

The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44

Main Point - Knowing God is the most special thing in all the world.

Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide wheelbarrows, shovels, construction hats, check shirts, etc. and have the children pretend to dig up imaginary treasure around the room.
- Dress ups - provide the children with dress up clothes. Set up a shop with a cash register, some toy money and products so that the children can pretend to buy and sell things.
- Find the treasure game - provide a floor mat with farmland on it. Provide plastic farm animals, farmhouses and shed, trees and tractors and a tiny treasure box. Ask the children to set the equipment up and then have one child hide the treasure while the others close their eyes. The other children then have to find the treasure. The first child to find it is the winner and becomes the next child to hide it.
- Hidden Treasure - provide a tub full of small plastic balls or confetti. Ask the children to close their eyes while you place a *treasure* (something small enough to hide in the balls or confetti). Ask them to open their eyes. Give each child a turn at placing their hand in once and seeing if they can find the hidden treasure. Child who finds it gets to hide it next.

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

Treasure Hunt

Need:

- simple treasure map
- treasure

Instructions:

- Make up a simple treasure hunt with picture clues drawn on a treasure map.
- Take the whole group on a hunt for the special treasure.
- End up by finding a treasure box that will be used in the story time.

Conclusion:

- *The man in our story wanted a special treasure.*
- *But he had a problem.*
- *The treasure was on someone else's land.*
- *Let's see what he had to do to get the treasure.*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Hidden Treasure* (pages 5-6) as a guide and the following props:

- treasure chest
- two sided sign: *For Sale, Garage Sale*
- jacket
- train set
- camera
- dinosaurs
- comic books
- bag full of money

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Hidden Treasure* (pages 5-6) as a guide and the following pictures (can be found on internet or cut from magazines) that are glued on a large sheet of paper at the appropriate time:

- treasure chest
- *For Sale* sign
- *Garage Sale* sign
- jacket
- train set

- camera
- dinosaurs
- comic books
- bag full of money

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- doll's house furniture: bed, chairs

Seat children in a circle with the props in the centre of the circle. Encourage the children to retell the story, manipulating the props as they do so.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What did the man find?*
(treasure)
- *Where was the treasure?*
(hidden on some land)
- *What did the man have to sell to buy the land to get the treasure?*
(he sold everything he had)

Conclusion:

- *The man knew the treasure was worth having.*
- *The treasure was precious.*

- *So he sold everything to buy the land to get the treasure.*
- *Knowing God is more precious than your favourite toy.*
- *Knowing God is more important than your Mum and Dad.*
- *Knowing God is more special than your friends and cousins.*
- *Knowing God is the most amazing treasure in all the world.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you that – because of Jesus – we can know you. – Thank you – that knowing you – is the most precious thing – in all the world. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Pray about one thing they know about God.

Craft Activities

- Treasure box - buy a cardboard treasure box (available at craft outlets) and spray each box silver or gold. Write a small card to place inside each box with the words, *Knowing God is the most precious thing of all*. Give children wood glue in plastic squeeze bottles to squeeze wood glue in patterns over the lid and sides of the box. Provide glitter, sequins and ribbon to decorate the box.
- Land sale stencil - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil with a *For Sale* sign on it and the title, *The man sold everything he had to buy the land so that he could own the treasure. Knowing God is worth more than anything in all the world. Matthew 13:44* Print one per child on A4 paper. Show children how to twist strips of crepe paper to make long grass. Glue grass all over the land. Provide children with a star sticker (or something to represent the treasure) and have them carefully place the sticker on the picture, half hidden so that only they can find it.
- Moneybag stencil - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a moneybag and the title, *The man sold everything so that he could buy the land and have the treasure. Matthew 13:44* Print one per child. Provide large round yellow stickers for the children to stick on for money.

The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44

Jesus told lots of stories to help us know more about God and his Kingdom.

Let's begin with this story.

There once was a man.

Let's call him Zac.

One day Zac was walking through a country field.

Suddenly, Zac tripped.

He dusted himself off and looked to see what had tripped him.

Zac was amazed.

There in the field, half buried, was a treasure chest.

Quickly he looked around and found a shovel - that just happened to be lying there.

Again he looked around to make sure no one was looking, and then, he began to dig.

As fast as he could.

He dusted off the treasure chest and carefully opened it.

It was full of the most amazing treasure he'd ever seen.

Zac looked around again, then carefully re-buried the treasure in the field.

At that moment a man came long.

The man put up a sign.

The land was for sale!

Zac just had to have that treasure!

But the land cost a lot of money.

Zac searched his pockets.

There was not enough in his pockets.

He needed money, a lot of money!

Because he just had to have the treasure, more than anything in all the world!

So he thought and he thought and he thought.

Finally he came up with a plan.

He'd have a garage sale!

So he sold his most treasured possessions.

He sold his precious train set.

Because he just had to have the treasure, more than anything in all the world!

He sold his amazing dinosaur collection!

Because he just had to have the treasure, more than anything in all the world!

He sold his fantastic camera.
Because he just had to have the treasure, more than anything in all the world!
He sold his all-time favourite comic books.
Because he just had to have the treasure, more than anything in all the world!
Finally everything was gone.
Zac gathered up all the money and hurried back.
He handed the money over.
The money was counted.
But still there was not enough!
The sales person eyed Zac's cool jacket and said, "Sell me your cool jacket and you can have the land."
So Zac took off his cool jacket sold it to the man!
Quickly Zac dug up the treasure chest.
At last, the treasure was his!

