

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 27
The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. All of the Word is a parable - a story with a hidden meaning.
- B. We are like the prodigal son when we turn away from the Lord and waste our abilities through selfishness.
- C. The Lord is always ready to forgive us.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Who remembers what a parable is? (A story with a hidden meaning)
 - 2. Today's lesson is another parable that Jesus told. The tax collectors and sinners came to hear Him, and the scribes and Pharisees complained. They said, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." The scribes and Pharisees didn't want the Lord to be kind to the tax collectors and sinners because they looked down on these people. So the Lord told the scribes and Pharisees this parable as an answer to their complaint. It is called the parable of the prodigal son. (Prodigal means wasteful.)
- B. Tell/Read the Story
 - 1. Read aloud Luke 15:11-32.
- C. Ideas to Discuss
 - 1. How many sons did the father have? (Two)
 - 2. Where did the younger son go? (To a far country)
 - 3. Why did he become poor and hungry? (He wasted what his father had given him, and then there was a famine.)
 - 4. The son became so poor that he took a job feeding swine (pigs). And he became so hungry that he wished he could eat the food for the swine!
 - 5. The son decided to go home to his father. What was his father's reaction? (He was very happy to have his son back. He gave a feast to welcome him home.)
 - 6. How did the elder son feel when his father gave a party for the younger son? (He was jealous.)
 - 7. What did the father say to his elder son? ("All I have is yours.")

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D. Further Ideas

1. The whole Word is a parable (a story with a hidden meaning). It has a story that everyone can understand, and inside that story are many spiritual ideas that the Lord gradually shows us when we try to understand the Word and live a good life.
2. The prodigal son is like someone who does what he wants to do instead of what the Lord wants him to do. When he went into a "far country," he was going far away from the Lord. And what happened when the prodigal son went far away from his father, that is, from the Lord? (Things went very poorly for him.)
3. When the prodigal son realized that he had been much better off living in his father's house - in the Lord's house, he went home to his father, that is, back to the Lord. And even though he had made many mistakes, his father was not angry with him and even celebrated his homecoming. The Lord treats us the same way when we make mistakes. He is not angry; He just rejoices when we come home to Him!

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "All that the Lord has spoken," HYMNAL #245.
2. "Love thy father and thy mother," HYMNAL #167.
3. "The Prodigal Son," LORI'S SONGS IV (Entitled "Arise"), Side 2.

B. Activities

1. Play the Money Game--a cooperative group game.
 - a. The object of the game is to put all the coins (real or pretend) which have been badly used (spread round the floor), back in a money bag, jar, or piggy bank, by answering questions about the story correctly. (Questions could come from Ideas to Discuss.) Lead the children to the correct answers if necessary, so that everyone takes a turn in the game.
2. Act it out: A play ending with a feast.
 - a. Characters: narrator, father, younger son (prodigal), older son, servants
 - b. Props: bag of coins, robe, ring, sandals, instruments (see Project 1 below), food for feast
 - c. Locations: father's house, far country, pig field, father's fields, place for feast
 - d. The narrator reads the story from the Word as the children go through the motions. The servants can set the table for the feast after verse 24.

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C. Projects

1. Make Instruments--to be used in activity 2 above.
 - a. Rattle: two paper plates, decorated and filled with dried beans (such as lima) and stapled together
 - b. Timbrel or Tambourine: see following page from Sunday School Projects and Activities created by Lori Odhner, Wendy Hoo, and Sonia Werner.
 - c. Lyre (similar to a harp): a shoebox with three rubber bands stretched around the width of box in different places
 - d. Drum: a coffee can, yogurt container, or shortened oatmeal box; drumsticks made from spoons, wooden dowels, or pencils with styrofoam balls attached with duct tape
2. Stick Puppets – see project description from the *General Convention Sunday School Activity Book* for Lesson 131 (in white volume). Craft sticks (popsicle sticks) work equally as well as straws.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of the parable of the prodigal son.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 5, "The Prodigal Son" (Luke 15), pp. 287-300.
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. V, Luke 15.

