



# Middle River Friends Church learn at home Sunday School Pack-May 17, 2020

Because we LOVE our kids, this pack has been put together for our families so that we can partner with you in this time to help your children learn more about God and the Bible. Faith in God is important to instill in our young people as often as we can. Please use these materials throughout the week and be sure to post any coloring pages, crafts, or impromptu plays of the Bible Story that your children do on our Facebook page. We would love to see them engaged in learning the Bible.

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**Pastor Matt's sermon today was on Luke 14 and 15 and included various stories. We will focus on a couple stories here. Again, there will be a part 1 and part 2.**

## Part 1

Ask: **What is an excuse?** (a reason you give for doing something or not doing something that many times is not true or not the real reason) **Why do people come up with excuses? What are some things that we should try never to make excuses for?** The Bible story today is a parable that Jesus told about a man having a feast. When the feast was ready, the man sent a servant to remind those who had been invited but they all had excuses! They missed out on a great feast. The Bible says: “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God” (Luke 14:15).

Today's message tells us that . . . **JESUS INVITES US TO BE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN.**

### **The Parable of the Great Banquet**

#### **Luke 14:15-24**

Once Jesus and His disciples were having a meal at someone's house, and Jesus told this story.

<sup>15</sup>When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

<sup>16</sup>Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. <sup>17</sup>At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

<sup>18</sup>“But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

<sup>19</sup>“Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

<sup>20</sup>“Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

<sup>21</sup>“The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

<sup>22</sup>“Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

<sup>23</sup>“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. <sup>24</sup>I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”



Jesus was talking about Himself in this parable. He is like the man who planned the party and invited many people. Jesus has invited everyone to accept His salvation, which leads to eternal life.

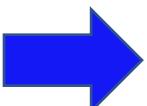
## And He's giving you an invitation!

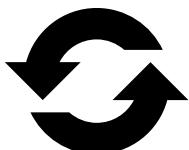
Many people in the story had excuses for not coming to the party. They let other things become more important than being with their friend. They weren't really true friends at all. Because they were too busy with things, they turned down the invitation and missed the great feast!

In this parable the invitation to the banquet is Jesus' invitation for us to accept His salvation. Accepting salvation means that we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and choose to do the things He wants us to do.

## You have a choice.

We can decide to accept His invitation or to let other things become more important in our lives. How about you? Right now, will you say yes to the invitation Jesus has given you? Do you want to be with Him in heaven and experience the joy of being in His presence forever?

 **Dear Jesus, thank you that all are invited to your banquet.  
Help us to accept this offer and begin to live our lives for  
you because you supply all that we need. Amen**



### Activity!

Charades:

Ask the children to take turns acting out things that could get in their way of accepting Jesus' invitation to heaven, while the other children guess what it is.

Ideas: school or learning, sports, earning money, becoming popular or famous, negative influence of friends, seeking only fun and entertainment, accumulating things, etc.

Now ask them to take turns telling about things that could help them understand and accept Jesus' invitation to come to Him and live with Him in heaven.

Ideas: praying; reading the Bible; listening to pastor, teachers, parents; reading about Jesus in storybooks; studying the Sabbath School lesson; accepting Jesus as their Savior.

## God's Invitation:

Use the invitation pattern in the Kid Pack for each child. Have the children decorate them. On the inside they can write "Let's plan to meet there" and sign it. Then they can cut it out and give it to someone.

(Adapted from Gracelink.net )

## Part 2

I am sure that most of you have read a book, seen a movie, or at least heard the story about "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp." In one version of the story, Aladdin worked in a shop that exchanged new lamps for old ones. Aladdin's job was to polish the lamps and make them look like new. One day, as he was polishing a lamp, a genie came out of the lamp and promised to grant Aladdin anything he wished for. With the help of the Genie, Aladdin gained great wealth and won the love of a beautiful princess.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have your every wish come true? You might think so, but the truth is, sometimes the things we wish for are not good for us. That is what a young man discovered in today's Bible story.

Our Bible story today is about a young man who had three wishes.