The buried treasure was more valuable than everything Zac owned.
So Zac sold everything to get it.
Children, Jesus said, "Knowing God is worth more than anything in all the world."
Knowing God is the most special thing in all the world.

The Parable Of The Precious Pearl

Matthew 13:45,46

Main Point - Knowing God is the most special thing in all the world.

Play Activities

- Cooking - **Warning: check for allergies before beginning this activity (no peanuts).** Make pearls by either using a non-bake recipe for coconut balls or a recipe for chocolate crackles omitting the cocoa.
- Shopping - set up a shop with a cash register, some toy money and products so that the children can buy and sell things.
- Block play - have blocks for the children to build houses.
- Dress ups - provide dress up clothes. Include lots of hats and jackets.

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

Treasure Box

- A leader brings in a treasure box full of treasures special to them.
- Tell the children why they are special.
- Ask the children where they keep their special treasures.

Conclusion:

- *The man in our story found a special treasure.*
- *Let's see what the treasure was and what he did to get that special treasure.*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Precious Pearl* (pages 11-12) as a guide and tell the story by becoming the two different characters in the story, changing hats every time you talk about the different characters: felt hat with feather in it, merchant hat. Pick up the appropriate props listed below at the appropriate time in the story:

- doll's house or large box for house
- chocolates
- monopoly money
- doll's furniture
- blue shallow bowl for swimming pool
- bag or toy wheelbarrow to carry the money
- large polystyrofoam ball for the pearl (wrapped up in a piece of material and revealed dramatically)

Note: you may like to hand some children money and get them to buy the items in the garage sale.

Option 2

Read *The Precious Pearl*, by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen. Published by Marshall Pickering.

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- toy money
- pearl (purchase a toy pearl necklace and pull apart)

Seat children in a circle with the money and pearl to one side. Encourage the children to retell the story, handing them play money each time they contribute. At the end put all the money in the middle and count it. Then exchange it for a pearl.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *The man was very rich. What are some of the things the man had?*
(big swimming pool, huge house, lots of furniture...)
- *What did the man see in the shop?*
(a beautiful pearl)
- *What did the man do to get the pearl?*
(sold everything to buy the pearl)

Conclusion:

- *Knowing God is more important than...* (open up your treasure box and list the items as you take them out).
- *In fact if I lost this box, and lost all my special treasures, I'd be sad. But in the end it wouldn't matter.*
- *What matters is that I know God because of Jesus.*
- *Knowing God is the best treasure of all.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you that – because of Jesus – we can know you. – Thank you – that knowing you – is the most precious thing – in all the world. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Pray about one thing they know about God.

Craft Activities

- Cone hat - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a cone party hat and copy one per child on A3 cardboard. Punch a hole on each side of the hat. Provide collage material (patty pans, stickers, confetti, glitter...) for the children to decorate the hats. Add a feather on top. Staple the cone hats together, attach thin elastic through the holes on each side and adjust to fit.
- Precious pearl stencil - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a large pearl in a box titled, *The man gave up everything to own the precious pearl. Knowing God is the most special thing in all the world. Matthew 13:45, 46* Print the picture on A4 coloured paper, one per child. The children can then decorate the pearl by gluing small pieces of white paper on the pearl, and sequins and glitter on the box.
- Large house - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a house, swimming pool and flower stems titled, *The Rich Man wanted the pearl so much he sold his house, his pool and his beautiful garden. Matthew 13:45, 46* Make one copy per child on A4 cardboard. Provide wood glue for the children to attach craft matchsticks on the house. Provide paper glue for them to glue blue cellophane on the pool and patty pans on the flower stems.

The Parable Of The Precious Pearl

Matthew 13:45,46

There once was a man.
He was a very rich man.
He lived in an enormous house.
It had the biggest and best swimming pool.
Chocolate in the cupboard, freezer and fridge.
He even had chocolates in his bedroom!
And under his bed was lots and lots and lots of money.
He had a fine felt hat with a feather in it.
It was his favourite!
Every Saturday morning he'd gather up some of his money and
he'd go shopping!
One Saturday morning he saw something.
Something very special.
There in a shop window was the biggest, most beautiful pearl he'd
ever seen.
He asked the shopkeeper, "How much for this pearl?"
The shopkeeper replied, "Oh, it's very expensive! Probably more
than you've got."
The man said, "Me? I've got lots of money! Try me!"
But the shopkeeper said, "The pearl costs fifty thousand million
dollars!"
The man's jaw dropped!
Fifty thousand million dollars!
The shopkeeper was right!
It was more money than he had in his pocket.
But the man wanted the pearl.
He wanted it more than anything in all the world.
So he ran back home.
He got all the money from under his bed, and counted it.
But it was not enough to buy the pearl.
And he wanted that pearl more than anything in all the world.
So he tried to think of a plan.
He thought, and he thought, and he thought.
Suddenly he had an idea!
He'd have - a garage sale!
So the man sold his house.
And the man sold his swimming pool.
And the man sold all his furniture.
But he didn't sell his fine felt hat.
It was his favourite!

