



LIFE OF JESUS

The Story of the Runaway Son

PursueGODkids.org

Slide: Welcome

(Start kid's countdown once all classes are present.)

Hey kids! Welcome to Kid's Church. I'm so glad you could be here today.

Slide: Series Intro

Leader Tip: Pretend to be a party planner and tell the kids that you're planning a big party for a special person. Ask the kids what should be at the party to make it extra special.

I am so excited for today's lesson. But first, describe the best party you've ever had. (allow kids to answer). Wow! That sounds amazing. Parties are fun and they usually happen to celebrate something like someone's birthday or a wedding.

Well, in today's lesson we are going to take a look at a story when a father threw a huge party for his son even though the son didn't deserve it.

We'll talk about that more in a few minutes but first let's stand a sing.

Song

Jesus Freak

Good job! I think God loves hearing all your voices praising him! Now let's say our Big Idea together.

Slide: Big Idea

All together: God throws a party when we come home. (Repeat)

Video

Play lesson video.

Slide: Recap

So, what did we learn from the video today? Let's review...

- What did the son ask for before he ran away? (his inheritance/money)
- Why did the son come home? (he ran out of money and realized he'd made a big mistake)
- True or False: When we run away from God, he doesn't want us to come back. (F)

This is such a powerful story. Can you imagine how terrible the father felt when his son came to him demanding his inheritance. That money was meant to be given out when the father died. So, the son was basically saying he didn't care about his father. He just cared about his money. But the father gave it to him anyways.

The son left home, spent all the money on silly stuff and had nothing. So, he returned to his family in hopes that they would forgive him and welcome him back. The father had a right to be angry and to tell his son that he was no longer welcome. But that's not what the father did. That reminds me of our memory verse. Let's all stand and say it together.

Slide: Memory Verse

"'He was lost (put hand over eyes and search), but now he is found (thumbs up).' So the party began (fist pump)." Luke 15:24 *(Repeat)*

This is how the father responded to his runaway son. He threw him a party! He was so excited to see his son. He didn't care that he had done some bad stuff and made lots of mistakes. All he cared about was that his son was safe and finally home. He loved his son so much that nothing could change that!

Kids, this story is really about God and us. God is the father and we are the son. God loves us so much that even when we mess up, ignore him, and act like we don't need him, he is still there ready to take us back. That is how God loves us. He loves us so much and nothing will ever change that. Isn't that amazing?

So kids, remember how much God loves you. Even if you wander away, God is always ready to take you back and heaven will be one big party once we get there!

Now, let's all stand and sing one last song together.

Song

Jesus Loves Me

Okay, let's all say the Big Idea together one last time!

Slide: Big Idea

God throws a party when we come home. *(Repeat)*

Slide: Let's Pray

Pray and release the kids to small group.