

Things to take:

Question box with pens & paper.
Door welcome sign, register & rules.
Keys, chair, blindfold.
Lost Son storyboard cards.
Resources for 'sorry prayers'.
Salt dough plaques & paints **or** Zig zag cards
& coloured pencils **plus spares**.
Lost Son PowerPoint/picture.
Song and PowerPoint.

Session Aim:

To show why we need forgiveness and how we can be forgiven.

**'Our father in Heaven, holy is your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done.
Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins...'**

Matthew 6:9-12

Game as they arrive and register: Keys under the chair game

One child sits in the middle of the circle, on a chair that has keys under it. They are blindfolded. One child from the circle is chosen to crawl up and grab the keys. If the person on the chair hears them move, they must point at where they think the 'thief' is. If they point accurately then they have won, and they sit down. The 'thief' must take their place on the chair.

Game: Wink Murder with a death

Wink murder with a twist! Get the children sat in a circle, get one child to go out of the room. First pick a murderer. Then pick the way in which everyone is going to die, e.g. electrocuted, walk the plank, frozen to death. Get the child outside to come back in and stand in the centre of the circle. The murderer has to wink at someone; the victim who catches their eye has to pretend to die in the agreed way. The child in the middle of the circle has to work out both who the murderer is and how everyone is being murdered before everyone dies!

Rules & Question Box

Bible bit: The Lost Son – Luke 15:11-32

Get everyone into four groups. Give each group one of the storyboard cards (in the 'extras' section of the download). Give them one minute to arrange themselves into a freeze-frame that shows what is described on their card. Once they are ready, get groups 2,3 & 4 to sit on the floor in their groups, and group 1 to get into position. Then tell part 1 of the story. Do the same for parts 2,3 & 4.

Part 1

A man had two sons. He loved them both a lot. But his youngest son wanted to have his half of the money he would inherit when his father died now. He just couldn't wait. So his father gave it to him. The older son looked cross.

Part 2

The younger son travelled a long way away. He spent all his money on drinking and gambling and other bad things. Back home his father kept looking out to see if his son would come home.

Part 3

Soon the younger son's money ran out. He had to get a job, but the only one he could find was looking after pigs. He got so hungry that he even wanted to eat the pig food. Then he came to his senses – his father's servants had plenty of food, so he would go home, say 'sorry' to his father and ask to be one of his servants, since he thought he wasn't good enough to be his son any more.

Part 4

When he got home, his father came running to meet him. The youngest son said sorry. The father still loved him, so he had a party to celebrate. The older son looked very cross. He wondered why his bad brother was getting a party, when he wasn't, even though he had been good and stayed. The father wanted him to come to the party to celebrate the lost son who had come back!

Talk:

We have all gone our own way and done our own thing, just like the younger son did when he took his money and went off partying. When we do our own thing, instead of the things God wants us to do (Christians call this 'sin'), we end up far away from Him. (*Refer back to Session 4 – 'Your will be done.'*)

What do you think we can do to come close to God again? What do you think God does to bring us back?

We need forgiveness to bring us back. That means we have to start by saying sorry, just like the younger son did. The reason that God can forgive us is because, when Jesus died on the cross, he took the punishment we deserve. Now when God looks at us, he doesn't see someone who messed up. Instead he sees someone perfect. That's why it says in the Bible that there is a party in Heaven whenever someone says sorry and comes close to God.

Testimony:

If you have time, get a leader to share their testimony of how they became a Christian (NB try to ensure the children can relate to it.)

Response: Sorry prayers

Pick a sorry response from the creative prayer ideas in the 'extras' section of the download (e.g. dissolving vitamin tablets, whiteboards, shredder.)

Pray:

Continue with your prayer journal.

Song & Actions: Love

The song is available to download free from the resources section of the YoYo website under 'songs'. The PowerPoint is in the 'songs' folder of the download. We made up our own actions for this song so you could do the same or we are very happy to teach you ours! This song was written and recorded by Danny Sewell at The Rock Church York.

Memory verse: Salt dough painting/ Zig zag cards - Matthew 6:11

This week the words to paint/write are 'Forgive us our sins'.

N.B. bring some spares for anyone who missed a week

Game: Copy the picture

Give each person a piece of paper and a pencil. Give them 30 seconds to look at the Lost Son picture, either on the PowerPoint, or printed out (you can find it in the 'extras' section of the download). They must not draw anything whilst they are looking. After the 30 seconds are up, they have to try to recreate the picture on their paper.

See whose picture is closest to the original. Explain that they will never be perfect, just like us!

Pray: Kids Rock prayer before they leave.