The man gathered up all the money.
He was sure to have enough now.
He went back to the shop and gave the money to the shopkeeper.
The shopkeeper counted the money.
He counted all the money.
There was a lot of money to count.
Till finally...
Oh dear!
There was still not enough!
He was still \$3 dollars short!
The shopkeeper eyed the man's fine felt hat.
The shopkeeper said, "Sell me your fine felt hat for \$3 and you can have the pearl."
The man smiled.
He gave the shopkeeper his hat and he took the pearl.
Hooray!
The pearl was his at last.

Conclusion:
Knowing God is like the man's pearl.
It's very, very special!
Children, Jesus said, "Knowing God is precious, more precious than anything in all the world."

The Parable Of The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1-7

Main Point - God is so happy when we say we're sorry and come back to him.

Play Activities

- Playdough - provide sheep and man shaped cutters for the children to create a shepherd and his sheep.
- Shepherds - provide a flock of soft toy sheep, shepherd dress up clothes and shepherd's crooks (made from long cardboard rolls covered in alfoil with a long section of alfoil attached at one end shaped to form a crook) to play with.
- Farms - provide farm animals (lots of sheep), fences, plastic human figurines... for the children to re-enact the parable.
- Blocks - provide blocks for the children to make windy paths, hills and valleys.

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

Lost and Found Game

Need:

- soft toy sheep

Instructions:

- Show the children the sheep.
- All children close their eyes.
- Hide the sheep.
- Ask children to open their eyes.
- Select one child to move around the room, trying to find the sheep.
- As the child moves, say the word *lost* over and over again.
- When the child moves nearer the object, say *lost* louder and

louder.

- When the child moves away from the object say *lost* softer and softer.
- When he/she finds the object call out *found*.
- Repeat with a different child.

Conclusion:

- *Jesus told a story about a sheep that got lost.*
- *Let me remind you of the story.*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Lost Sheep (#1)* (pages 18-21) and retell the parable according to the instructions in the script. **Note: you need to memorise both script and actions in order to do this talk effectively.**

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Lost Sheep (#2)* (pages 22-23) and retell the parable using the following props:

- a flock of soft toy sheep
- soft toy man (shepherd)
- a sheep pen (can be blocks or toy fences)
- two hills (chairs turned upside down or made from blocks)
- a bridge (a shoebox or toy bridge)
- a river (a sheet of blue crepe paper or blue material)

Option 3

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Lost Sheep (#2)* (pages 22-23) and retell the parable doing the following series of chalk drawings:

Picture 1: sheep, shepherd, draw bush over one sheep to indicate one is missing

Picture 2: grass, hill, mud, hill, trees, bridge, river

Picture 3: shepherd holding sheep, add smile, add party streamers

Option 4

Read *The Lost Sheep*, by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen.
Published by Marshall Pickering.

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- sheep
- toy fences
- blocks to make hills

Seat children in a circle with the props to one side.

Encourage the children to retell the story, handing them the appropriate props to manipulate as they do so.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What did the shepherd lose?*
(a sheep)
- *How did the shepherd find his sheep?*
(looked and looked and looked)
- *What did the shepherd do when he found his sheep?*
(had a great party)

Conclusion:

- *We are lost to God, just like the lost sheep.*
- *It's our sin that makes us all lost.*
- *But God is so happy when we come back to him.*
- *When we come back to God, there's a great big party in heaven, because we're back home where we belong.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Thank you God, – that even though – we were lost, – we can come back to you – because of Jesus. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Thank God for the people this year in our church who have become Christians.

Craft Activities

- Party hat - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a cone shaped hat. Print one per child on A3 cardboard. Provide collage material for the children to decorate. Staple together to form a hat. Attach hat elastic to help secure the hat.
- Sheep mask - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a sheep's head. Make one copy per child on cardboard. Cut out the sheep heads. Have children glue cotton wool on the sheep's heads. Attach a paddle pop stick to the back of the heads.
- Sheep printing - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil titled, *The sheep was lost. The shepherd looked and looked and looked until he found the sheep. Luke 15:1-7* Make one copy per child on A3 paper. Provide the children with a sheep shaped playdough cutter and a paint soaked sponge for them to print lots of sheep.
- Sheep - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of the sheep and the title, *The shepherd looked and looked and looked until he found the sheep. And when he did he had a great big party! His sheep was home! Luke 15:1-7* Make one copy per child on coloured A4 paper. Provide the children with cotton wool balls to decorate the sheep.

Party (optional)

- Party morning tea - **Warning: check for food allergies before doing this activity.** Have children wear their party hats while eating a special morning tea.

The Parable Of The Lost Sheep (#1)

Luke 15:1-7

Dramatic Storytelling - script by Sandy Galea.

Main Point - God is so happy when we say we're sorry and come back to him.

Instructions:

This script needs to be memorised both words/action.

Need:

- Storyteller (needs to memorise the script and actions)
- Party Pops (one for storyteller and each of the leaders)

Script

There once was a shepherd.

His name was Sam.

Sam had one hundred sheep.

Every day Sam would o...pen the gate.

Sam would walk through the gate.

And Sam would shu...t the gate.

Then Sam would count his sheep.

1, 2, 3, ...

97, 98, 99, 100.

Sam loved his sheep.

He knew all their names.

One day...

Sam o...pened the gate.

