

This Week's Lesson

Be Careful What You Wish For

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all our wishes would come true? We might think so, but sometimes what we wish for isn't always good for us. That's what a young man found out in today's Bible story.

In today's story, there was a young man who had three wishes.

1. He wanted lots of money.
2. He wanted to travel and see the world.
3. He wanted to be his own boss. No one telling him what to do.

The young man went to his father to ask for his inheritance now, instead of when his father passed. Even though the father was sad to see his son go, he gave him what he wanted. The young man left home and traveled to many lands. He visited all the places he wanted to and did whatever he wanted to do. He was happy no one was telling him what to do. If he saw something he wanted, he would buy it. Since he had lots of money, why not? Also with all his money he made lots of friends.

This sounds like a pretty good story. But, hold on. That isn't the end of the story. After awhile he ran out of money and when this happened his friends didn't want to be around him anymore. At this point he was so desperate he went to work for a man who hired him to feed the pigs. As he looked at the messy pigs in their messy pen, he thought about the mess he made of his life. He thought about his father and the home he left behind and began to miss them.

The young man said to himself, " Even the servants in my father's house live better than this. What I will do is return to my father, tell him I'm sorry for the way I behaved and ask him to give me a job as one of his servants", so he headed home.

When he got home his father took him back, but not as a servant, he welcomed him as his son. The father called his servants and told them, " Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was lost, but now is found." So, it turns out the story did have a happy ending after all.

When Jesus told this story he was talking about us too and the way we sometimes behave. There are times when we make bad choices, just like the young man did. Now and then we wish for things that aren't always good for us. We don't always listen to God and we don't always do what the Bible tells us. We can really mess up our lives when we do that.

Well, there is good news for all of us. Just like the father in the story, God our Heavenly Father is always willing to welcome us back as His children, because God is all loving and forgiving.

Prayer

*Dear God,
Thank you for being a loving and forgiving Father who will always welcome us back when we make bad choices. Amen*



Prodigal Son Lesson Craft

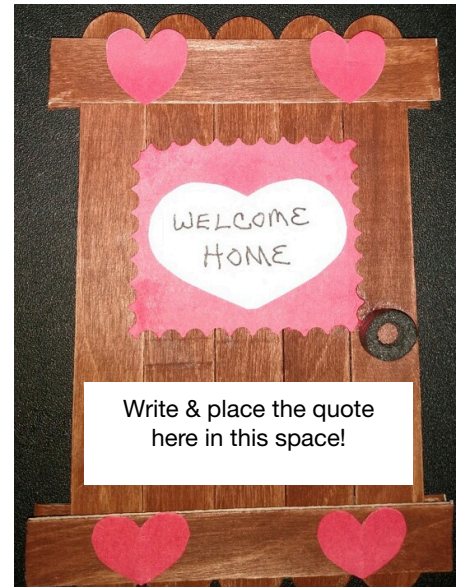
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



How to start your craft sticks



How to finish your craft sticks



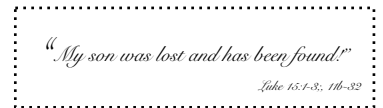
3 Samples

Materials:

- 9 craft sticks
- 1 button or other item to use as doorknob.
- Template signs (your choice), or make your own.
- Scissors
- Tacky glue or hot glue
- Yarn or ribbon to hang
- Decorations (optional)
- Paint or stain, Paint brush, Cloth (optional)

Directions:

- Cut ends off 4 craft sticks with adult scissors.
- Paint or stain all craft sticks-rub with cloth if stained before it dries (optional)...let dry.
- Place 2 of the 4 just cut craft sticks horizontally a distance apart to glue 5 craft sticks on.
- Glue the 5 craft sticks vertically side by side to the horizontal ones.
- Glue last 2 cut craft sticks horizontally across vertical ones matching placement at the same level to the first horizontal craft sticks.
- Set aside to dry.
- Print and cut out templates (or make your own).
- Decorate 'door' (optional)
- Glue template signs or your own on 'door' or hang them at the bottom of the 'door'.
- Glue button or other item on 'door' for the doorknob.
- Cut yarn or ribbon long enough to use for hanging.
- Glue yarn or ribbon to the back of 'door' or tie at top of 'door'.
- It's now ready to hang.



Templates