1. He wanted a lot of money.
2. He wanted to travel and see the world.
3. He wanted to be his own boss.

Let's read in Luke 15 how all that worked out for him

### The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-31

<sup>11</sup>Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

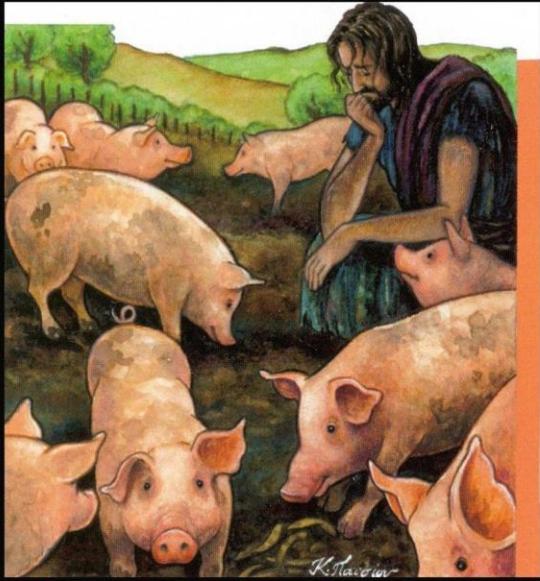
The young man got his wishes, but they were not granted to him by a genie. The young man went to his father and asked him to give him the inheritance that would be his when his father died. Even though the father was sad that his son wanted to leave, he gave him his share of the family fortune and the young man left home and traveled all around the world. He visited all of the places he had always wanted to visit and did whatever he wanted to do. He was happy that no one was telling him what to do. Since the young man had a lot of money, if he saw something he wanted, he bought it, and since he had a lot of money, he also had many friends. This sounds like very happy story, doesn't it? Well, that isn't the end of the story. Let's read on.

<sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer

worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

After a while, the young man ran out of money. When he ran out of money, his friends ran out on him. He was so desperate that he went to work for a man who sent him to feed his pigs. The young man was so hungry that he would gladly have eaten the food he was feeding to the pigs. As he looked at the filthy pig pen, he thought about the mess he had made of his life. He thought about his father and the home he had left behind.



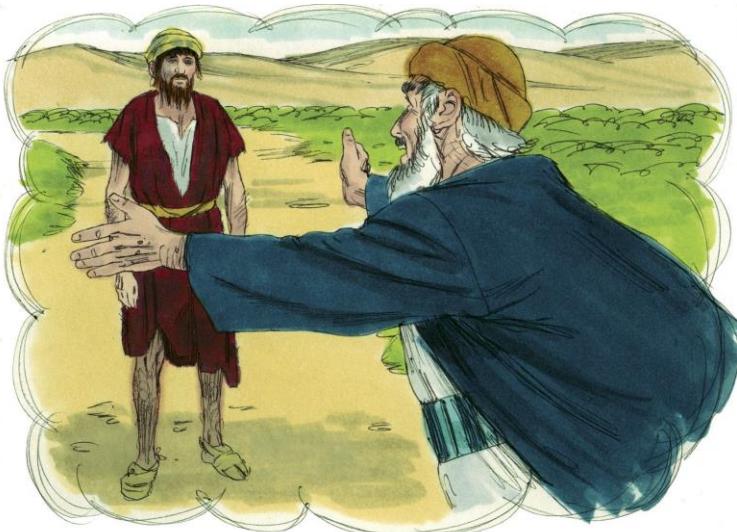
"Even a servant in my father's house lives better than this," the young man said to himself. "I will return to my father and tell him that I am sorry for the way I have behaved and ask him to give me a job as one of his servants."

Do you think the father was willing to take him back? Would you have? Let's see what happens.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup>"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.



So, the father took him back as a son! He called his servants together and told them, "Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was lost, but now is found."

Well, the story had a happy ending after all, didn't it? This story that Jesus told is really a story about you and me and the way we sometimes behave.

Sometimes you and I make bad choices -- just like the young man in our story. We

sometimes wish for things that are not good for us. We sometimes don't want to listen to God and obey what the Bible tells us we should do. When we act that way, we really make a mess of our life. Well, I have good news for you! Just like the father in our story, God, our Heavenly Father, is always willing to take us back if we will admit that we were wrong and return to Him.

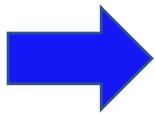
There is another part to this story that is also very important. It is the story of the brother's reaction to his father's behavior toward the prodigal son. Let's see what happens.

<sup>25</sup>"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

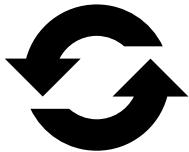
<sup>28</sup>"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup>"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

This other son represents how Christians sometimes treat others who have done wrong things in their life. When they suddenly hear the good news of Jesus and repent (or come back home as the prodigal son did) they are looked down upon because of their former life. We need to celebrate each and every person that comes "home" to be with their "father" no matter what they have done looking forward to the new life that this person will experience. As we learned in the last part, everyone is welcome at the banquet!