Sam walked through the gate.

Sam shu...t the gate.

Actions

Pointer finger pointing up.

Points to self.

Counts imaginary sheep in audience.

Pretends to open a gate on the word open.

Slaps hands on thighs at walking pace.

Closes gate on 'shut'.

Counts sheep by pointing.

Continues counting...

Continues counting...

Crosses both hands across chest.

Sweeps hands open.

Pointer finger in the air.

Opens gate on 'open'.

Slaps hands on thighs.

Closes gate on 'shut'.

Then Sam began to count his sheep.

1, 2, 3, ...

97, 98, 99 ... (pause)

99!

Sam counted again.

1, 2, 3, ...

97, 98, 99 ... (pause)

99!

Only 99 sheep!

One was missing.

Sam looked around.

Woolly!

Woolly was missing.

Sam had to find Woolly!

Sam o...pened the gate.

Sam walked out of the gate.

Sam shu...t the gate.

Sam walked through the long grass.

Sam walked up the hill.

And down the other side.

Sam stopped.

Sam looked this way.

No Woolly!

Sam looked that way.

No Woolly!

On and on he searched.

Through the bog.

Counts sheep by pointing.

Continues counting ...

Continues counting ...

Hands in the air.

Pointer finger up.

Continues counting ...

Continues counting ...

Hands in the air.

Hands slap on cheeks.

Holds one finger up.

Looks frantically around.

Both hands in the air.

Hands slap on cheeks again.

Nods.

Opens gate on 'open'.

Slaps hands on thighs.

Closes gate on 'shut'.

Rubs hands forward and back making a swishing sound.

Slaps hands on thighs getting slower as if going up the hill.

Slaps hands on thighs faster.

Slaps hands once on thighs.

Hand to eyes, looks to left.

Face forward, hands up.

Hand to eyes, looks to right.

Face forward, hands up.

Clenches both hands, punches one fist then the other.

Grabs one leg and lifts, grabs

Up the really, really, really,
really, really steep hill.

And... down the other side.

Through the woods.

And across the bridge.

Sam stopped.

Sam listened.

Baa gurgle, gurgle.

Baa gurgle, gurgle.

Sam looked.

There was Woolly!

In the river!

Baa gurgle, gurgle.

Baa gurgle, gurgle.

Woolly was drowning!

Sam jumped in.

Sam grabbed Woolly.

Woolly was safe.

Sam turned.

They went...

Back across the bridge.

Back through the woods.

Up the really, really, really,
really, really steep hill.

other leg and lifts.

Slaps hands on thighs getting
slower and slower and slower...

Slaps hands on thighs really
fast.

Hands used to push bush after
bush aside.

Fisted hands pound chest.

Slaps hands on thighs once.

Hand to ear.

Hands up in the air for 'Baa',
one hand holds nose, the other
raised in the air and moving in a
downward movement (as if
drowning) for 'gurgle gurgle'.

Repeats action above.

Looks sideways.

Points/looks to river.

Looks up panicked.

Movement as above.

Eyes wide, frozen.

Jumping movement using
hands.

Grabs imaginary sheep, puts
sheep on shoulders.

Thumbs up.

A half turn with shoulders.

Slaps hands on thighs getting
slower and slower and slower...

And... down the other side.	Slaps hands on thighs really fast.
Through the bog.	Grabs one leg and lifts, grabs other leg and lifts.
Up the not so steep hill.	Slaps hands on thighs getting slower as if going up the hill.
And... down the other side.	Slaps hands on thighs faster.
Through the long grass.	Rubs hands forward and back making a swishing sound.
Sam o...pened the gate.	Opens gate on 'open'.
They went through the gate.	Slaps hands on thighs.
Sam closed the gate.	Closes gate on 'shut'.
Sam put Woolly down.	Takes sheep off shoulders.
Woolly was home.	Thumbs up.
And Sam - had a party!	Pulls out party pop and pops it on 'party'.

(Pause. Children give themselves a clap if they've repeated the story after you. Wait until they are settled, then conclude)

Woolly was lost.
 So Sam looked and looked until he found him.
 Sam was so happy.
 Sam threw a great big party.
 Woolly was home!
 The Bible says that we are lost to God.
 It's our sin that makes us lost.
 But God doesn't give up on us.
 When we come back to God, there's a great party in heaven.
 We are back where we belong.

The Parable Of The Lost Sheep (#2)

Luke 15:1-7

There once was a shepherd.
Let's call him Sam.
Sam had one hundred sheep.
Everyday Sam would count his sheep.
1, 2, 3, ... 97, 98, 99, 100.
Sam loved his sheep.
He knew all their names.
One day Sam began to count his sheep.
1, 2, 3, ... 97, 98, 99 ... (pause) 99!
Sam counted again.
1, 2, 3, ... 97, 98, 99 ... (pause) 99!
Only 99 sheep!
One was missing.
Sam looked around.
Woolly! Woolly was missing.
Sam had to find Woolly!
Sam walked out the gate.
He walked through the long grass and up the hill.
Then he ran down the other side.
Sam stopped.
He looked this way and he looked that way.
No Woolly!
On and on he searched.
Through the mud and up the really, really, really, really, really
steep hill.
And... down the other side.
Through the woods and across the bridge.
Sam stopped and listened very carefully.
Baa gurgle, gurgle. Baa gurgle, gurgle.
Sam looked.
There was Woolly!
Drowning!
Baa gurgle, gurgle. Baa gurgle, gurgle.
Sam jumped in the river and grabbed Woolly.
Woolly was safe.
Sam turned.
He went back across the bridge.
Back through the woods.
Up the really, really, really, really, really steep hill.

