

“Animal Tales” - LESSON 2

“The Pig”

Main Focus:

God will NEVER turn His back on us!



Power Verse:

“Christ...died for sinners that He might bring us safely home to God.” - 1 Peter 3:18



Watt's Up:

“No Matter Where You Roam You Can Always Come Home!”

LEADER'S INFO

Growing up, nearly everyone had the thought or idea of running away from home. Many even tried it. They believe that they could make it better by themselves—away from the rules!

Sadly, most of the time these experiences end in heartache and pain. We find that it's not as easy as it seems living on our own. We end up really missing the comfort and security of HOME.

In today's lesson, the children will learn from the parable of “The Prodigal Son” and discover that even when we think we can live “on our own” outside of God's rules and boundaries, we will be miserable and lost. But if we choose to come back to God, we can ALWAYS come home! God will welcome us home with open arms!



“The Spark” Intro Video

Emilie pigs out



“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



Character Skit

“The Actor”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Mr. Potato Head Race”



Bible Story

“The Prodigal Son”



Power Verse Video

“Christ...died for sinners that He might bring us safely home to God.” - 1 Peter 3:18



Call To Action

“Welcome Home”



Brain Drain

Review Game



Small Group Experience

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“Mr. Potato Head Race”

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Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

“Welcome Home”

Brain Drain

Review Game

Small Group Experience**Lesson 2 Materials Needed:****“The Spark” Intro Video**

- “Animal Tales” Video

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

- “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video
- “Watt’s Up?” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “The Actor” Theme Graphic/Music
- Large goatee
- Moustache
- Sunglasses
- Fake pig snout

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “Mr. Potato Head Race” Graphic
- Two “Mr. Potato Head” (Copyright of The Hasbro Corporation www.hasbro.com) toys with the exact pieces/parts
- Table
- Two small containers

Bible Story

- “The Prodigal Son” Graphics
- Bible

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Welcome Home” Graphics
- Lost Dog Poster

Brain Drain

- “Brain Drain” Bumper Video
- “Brain Drain” Lesson 2 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- The Little Piggy Print Piece
- Bibles
- Go Home Little Piggy Print Piece
- The Little Piggy Game Pieces
- Scissors
- Home Print Piece
- Pencils, markers, or crayons



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “The Actor” (he is a “method actor” who really gets into his roles which just happen to always be animal roles)

ACTOR: (comes onstage wearing a fake pig snout) OINK! OINK, I TELL YOU!

Leader: Oh no, it's THIS guy again.

ACTOR: (laughs) Guy? GUY, you say? HA! I am no guy - I am a PIG! Hark and listen! Oink, oink! OINK, CONFFOUND IT! ACTING! THANK YOU! (takes a bow)

Leader: (to the kids) Obviously he's not REALLY a pig - he's just an (does air quotes) “animal actor” - whatever that means. (back to the actor) Listen, we didn't even get your name last time.

ACTOR: Ah, I have no name of my own - just the names of the characters I inhabit. Last week I was a snake, so I went by “Bruce Will Hisssss.” Today I'm -

Leader: Wait, I got it! John Ham! (laughs at their own joke)

ACTOR: (scoffs) That's RIDICULOUS! I am OFFENDED. I OINK at you! (points at the leader dramatically) OINK!

Leader: (sighs) I'm sorry - what name are you going by?

ACTOR: Kevin BACON. (takes in a deep breath and spreads his arms out wide) Ah, with my WONDERFUL pig nose I can smell it!

Leader: Smell what?

ACTOR: IT! Here, take a deep breath!

Leader: (inhales deeply, is disgusted) Oh, what IS that?

ACTOR: (burps) That's my lunch, sorry. I'm talking about that OTHER smell! The smell of my true home - the STAGE!

Leader: The stage is your “home”? That's kind of silly.

ACTOR: (leans in close to the leader) Do I look silly to you?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: I'm not going to answer that. But I will say that in today's lesson we're actually talking all about coming HOME! As in, coming back home to GOD!

ACTOR: I bet God's house is quite lovely. Tell me - does it have a mud hole I can WALLOW in? OINK! ACTING, THANK YOU! *(takes a bow)*

Leader: I'm not talking about an actual house. Our “home” is actually a relationship with God! Having a relationship with God is like living with Him every single day!

ACTOR: So that means I have to share a house with all of YOU? *(points out to all the kids)* Where will I have room for all of my acting awards? I'm sorry, but I think I'm better off living on my own.

Leader: Be careful with that kind of thinking. Sometimes, we think we can be better off on our own, kind of like the guy we're talking about in our lesson today. He decided to live on his own and entered into a world of hurt!

ACTOR: OOOOH. You said that so well. You could be an actor!

