

Bible Story: The Prodigal Son

January 24th, 2021

1. Read the Bible story in the Spark Story Bible on pages 378-383.

God is like the father in the story. God invites and welcomes us to feast with God's family! It's a party!

2. Answer the following questions:
 - a. What were the bumps in the son's road?

 - b. How did the father respond to the return of his son? How about his brother?

Activity: Pig Slop Pudding

Do you know what pigs eat? Anything! Pigs are not picky eaters. They will gobble down pretty much anything with joy! We are going to mix up some slop for our snack. The recipe for real slop changes every day. Slop is made up of whatever anyone else on the farm doesn't eat. Our recipe has some interesting ingredients.

Before we stir up a treat, we need to wash our hands. Scrub up!

1. Crush up the Oreo cookies in the sandwich bag.
2. **Chocolate pudding reminds me of the mud that pigs love so much.** Remove the lid from your chocolate pudding cup.
3. **Yep, these are worms and dirt. Pigs will eat anything!** Add your gummy worms and crushed cookies to your pudding.
4. **Some flies even slip into the slop sometimes!** Add the raisins to your cup.
5. **Stir it well!** Using your plastic spoon, stir the worms, cookies, and raisins into your pudding cup.
6. **The prodigal son took his father's money and foolishly spent it all. He spent some coins here, some coins there. He wasted it!** Add the M&Ms to your cup and stir.

All of his money was gone. He had to move in with the pigs to survive. Poor prodigal son! After a while, the son decided to make the long and shameful journey back home. What do you think he was thinking as he walked? _____

7. Lay the cereal squares on the table, building a path away from the bowl. Walk your fingers down the path, away from the bowl of slop.

The son was convinced that he was not worthy of his father's love. He hoped his father would just let him work on the family farm. While he was still a far way off, his father spotted him.

8. Freeze your walking fingers on the cereal path. Don't move!

What did the father do? _____ **The father was so glad to see his son! They celebrated!**

God is like the father in this story. God's forgiveness and love lift us out of the slop. When the father welcomes his son home with open arms and celebration, the son knows he will never have to live with the pigs again. No more slop for the prodigal son, or us! It's time to celebrate!

9. Take your cereal squares from the table, and mix them into your pudding.

10. Unwrap the Hershey Kiss, and drop it on top of your pudding.

11. **The father said that his son was lost, and now was found.** Stir the kiss into your slop. When you find it, oink!

****Be sure to clean up when you're done!****

Let us pray: Dear God,

We are sorry that sometimes we choose to live with the pigs.

Thank you for loving us, even when we smell like pigs

Help us welcome others with open arms.

Your love lifts us from slop to celebration!

Amen.