And... down the other side.
Through the mud.
Up the not so steep hill.
And... down the other side.
Through the long grass.
Sam went through the gate then put Woolly down.
Woolly was home.
And Sam - had a party!

Conclusion:
Children, Woolly was lost.
But Sam did not give up.
He looked and looked until he found him.
When he did, Sam was so happy he threw a great big party.
Woolly was home!
The Bible says that we were lost to God.
It's our sin that makes us lost.
But God doesn't give up on us.
When we come back to God, there's a great party in heaven.
We are back where we belong.

The Parable Of The Lost Coin

Luke 15:8-10

Main Point - God is so happy when we say we're sorry and come back to him.

Play Activities

- Playdough - provide circle shaped cutters for the children to make ten coins.
- Imaginary play - set up a house complete with kitchen, washing line, toy brooms/dustpan and dress up clothes for the children to pretend to organise and clean their house.
- Tea set - provide a tea set and dress up clothes for the children to have a party.

Lost and Found Game

Need:

- ten large silver coins (made from silver cardboard)

Instructions:

- Show the children the silver coins.
- Count them.
- All children close their eyes.
- Hide one of the coins.
- Ask children to open their eyes.
- Count the coins again.
- *Oh, no, one is missing!*
- Select one child to move around the room, trying to find the coin.
- Repeat with a different child.

Conclusion:

- *Jesus told a story about a coin that got lost.*
- *Let me remind you of the story.*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Parable Of The Lost Coin* (pages 28-29). This script needs to be memorised and the responses of the children need to be incorporated into the story as it's told. To get the last response to be *under the cat*, organise a leader to whisper this response to a child, then select that child.

Option 2

Read *The Ten Silver Coins* from the book, *Stories Jesus Told* by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen, published by Zonderkidz.

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group to retell the story using the following props:

- ten silver coins in a bag per group

Seat children in a circle and count the money onto the floor in the centre of the circle.

Encourage the children to retell the story.

Take turns for different children to remove a coin and the group has to guess where in a house the coin is hidden.

Child replaces the coin when the group has guessed the hiding place.

Another child then has a turn.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What did the woman lose?*
(a coin)
- *How many coins did she have before she lost one?*
(ten)
- *Where did she look for her coin?*
(answer depends on the Story Time option chosen)
- *She eventually found the coin. What did the woman do when she found her coin?*
(she called her friends and had a great party)

Conclusion:

- *We are lost to God.*
- *It is our sin that makes us lost.*
- *But God is so happy when we come back to him.*
- *When we come back to God, there's a great big party in heaven.*
- *Because we're back home where we belong.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Thank you God, – that even though – we were lost, – we can say sorry – and come back to you – because of Jesus. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Thank God for the people this year in our church who have become Christians.

Craft Activities

- Moneybag - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a moneybag and the title, *The woman looked and looked until she found her lost coin. And*

when she found it she had a great big party. Luke 15:8-10
Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Provide ten coins (cut from silver paper or kitchen foil) for the children to stick on the moneybag.

- Party horn - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a horn. Print and cut one per child on A4 cardboard. Provide collage material for the children to decorate it. Staple together to form a horn for the children to blow to let everyone know about the party.
- Broom - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a broom and the title, *The woman swept her house until she found the lost coin. Luke 15:8-10*. Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Provide raffia for the children to glue on to the broom and crayons to add colour to the broom handle. Provide ten yellow dot stickers for the children to glue around the broom.

Party (optional)

- Party morning tea - **Warning: check for food allergies before doing this activity.** Have children wear their party hat while eating a special morning tea.

The Parable Of The Lost Coin

Luke 15:8-10

Children, I need your help to tell this story, so be sure to listen carefully.

(pause)

Jesus told a story about a woman who had ten silver coins.

Help me count how many coins she had.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

Ten silver coins.

But one day she lost one.

She only had...

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine.

Nine silver coins.

One was missing.

She had to find the missing coin.

So she got out her broom and she swept and she swept and she swept.

Then she looked and looked and looked.

Where do you think she looked?

(child's response may be: under the bed)

The woman looked under the bed (ugh!).

But the coin was not there.

So she got out her broom and she swept and she swept and she swept.

Then she looked and looked and looked.

Where do you think she looked?

(child's response may be: in the cupboard)

The woman looked under the bed (ugh!) and in the cupboard (creak).

But the coin was not there.

So she got out her broom and she swept and she swept and she swept.

Then she looked and looked and looked.

Where do you think she looked?

(child's response may be: out in the garden)

The woman looked under the bed (ugh!), in the cupboard (creak) and out in the garden (buzz).

But the coin was not there.

So she got out her broom and she swept and she swept and she swept.

Then she looked and looked and looked.

Where do you think she looked?

(child's response may be: under the table)

The woman looked under the bed (ugh!), in the cupboard (creak), out in the garden (buzz) and under the table (moan).

But the coin was not there.

So she got out her broom and she swept and she swept and she swept.