Leader: Really? You think so?

ACTOR: No, not really. ACTING! THANK YOU! *(takes a bow)* But seriously, tell me more about today's lesson.

Leader: You're just going to have to stay and listen.

ACTOR: What if I don't WANT to?

Leader: Well, it's like we're talking about today - you may feel like you want to leave, but you can ALWAYS come home.

ACTOR: How poetic! I think I will stay. You've intrigued me. Now if you'll excuse me, I'm going to go get into character by eating an entire bucket of corncobs and table scraps. HOW EXCITING! EXIT! STAGE LEFT *(pause)* with a limp! *(begins to show off his “acting” skills by limping offstage)* ACTING! THANK YOU! *(takes a bow and exits as his theme music plays)*



GAME ON!

“Mr. Potato Head Race”

Items Needed For Game:

Two “Mr. Potato Head” (*Copyright of The Hasbro Corporation www.hasbro.com*) toys with the exact pieces/parts; table; two small containers (*to hold the pieces/parts*)

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Preparation:

Choose an even number of boys/girls to be on each team (*either the exact amount of “parts” you have OR you can just have the players participate in the relay multiple times*). Place the Mr. Potato Head heads on the table and place the table on the other side of the room. Give each team a container with the same pieces/parts.

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How To Play:

This is a relay race. When you say, “Go”, each team member must (*one at a time*) grab a piece/part out of the container, run to the other side of the room (*squatted all the way down so they would walk like Mr. Potato Head*), place the body part in the correct spot, and then come back to give the next participant a high five. The next person in line goes, and on and on. The first team to put Mr. Potato Head together correctly, wins.



Bible Story “The Prodigal Son”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 2; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (as shown)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Luke 15:11-32; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Luke, chapter 15. It’s a story that Jesus told to help people understand how much God loves them. There was a father who had two sons. One of his sons, the youngest, approached his father one day (show pic) and said, “Give me my share of the inheritance.” His son had decided he would be better off on his own with NO rules, NO boundaries, NO bedtime, and NO chores! He thought he would have an amazing life of fun and no worries!



The father gave his son what he asked for. The son left his house and went out to live on his own. (show pic) He started partying, drinking, and living a sinful lifestyle. He thought he had lots of friends, but most of those friends were only hanging out with him because he had lots of money to spend.



It wasn’t long before the boy had wasted all of his money on wild and sinful living. He ended up with no money to buy anything to eat, so he got a job feeding PIGS. (show pic) Can you imagine sloshing around in the mud with a bunch of smelly pigs? It was the worst job you can imagine, but he was so hungry that even the food that he was feeding the pigs looked good to him.



The son looked around at the situation he had gotten himself into. He realized that the PIGS were living better than he was. He said to himself, “My father’s servants live better than this! I will return home and beg for the forgiveness of my father and ask him to take me back as a hired servant.” I imagine he thought his father was going to be angry at him. He probably expected a long lecture from his dad, if his dad would even talk to him at all. But, that’s not what happened. (show pic) As the boy approached his father’s house, his loving father, who had been watching and hoping every day for his son’s return, saw him coming and ran to meet him. (show pic) He threw his arms around him and hugged him and kissed him. He threw a huge party to celebrate. He said, “My son was lost, but now he is found!”



Jesus told that story to help people understand how God feels about them. The father in the story represents God. The lost son represents all of God’s children who try to live life on their own without God. In your lesson today, you are going to learn that God loves us and wants us to be in a close relationship with Him. That is where we belong. That is our “home.”





Call To Action **“Welcome Home”**

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 2; the “Lost Dog” poster provided at the end of this lesson

Preparation:

Begin with the graphic slide titled “Welcome Home”; print many of the “Lost Dog” posters and post them around the room before the kids arrive

The Message: (title slide)



Today, we are learning a lesson from some PIGS in the Bible. These pigs are found in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. You already heard the whole Bible Story about how this son ran away from home, left his father, and partied away all of his father’s money. It was really a bad situation. He asked for his inheritance from his dad early - like before his dad died, which is when you’re supposed to get an inheritance - and he left the safety of his own home and ran away.

But the Prodigal Son didn’t just go out and have a good time for the rest of his life. After he partied away all of his inheritance, he was broke. He had no money, no food, and no place to sleep. So, he went to work on a farm taking care of the pigs. And, after a little bit of that he realized how bad he had it. He looked at the pig’s food and realized that the pigs were eating better than he was. The PIGS were living better than him!

There you have it – some PIGS taught the Prodigal Son a BIG lesson! The pigs reminded him that he had it much better at HOME with his father and that he needed to go back home! You may be wondering, “Well, what does that mean? What is ‘home?’” Well, that’s our first lesson today...

