

At Home Weekly is designed for you to use during the week with your son or daughter. You'll find out what they learned today at church, and you can help them prepare for next week by exploring the theme (or Ponder Point) and spending time together in God's Word.

WHAT WE LEARNED THIS WEEK

PONDER POINT: JESUS LOVES ME

Children Welcomed

Matthew 19:13–15

When children were brought before Jesus, the disciples turned them away. Jesus welcomed and blessed them.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED NEXT TIME

PONDER POINT: GOD FORGIVES

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11–32

A young man leaves home and makes some bad choices. When he returns home, his father welcomes him back with love and forgiveness.

DID YOU KNOW?

Share these facts to get the conversation started.

- 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 parable, 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.

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

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.

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss these questions 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?

These questions can easily extend into the rest of the week. Look for opportunities to bring conversations about how God Made a Promise into your everyday life as a family.

REMEMBER VERSE

The Remember Verse focuses on a character trait of God that's highlighted in next week's portion of The Big God Story.

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

BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

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.**

For more information about blessing your child, go to truministry.com to the Parenting tab. And for more creative ideas on spiritually leading your family, visit HomeFrontMag.com.