Then she looked and looked and looked.

Where do you think she looked?

(child's response may be: under the cat)

The woman looked under the bed (ugh!), in the cupboard (creak), out in the garden (buzz), under the table (moan), behind the cushion and under the cat (screech!).

And there it was!

The woman found the coin.

She was so happy.

She called her neighbours to come and celebrate.

She had a party! (pop party pop)

Conclusion:

Children, the woman did not give up.

She looked and looked until she found the precious coin.

When she did, she was so happy she threw a great big party.

The Bible says that we are lost to God.

It's our sin that makes us lost.

But God doesn't give up on us.

When we come back to God, there's a great party in heaven.

We are back where we belong.

The Parable Of The Great Banquet

Luke 14:15-24

Main Point - God invites you to come and join his family. But you need to say yes, or you will miss out.

Play Activities

- Dress ups - provide dress up clothes and hats, and a plastic tea set for the children to dress up and have a party.

Set up three centres that represent the three excuses:

- Farm - complete with plastic/wooden animals, sheds and fences.
- Bride and groom dress ups - coats, veils, dresses, flowers, toy camera, etc.
- Doll's house - complete with furniture and figurines.

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

Invitations

Need:

- invitations to different parties (wedding, birthday...)

Talk your way through the invitations:

- *This tells me it's a Birthday Party for Sally... she's six... the party is on Saturday.... from 3 till 5... at her house... Oh, and I have to ring up and let them know if I'm coming....*
- *This tells me it's a wedding party for Oh, and I have to write to them and let them know if I'm coming....*

Conclusion:

- *What would happen if I didn't tell them I was coming? (wouldn't be able to go)*

- *If you get an invitation to a party you must tell them whether you're coming or not.*
- *Jesus told a story about a party and some people who missed out on the party.*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Parable Of The Great Banquet* (pages 34-35) and the following chalk drawings:

Picture 1: rich man, add thought bubble of a party

Picture 2: house, add cows, add bride and groom

Picture 3: poor, blind and sick people, add more people, add party streamers

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Parable Of The Great Banquet* (pages 34-35) and the following objects (simply hold up at the appropriate time during the story):

- feather pen and roll of paper (for invitation list)
- party food
- toy house
- five toy cows
- veil and flowers
- cane for blind people
- party pops

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- wrap up the following items: pictures of houses, plastic cows, wedding ring, small bouquet of flowers..., enough for one for each child (one item inside each layer of wrapping), one parcel per group

Seat children in a circle.

Encourage the group to retell the story. To encourage all children to retell part of the story play *Pass the Parcel*. A child gets to unwrap a gift after they have told part of the story.

At the end place all items in three groups (house pictures, cows, wedding items) so that the children can see what the people decided was more important than the party.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Show me how the rich man felt when the people he invited didn't come to the party?*
(angry)
- *Why didn't they come?*
(too busy selling a house, working on the farm, getting married)
- *Who did the rich man invite next to the party?*
(blind, poor, people who couldn't walk properly, etc.)

Conclusion:

- *Heaven is like a big party with God.*
- *God wants us to be there.*
- *But we have to say 'Yes, we're coming' or we will miss out.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you – that you have invited us – to come to your party in heaven. – Thank you that – because of Jesus – we can say yes. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to think of one person who may not have said yes to God's invitation.

Craft Activities

- Party hats - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a cone hat. Copy on A3 cardboard and cut one per child. Punch a hole on each side of the hat. Provide collage material (patty pans, stickers, confetti, glitter...) for the children to decorate the hats. Staple the cone hat together and attach thin elastic through the holes on each side and adjust to fit.
- Wedding Collage - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil titled, *The man said, 'No' to the party because he had just got married. Luke 14:15-24* Copy one per child on coloured A4 paper. Provide wedding collage material (i.e. doilies, confetti, lace...) for the children to glue on.
- Cow - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a side view of a cow with no legs. Copy on cardboard and cut one per child. Provide brown crepe paper or shredded tissue for the children to decorate the cow. Attach two wooden pegs to each cow for legs.
- Cooking - **Warning: check for allergies before beginning this activity.** Make something simple (i.e. fairy bread, face biscuits, vegetable sticks and dip, fruit kebabs, pikelets with butter and jam or sprinkles...) with the children for them to eat. They may like to put their party hats on and play some music and have a real party.

The Parable Of The Great Banquet

Luke 14:15-24

Jesus told many stories.

He used the stories to teach people about God's big kingdom.

One day Jesus told the crowds this story.

(pause)

There once was a man.

He was a very rich man.

One day the rich man decided to have a party.

He thought about whom he would invite.

The rich man wrote a long list.

He called his servant.

Then he sent out special invitations.

When the servant came back, they got the party organised.

There was fruit, lollies, roast meat, ice cream, balloons...

Everything was ready.

The rich man told his servant, "Everything is ready. Go and tell everyone to come and enjoy!"

The servant went to the first man and said, "Come, the party is ready!"

But the man shook his head and said, "I can't come. I have just bought a house. I must go and see it. Please excuse me."

The servant hung his head and walked away.

The servant went to the second man and said, "Come, the party is ready!"

But the man shook his head and said, "I can't come. I have just bought five new cows. I want to go and milk them. Please excuse me."

The servant hung his head and walked away.