RELIGION PROJECTS

DESIGNED BY LORI ODHNER, WENDY HOO, AND SONIA WERNER

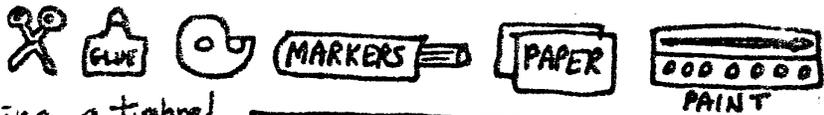
Text: Exodus 15

Subject: Maran and Elim

Dole Notes: Volume: 2 Chapter: 34 Page: 77

Age Group: Beginners: 3-5

basic supplies:



Materials: for making a timbrel or tamborine to celebrate the Lord's help, you'll need for each child:

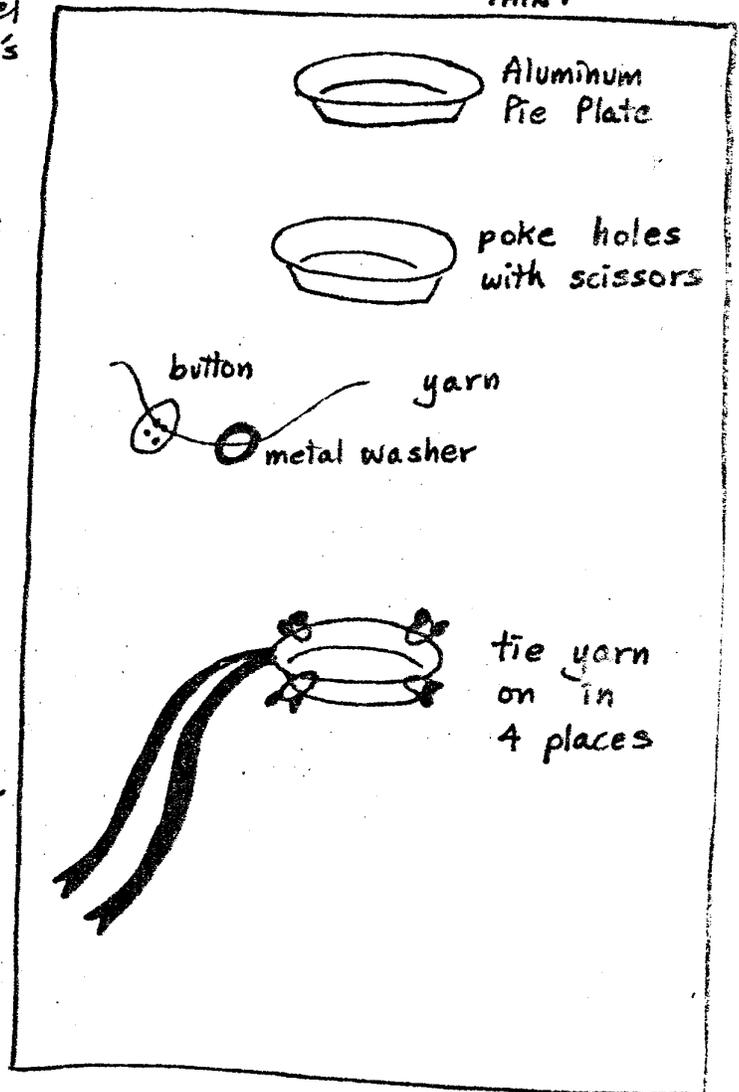
- one aluminum pie plate
- about 8 metal bolts or washers or buttons
- colorful yarn; maybe streamers

teacher preparation:

- cut yarn into 4 lengths per child, each length = 6" long
- make piles of bolts, etc. on the table, so children can choose their favorites

procedure:

- punch 4 holes in the sides of the aluminum pans, with pencil or scissors.
- Thread 2 bolts, (etc) onto each yarn piece.
- Tie each yarn piece onto pie pan at each hole
- Maybe you could tape a few long streamers to it for decoration.



notes: when all the children have finished making theirs timbrels you could sing and dance with them.

MUSIC: Loris Songs: "O Sing Unto the Lord
"The Lord is all Powerful"