Dear Father, we sometimes make bad choices. Thank you for being a loving Father who will always take us back when we come home to you. Amen.



Activity!

Here is a list of some things you as a family could do to reinforce this lesson

#### LOST AND FOUND RUN:

Play this game like a Hide and Seek game, or hide things that the children have to find when the teacher calls out an item. When the item is found, the children will call out, "LOST, BUT FOUND."

#### BIBLE VERSE RELAY:

Divide the children into teams. Each team will have a bag of items from the Bible verse that they'll take turns running to the bag and putting one of the items on ( a ring, a robe, sandals; or a balloon to blow up for the "celebration"). There can be more than one ring or robe, or sandals so that there will be enough of the items for each team member.

#### THREE WISHES SKIT:

Let the children choose a narrator to read today's Bible story while the rest of the children act out the story as it is read. (Examples: father with a sad face; a son grabbing everything and being greedy; the son begging his father for his inheritance; the son spending a lot of money (play or monopoly money is fine); the son acting hungry; snorting pigs; and the son returning home and the entire class acting out the final CELEBRATION with balloons and whistles, etc.)

#### BALLOON ART:

Give the children some balloons to write on (using markers) with WELCOME BACK SON; or I FORGIVE YOU SON; or MAKE GOOD CHOICES, NOT BAD. Children can then blow up their balloons and have a CELEBRATION because God forgives bad choices. SING "Amazing Grace" or "I have Decided to follow Jesus" together while waving balloons.

#### PRODIGAL SON MAZE:

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil to draw a line that meanders around the page from the top right corner of the page to the bottom left corner. (This will create a "maze" to follow in the next part of the activity. Give the children crayons or markers to draw a Prodigal Son in the upper corner and a drawing of the Father in the lower opposite corner. The children will then give their "maze" to another child who will use a MARKER to follow the wandering lines to find the path from the son to the father.

#### "GOD FORGIVES" OVER-THE-DOOR BANNER:

Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a large piece of poster board to decorate with their ideas of today's lesson on forgiveness and bad choices. When the time is up and the banners are completed with words, pictures, balloons, hole punch the poster board and add long strings and hang it over the classroom door. Let teams explain their drawings and talk about today's Bible story.

#### PRODIGAL SON PUPPET:

Give each child a brown or white paper lunch bag, markers, yarn for hair, eyes, and brown felt for the children to glue items on the paper bag to make a "prodigal son" puppet. Sit in a circle after the bags are completed and have the bag puppets take turns in telling what bad choices he made and what a celebration his father had for him when he returned home. The teacher can ask the bag puppets questions if the children have trouble telling a part of the story.

#### CELEBRATION AND FEAST TIME:

Let children spread a fancy tablecloth on a long table and decorate it with paper plates and balloons, bright colored napkins and small treats that the teacher will provide for the celebration. Children will LOVE decorating the table together with streamers, confetti and Bible verse slips from today's lesson and God's forgiveness. The verses can be taped to a toothpick to make a flag and stuck into a small piece of molding clay or play dough. Let the children sit around the table and THANK GOD for HIS forgiveness when we make wrong choices and CELEBRATE God's love together, while enjoying their snack foods, cupcakes, chips, ice cream, etc!!! (Feel free to use your imagination, teachers, with little nut cups and brightly colored cups or whatever will help the children to enjoy and realize the CELEBRATION!

(adapted from sermons4kids.com)

There are additional activity pages for this lesson in the kid pack, enjoy!



**God made you special and he  
loves you very much!**

Remember, we want to see the results, so be sure to post them on Facebook!

# Resources

If you have access to the internet, here are some great resources for you to use that are fun for the kids as well. (We make no promises as to the content of these resources at the time you look at them.)

<https://www.gospelproject.com/kids/>

<https://whatsinthebible.com/curriculum/>

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/>

<https://open.life.church/categories/314-kids>

We hope you have enjoyed doing this with your family. As we learned today, we are all invited to the banquet, Jesus' banquet at the end of time. It is only here that we can enter into heaven. We have to accept the invitation and come to be in his presence, forever. If we let excuses get in our way, we may miss this eternal banquet. Don't let that happen, accept his invitation today! Also, in the second part of our pack, the son left his father to have his 3 wishes and then was left with nothing. He came back to his father expecting to live as a servant but instead the father was just grateful that he returned. That is how the Father is with us. He just wants us no matter what we have done!

God Bless,  
Middle River Friends Church Children's department