The servant went to the third man and said, "Come, the party is ready!"

But the man shook his head and said, "I can't come. I've just got married. I have to go home. Please excuse me."

The servant hung his head and walked away.

The servant went back to his master.

The servant shook his head and said, "They will not come."

The man became angry.

He told his servant, "Go quickly. Go into the streets and dark alleys. Bring the poor people. Bring the blind people. Bring the sick people. Tell them to come to my party!"

The servant rushed out into the streets.

He brought in the poor people.
He brought in the blind people.
He brought in the sick people.
The servant came back to the rich man and said, "There is still room for more!"
The rich man said, "Then go to the country towns. Invite anyone you see. Make them come so my house will be full."
So the servant went.
He invited anyone he saw.
Until the party was full.
BUT not one of those people who received the invitation and then said No will ever get in to the party.

Conclusion:
God is like the rich man.
God invites people to come into his kingdom.
Some people say 'yes'.
They come!
But others never come.
They make excuses not to come.
God is calling us to come.
But you need to say yes to God's invitation.
If you don't, you will miss out.

The Parable Of The Lost Son

Luke 15:1-2,11-32

Main Point - God has been very kind to us in giving us Jesus. So don't be upset when God is kind to others.

Play Activities

- Playdough - provide human, pig and other farm animal shaped cutters for the children to create shapes of things mentioned in the parable.
- Blocks and farm animals - provide foam or wooden blocks and farm animals to create a farm.
- Duplo farm set - provide a duplo farm set for the children to build a farm.
- Dress ups - provide simple farm props (wheelbarrows, plastic shovels, plastic buckets, racks, shovels, large soft toy farm animals...) and dress up clothes for the children to create a farm.

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

Feed The Pigs Game

Warning: beware of carpet burns if children are crawling on carpet. Also be sure to keep children on all fours crawling, as running with this age group can become dangerous.

Need:

- large open space

Instructions:

- Ask children to crawl around on the floor and pretend to be pigs.
- When the leader calls out, 'Pig food', children have to crawl

to the nearest wall as quickly as possible.

- Last one to the wall is out.
- Continue until only one pig remains.

Conclusion:

- *Jesus told a story about a young brother who spent all his Dad's money.*
- *The only job he could get was to feed the pigs!*
- *Listen carefully to Jesus' story, because every story Jesus told teaches us something very important.*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Lost Son* (pages 41-42) and retell the parable using the following props:

- duplo or small blocks (enough to make the youngest son's home and the farm in the distant land)
- duplo or plastic people (the two sons, the father, the party goers)
- plastic farm animals (must include pigs)
- a winding road (can be a piece of felt)

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Lost Son* (pages 41-42) and retell the parable using felt. Provide the following felt shapes for the children to retell the story:

- two farms: the youngest son's home and the farm in the distant land
- people (the two sons, the father, the party goers)
- farm animals (must include pigs)
- a winding road

Option 3

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Lost Son* (pages 41-42) and retell the parable by painting the son's journey as follows:

- on a long sheet of paper draw the following (left to right) across the page: farm, windy road, large town, pig farm, windy road back to the farm
- dip fingers into different coloured paint to represent the characters in the story: father, younger brother, older brother
- when the younger brother leaves, dip fingers in his coloured paint and walk his journey across the picture and back again

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- pigs

Seat children in a circle with the pigs to one side.

Encourage the children to retell the story. As they do, hand one pig to each child who contributes. Aim: to see who gets the most pigs (i.e. who can remember the most about the story).

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What did the youngest brother ask his Dad for?*
(all his money)
- *You don't usually get money from your Dad till after he is dead. The youngest brother was being very rude to ask for it before his father had died. What did he do with all this money?*
(he spent it all on parties)
- *When his money ran out he had to get a job feeding animals. Can you make the sound of the animals he had to feed?*
(pig sound)
- *The young brother realised he had to go back and say sorry to his Dad. What did his father do when he saw his son?*
(he ran out to meet him, hugged him and welcomed him)

back with a party)

- *How did the big brother feel? What was he grumbling about? (angry, the father had been kind to the younger brother who didn't deserve such kindness)*

Conclusion:

- *Jesus told us this story to warn us.*
- *To warn us not to be like the big brother.*
- *God has been very kind to us in welcoming us back because of Jesus.*
- *We are not to grumble when God is kind to people we don't like.*
- *We are to be thankful every time God is kind and calls them back to himself.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you – for saving us – even though we don't deserve it. – Please help us – to always be glad – when people come back to you. – Even people – we find hard to like. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Thank God for someone you know who loves and trusts in Jesus.

Craft Activities

- Pig masks - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of pig masks. Copy on white cardboard, enough for one pig mask per child. Cut out each mask. Provide pink crepe paper for the children to decorate the pig. Attach a paddle pop stick to the back of the mask using masking tape.
- Pig printing - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of the son sitting down with a feeding bucket and the title, *The only job he could get was feeding the pigs. That's when he decided to go back to his Dad and beg for forgiveness. Luke 15:1-2,11-32* Provide either pig shaped playdough cutters or sponges cut into the shape of pigs for the children to press onto paint soaked kitchen sponges and print pigs all over the page.

