left with pockets full but didn’t know - his wealth would come and quickly go. Find your way to where people aim high, where baskets are made, and players fly.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “A heavy purse, a journey bold, riches exchanged for stories told. Seek the place where leaps are made, where points are earned, and dreams are played.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A small bag of fake coins

SYMBOLISM: The son receives his inheritance and chooses to leave home.

2. Playground - Carefree Living (Party Hat)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “He spent his days without a care, laughter, fun - he had his share. But joy from riches does not last, find this clue where kids play fast.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “Laughter rings, the world feels bright, no worries now, just pure delight. But joy fades fast when wealth is gone-find this clue where kids run on.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A Party hat or streamers

SYMBOLISM: The son only lived for himself, partying, wasting his wealth.

3. Soccer Field - Hard Work (Pig Stuff)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “With nothing left and nowhere to stay, he worked with pigs for little pay. To find what’s lost, look where goals are scored, on the fields of green where feet have soared.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “Once full of pride, now in the mire, working hard with no desire. Look where champions chase their dream, where turf and net meet field and team.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A toy pig

SYMBOLISM: The son hit rock bottom, working in a pigsty.

4. Concession Stand - Hunger (Bread Roll)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “His stomach ached, he had no bread, he wished for food but starved instead Where do people go to fill their plate? Find this clue before it’s too late.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “An empty plate, an aching need, longing for just one more feed. Where hunger waits and thirst is met, find this clue where meals are set.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A piece of bread.

SYMBOLISM: The son longed for food but had nothing.

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Hidden Items & Clues:

5. Front Entrance - Realization (A Hand Mirror)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “He looked inside and saw his choice, then longed to hear his father’s voice. To see yourself, where must you stand? Find this clue near the welcome hand.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “A weary face, a heart that yearns, a moment where the journey turns. To see yourself, you need a view-see this where all must pass through.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A hand mirror.

SYMBOLISM: The son realized he had to return home.

6. PROP SHOP - The Father’s Gifts (Fancy Ring)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “A symbol of love, of family and grace, his father’s gift took its place. To find this treasure, search with care, where glitter and glue sticks fill the air.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “A token bright, a promise true, a gift that marks a love renewed. Where pieces wait to play their part, search where hands craft works of art.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A plastic or fake ring

SYMBOLISM: The father gave his son a ring, restoring him as part of the family.

7. Outside Washroom-Cleansing (washcloth)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “Covered in dirt, he was a mess, but love washed over his distress. Look where people come to clean, where water flows to make things gleam.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “Filthy rags, a soul unclean, yet love restores what once had been. Where hands and faces freshen up, seek this token near the cup.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A small washcloth

SYMBOLISM: The Father’s forgiveness washes away our mistakes.

8. Near water fountain - The Father’s Joy (VISTO Bell)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “With open arms, his father ran, celebrating his precious man. To find this clue, don’t hesitate- go where people hydrate.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “A joyful sound, a welcomed sight, a homecoming that felt so right. Seek the place where thirst is met, where water flows and lips are wet.”

HIDDEN ITEM: VISTO Bell

SYMBOLISM: The father celebrated his son’s return.

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Hidden Items & Clues:

9. Back Door - The brother's jealousy (angry theatre mask)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: "One stayed behind but did not cheer, his heart was filled with jealous fear. To find this clue, look for a place that's used less often-find the space."

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: "A hardened heart, a bitter mind, a celebration left behind. A quiet way, a place less known-find this clue where few have gone."

HIDDEN ITEM: Angry theatre mask

SYMBOLISM: The older brother was bitten about the celebration.

10. Coat Rack - The robe (a robe)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: "The father wrapped his son in love, a robe as pure as light above. Where do people leave what they wear? Search around and find it there."

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: "A covering soft, a symbol grand, wrapped in love by the father's hand. Seek the place where layers rest, where burdens shed, and warmth is dressed."

HIDDEN ITEM: A robe

SYMBOLISM: The father clothed his son in honor and forgiveness.

Father's closing script

(the father stands by the treasure chests, filled with the collected items. He looks at the group with a warm smile.)

"Welcome home! You've searched, you've found, and now we celebrate. Each of these lost items tells the story of the prodigal son - his journey away, his struggles, and, most importantly, his return to love. The COINS remind us that the son was given everything he asked for-but instead of using it wisely, he left home and spent it all. The PARTY HAT represents how he lived wildly, chasing fun without thinking about what truly matters. But then, everything ran out. The PIG shows how low he had fallen-so hungry that he longed for pig food. The BREAD reminds us that he had nothing left, not even a meal. And in that moment, he looked at himself in the MIRROR and realized-he needed to go home. When he returned, what did his father do? He wasn't mad at him. He didn't turn him away. Instead, he welcomed him with open arms! The father gave him a RING, showing that he still belonged. He covered him with a ROBE, a sign of honor. He washed away his past, just like this CLOTH, and threw a joyful feast, celebrating with bells and music, like this NOISE MAKER. But not everyone was happy. The ROCK reminds us of the older brother's jealousy. He thought his brother didn't deserve their father's grace. But the father knew the truth: no matter where we've been. You are never too far, never too broken, never too lost for His grace. And that - is worth celebrating."

(The father picks up the noise maker and sounds it, signalling the celebration)

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Rainy Day Substitutes: In case of a rainy day, outside stations will instead be moved inside with different clues available to go to those indoor spots:

Station 1: Small Group Room

Small Group Room - The Inheritance (Bag of coins or Gold Coins)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “He left with pockets full but didn’t know-his wealth would come and quickly go. Find your way to a place so tight, where small groups gather and talk what’s right.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “A handful of wealth, a heart set to roam, riches in hand but far from home. Seek the place where voices unite, where wisdom is shared in a space so tight.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A small bag of fake coins.

SYMBOLISM: The son receives his inheritance and chooses to leave home.

Station 2: Side Door

Side Door - Carefree Living (Party Hat or Streamers)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “He spent his days without a care, laughter, fun-he had his share. But joy from riches does not last, find this clue where exits are passed.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “Laughter echoes, the world seems bright, but fleeting joy soon fades from sight. Look where paths diverge and doors give way, where choices are made to leave or stay.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A party hat.

SYMBOLISM: The prodigal son lived only for himself, partying, wasting his wealth.

Station 3: Prop Shop

Prop Shop - Hard Work (small toy pig)

OLIO & PARLANDO CLUE: “With nothing left and nowhere to stay, he worked with pigs for little pay. To find what’s lost, look where supplies are stored, where crafts wait to be explored.”

BOMBERSHAY CLUE: “From riches to rags, with nowhere to go, among the swine, his hunger would grow. Find your way where supplies are kept, where scraps and treasures have quietly slept.”

HIDDEN ITEM: A toy pig.

SYMBOLISM: The son hit rock bottom, working in a pigsty.