Our “Home” Is A Relationship With God (slide)



Our “Home” in this instance isn’t necessarily a place that we sleep at night. It’s not a house with bedrooms and a kitchen and a backyard. But instead, it’s a place of belonging. God created each one of us to be in relationship with Him. He created us to follow Him, worship Him, and BE with Him. That’s where we belong. EVERY single person in our world can come to God and be in relationship with Him. That’s the whole reason we were created!

But sadly not everyone believes this. Many people come to God and start living for Him, but then they turn

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Call To Action (Continued)

their back on Him. They stop going to church, they stop obeying the Bible, they stop having anything to do with God whatsoever. It's like they are running away from "home." You see...

Sometimes We Think We Would Be Better Off On Our Own (slide)



Sometimes, you and I start to think that living for God is just not worth it. We think, "There are too many rules. There are too many things I CAN'T do. I think I will just leave God and start living on my own." We start acting just like that son who left his father thinking he would find happiness and freedom. But after he lived on his own for a while—what did he find? Happiness? Freedom? Nope. He found sadness and loneliness.

Sometimes we forget that with God we are safer, more blessed, and more loved. He's our Heavenly Father – He'll help us out! God is SO faithful. He's perfect! He'll never mess up. He'll never leave you or turn His back on you. He'll always love you. The Bible says, "His love endures forever." It goes on and on and never runs out.

Many times, as I drive around town, I see flyers like this one. (*Hold up the "Lost Dog" flyer*) "Lost Dog. Our little dog, Scruffy, has been missing for two weeks. We love Scruffy very much and we want him back. If you find Scruffy, please call us at 555-8787."

When I see flyers like this, I get so sad for the family. I can just imagine a family watching and hoping that their dog will come home. I can imagine the excitement they must feel every time the phone rings - hoping that the call will be from someone who has found their lost dog. I think of how they must worry and hope that their little dog is safe.

Have you ever lost something that was very precious to you? Maybe it was your pet, your favorite toy, or your favorite stuffed animal. How did you feel? I imagine it made you very sad. Now, can you imagine how God feels when one of His children leaves "home?" It breaks His heart to see His children choosing to live on their own, far away from their Heavenly Father.

Just like the father in the story waited and watched for his son to return home, God is waiting and watching every day waiting for His children to come back home to Him. Maybe you are here today and you have been trying to live on your own. You've been living a life of sin away from God because you thought you could "make it on your own." Maybe you find yourself like that son—you're sad, unhappy, and lonely. You realize you made a mistake by leaving God's protection and His plan. I have some very good news for you today...

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

You Can Always Come Home (slide)

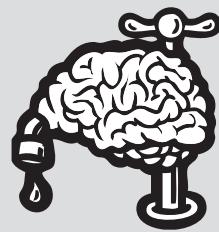


No matter how bad you mess up, no matter how far away you go...no matter what - you can **ALWAYS** come home! God will take you back and restore you. And we (your church family) will all celebrate – just like the family did in the story! We'll celebrate because when you were once lost – now you're found – you came back home!

Now, I have to say – I really, really hope you never have to come back home – because hopefully, you'll never ever leave home. Hopefully, you'll always remember just how well you have it at home. Hopefully, you'll never forget how much love God has for you and how safe you are when you're in a relationship with Him. But if for some crazy reason you end up far down the road – messing up and sinning, away from God and church, living on your own – always remember – you can **ALWAYS** come home!

Altar Response: (play soft music)

Pray for the children who have been living “on their own.” Give them a chance to “come home” to God and put Him in the number one spot in their lives. Pray that the rest of the children will never forget that their “home” is with God. Thank God for being such an incredible Heavenly Father who loves, protects, and provides for each of His children.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 2; “Brain Drain” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt's Up today?

Answer: “No Matter Where You Roam You Can Always Come Home!”

2. What animal did we learn from today?

Answer: Pig

3. What did the young man decide to do in our Bible Story?

Answer: Leave His Father's House

4. Did his money last very long?

Answer: No

5. What kind of job did he end up getting?

Answer: Feeding Pigs

6. How did his father react when he came home?

Answer: He Was Joyful

7. According to our lesson today, “Our _____ Is A Relationship With God.”

Answer: Home

8. According to our lesson today, “Sometimes We Think We Would Be _____ On Our Own.”

Answer: Better Off

9. According to our lesson today, “You Can Always Come _____.”

Answer: Home

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: 1 Peter 3:18

LOST DOG



Our little dog, Scruffy, has been missing for 2 weeks.
We love Scruffy very much and we want him back.
If you find Scruffy, please call us at **555-8787**

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