LESSON · LUKE 15:11–32

You Can Always Come Home

Ages 7–12 · about 45 minutes
Goes with the Prodigal Pig kit

BIG IDEA

Grace means God gives us more than we put in and more than we deserve.

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 15:20 (NIV)

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

0:00 Welcome	0:05 Decorate and build	0:25 Story with the pig	0:37 Talk it over	0:42 Pray, go home
5 min	20 min · steps 1–5	12 min · see below	5 min	3 min

Welcome: Hold up a finished pig and ask, "What's a piggy bank for?" (Saving.) "Today's story is about a young man who didn't save anything. He spent it all."

Tell the story with the pig

READ	SAY	KIDS DO
vv. 11–13 Leaves home	"A bank is for saving. He spent every bit of it on wild living."	Peek in the empty slot.
vv. 14–16 Feeds the pigs	"Pigs! He was so hungry he wanted their food. Sin breaks things and leaves an empty place, like the crack and the hole in your pig."	Trace the crack. Find the empty heart.
vv. 17–19 Comes to his senses	"He planned to ask to be a hired servant. He thought he would have to earn his way back."	Turn the pig to face "home."
v. 20 The father runs	"Only the Father's love fills that empty place. See? The crack still shows. He's mended, not perfect, and completely loved."	**Get a heart and press it in** (step 6).
vv. 21–24 Robe, ring, party	"He asked to be a servant. His father threw him a party. Put in what you have."	**Drop in one coin** (step 8).
Then The surprise	"You put in one coin. Look what's waiting. That's grace: more than we put in and more than we deserve."	**Break the seal, pull the tail,** unwrap the stash.
vv. 25–32 Older brother	"The older brother was angry. Grace isn't fair, and that's the good news. It's for everyone who comes home."	Read the tag together.

Talk it over

Ages 7–9: How do you think the son felt when he saw his dad running? What did the dad give him?

Ages 10–12: Why was the older brother upset? Is grace fair? Who could you show grace to this week?

Take-home challenge

Keep the tag. Give one grace coin away this week to someone who needs to know they're welcome.

Prayer: Father, thank you for running to us when we come home. Thank you that your grace gives us more than we deserve. Help us welcome others the same way. Amen.

Teacher note: Home can be hard for some kids. Keep "home" pointed at God: the father in the story shows what God is like.