



hopekids

Four[Five- June 28

Bible Story: The Story of the Lost Son • *Luke 15:11-32*

Bottom Line: God wants everyone to be part of His kingdom.

Conversation Starter: What is the requirement to be in God's kingdom?

Monthly Memory Verse: *"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven."* Matthew 6:10 NIV

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive
- Have a couple students be door greeters, a couple more help with communion in the big church and a few more to volunteer to stay and help with the littles once we finish in the elementary room.

I took out the activity time before the lesson, but it is available if you see fit.

Instead, spend this time playing games with the students or talking to them about how their week went.

This is the get to know your students time.

9:05/10:50 Leave for the Elementary Room

9:45/11:30 Leave for the Merge room

Communion

What You Do:

First - have one of the students pass out communion once everyone is seated.

Discuss communions and the importance of taking it and have one of the students pray.

Hard Choices

What You Need:

- Bibles
- Floor tape

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Demonstrate how to look up Matthew 13:44-46
- Talk about how Jesus used parables to teach us about God and His kingdom. Ask, "What did you learn from these parables?"
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Lead the group in a "Hard Choices" game.
- Create a line in the middle of your activity area with floor tape.
- Present the group with a series of "Would You Rather?" questions where both options are good.
 - "Would you rather have ice cream or cake for dessert for the rest of your life?"
 - "Would you rather get a brand-new bike or a brand-new video game console?"
 - "Would you rather be famous for being an amazing athlete or a famous musician?"
- With each question, signify which side represents which answer.
- The kids should move to the side that represents their answer.
- After discussing a few fun choices, transition to the Bible Story.
- Ask: "The men in the parables, and the disciples like Peter and Andrew, made a hard choice. They had good things—jobs, boats, and families. Why did they leave all of it to follow Jesus?"
- Discuss the idea that they recognized Jesus and His kingdom were infinitely more valuable than anything else they had.
- Ask: "What is most important?"

What You Say:

“Those were some tough choices! It’s hard to pick between two good things. Every single one of those things is good. God made you to love them. But none of them is the *most* important thing.

“Jesus used stories called parables to explain what God’s kingdom is like and how it grows. Today, we heard two of those stories. When Jesus’ closest friends wanted to know more about God’s kingdom, Jesus told them, *‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure that was hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went and sold everything he had. And he bought that field’* (Matthew 13:44 NIV). Jesus said that truly finding God’s kingdom is more exciting and more valuable than golden treasure. In fact, it’s worth giving up all the other important things to keep this one thing. The man in the story knew that God’s kingdom was the most valuable treasure he could ever find. That’s why he gave up everything for it. There is nothing in the whole world more important than loving God and His kingdom.

“Jesus told another parable to show how valuable God’s kingdom is. He said, *‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl’* (Matthew 13:45-46 NIV). In this case, the man was actually looking for treasure—a super-valuable pearl. And as in the first parable, when he found that treasure, he went and sold everything he owned to be able to buy this one, perfect pearl.

“Like that treasure and that pearl, God and His kingdom are more important than anything else. But the men in our stories realized they had found something that wasn’t just good, it was the BEST. They found the ultimate treasure. They understood that **[Bottom Line] loving God and His kingdom is most important.**”

Please take time to Pray!

Ask:

- Why did the men in the parables that Jesus told sell everything?
- Why did the disciples follow Jesus right away?
- What are some things we love?
- What is most important?
- How can we show God is most important?