

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, **we want YOU to be the one to introduce** this part of The Big God Story to them.

For additional support in spiritual parenting and to learn more about creating transforming environments in your home, be sure to pick up **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** from your church or download at HomeFrontMag.com. You can also access the HomeFront app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



3.3



God Forgives

Part of The Big God Story
Luke 15:11-32
The Prodigal Son Returns

JUST FOR FUN

This week, take your family out to the entryway of your home to read this part of The Big God Story. Ask your children to recall a time when they were really excited to see someone coming to visit. Share these memories together. Tell your children you're going to read a true story from the Bible. Then read **Luke 15:11-32**. Ask why the father was so excited to see his son return home. Remind your children that what they heard is part of The Big God Story in the Bible. They'll learn more in church this week about how God loves and forgives us.

Did You Know?

- One of the most effective and memorable teaching techniques of Jesus was the parable. The parable of the prodigal son is the third of three parables in Luke chapter 15. Jesus tells about celebrating lost things found in order to reveal the character of the heavenly Father. He begins with the sheep, then the lost coin, and ends with the lost son.
- Jesus used parables to teach people about the heavenly Father. The Greek word for parable is *parabole*, meaning "a placing beside ... It signifies a placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison" (W. E. Vine, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, Vol. 3, p. 158).
- In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the picture Jesus paints of His Father's heart is beautiful, lavishing us with forgiveness because of his love.

Social interaction is really important for children this age. Intentionally provide both one-on-one and group interactions with other children on a regular basis. Watch how your child interacts in these settings, and encourage cooperation, conflict resolution, and friendship building.

Teachable Moments

After reading **Luke 15:11-32**, discuss the following together:

- When the son returned home, how did the father react?
- How did the brother react?
- Which one reacted most like the way God would respond? Why?

Remember Verse

As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Now remain in my love.
John 15:9

Blessing

For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in *HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource*.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), may you know God's forgiveness this week. May you run to Him when you need Him and remember He loves you always.