- Cooking - **Warning: check for food allergies before beginning this activity. Children wash their hands before beginning.** Provide round sweet biscuits, pink icing, plastic knives and lollies to create pig faces (i.e. small marshmallows for nose, choc buds for eyes, pink lollies cut into triangle shapes for ears). Have the children spread pink icing on the biscuit then create a pig face using the lollies provided. Either take home on paper plates (covered in kitchen plastic) or eat for morning tea.

The Parable Of The Lost Son

Luke 15:1-2,11-32

Some church leaders were grumbling and complaining about Jesus.

Jesus was spending time with 'bad people'!

So Jesus told them this story.

(pause)

A man had two sons.

One day, the youngest son went to his Dad and said, "Dad I don't want to wait until you die to get your money. I want it now."

His Dad gave him half of the money.

Not long after the youngest son left home.

He went a long, long way from home.

Away from his Dad and away from the farm.

When he got there he had a great time spending his Dad's money!

He went to parties.

He bought great things!

He had lots of friends.

What fun he had spending his Dad's money!

But one day, he ran out of money!

All of a sudden he had no friends.

Everything changed.

There was no rain, so there was no food, and there were no jobs.

The only job he could get was on a pig farm.

Feeding the pigs!

The pigs stank.

The pigs were dirty.

But he needed a job.

So he fed the pigs.

He was so, so hungry, he wished he could eat what the pigs were eating.

Finally he thought, "My Dad has lots of workers. They are never hungry. I will go and tell my Dad I am sorry. Maybe I can work for my Dad."

So off he went.

But his Dad saw him coming and he ran out to meet him.

The youngest son said, "I am sorry. I have been a bad son."

But his Dad said, "My son is home! Let's have a party!"

When the older brother heard the music and was told about the party he was upset!

He'd been working on the farm all these years.

But his brother hadn't.

He'd been having a great time and had spent all the money!

He was not happy that his Dad was being kind and welcoming to his brother.

He was not happy at all!

But his Dad found him and said, "Your brother did do the wrong thing, but now he's come back home. We have to be happy about!"

Conclusion:

Children, God is like the Father in Jesus' story.

He is happy about every person who says sorry and comes back to him.

God wants us to be happy too.

God has been very kind to us in giving us Jesus, so don't be upset when God is kind to others.

The Parable Of The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

Main Point - It is very stupid to spend your whole life wanting to get richer and richer and richer. To God, you are really poor.

Play Activities

- Dress ups - provide farmer's clothes (overalls, hats, gardening gloves) toy wheelbarrows, plastic shovels, plastic food (corn, carrot, lettuce) and cardboard boxes (barns), for the children to pretend to be a farmer with big barns to store crops in.
- Farm play - provide a toy farm set, complete with farmer, animals, fences and barns for the children to pretend to be a farmer with big barns to store crops in.
- Blocks - provide wooden or foam blocks for the children to create tall barns.
- Jigsaw puzzles - provide jigsaw puzzles of farm animals and farm equipment for the children to play with.
- Puppets - set up a puppet theatre and provide farm animal puppets for the children to play with.
- Box play - collect a large number of cardboard boxes of different shapes (shoeboxes, fruit boxes, washing machine boxes...) and encourage children to use them to create tall barns. **Note: keep boxes for the following week's lesson.**

Barn Building

Need:

- foam blocks

Instructions:

- Put children into small groups with the same number of foam blocks per group.
- Ask children to build the best barn they can as a group.
- Give the children a set time to finish.

- Have all children walk around and look at each other's barns and ask each group what's the best thing about each one.

Conclusion:

- *Today we're going to hear a story Jesus told about a farmer who kept building bigger and better barns.*
- *He did this because he loved getting more and more money!*
- *He loved money more than he loved God.*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Rich Fool* (pages 47-48) and retell the parable drawing a series of pictures of barns getting bigger and bigger and bigger. Be sure to tear up each picture for dramatic effect when the farmer tears down each barn.

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Rich Fool* (pages 47-48) and retell the parable using the following props:

- soft toy farmer
- toy wheelbarrow
- plastic carrots, lettuce, corn
- rabbit, cow, bird puppets
- four different sized cardboard boxes

Be sure to tear up each barn for dramatic effect when the farmer tears down each barn.

Option 3

Read *The Rich Farmer*, by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen. Published by Marshall Pickering.

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise*

Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Warning: check for allergies to popcorn before doing this activity.

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- popcorn to share
- five foam or wooden blocks per child

Seat children in a circle with the popcorn in the centre.

Hand each child five blocks.

Encourage the children to retell the story, sharing the popcorn and building the barns together.

Each time a barn is mentioned, build one together as a group.

Begin with a small barn: 2 blocks from each child, then pull it down and build a bigger barn: 3 blocks from each child... etc. until all blocks are used to build an enormous barn.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What was wrong with the farmer's first barn?*
(too small)
- *What did he do?*
(built a bigger barn, and then a bigger barn)
- *Why did the farmer keep building bigger barns and keep growing more vegies?*
(he wanted to be rich)
- *What happened to the farmer? What happened to his barn and vegies?*
(farmer died, barn was empty, animals ate the vegies)

Conclusion:

- *Jesus said that it's very stupid to spend your life wanting more and more and more money.*
- *To God, you are really poor.*
- *If you want to be really rich, then love Jesus more than anything or anyone. Then you will be truly rich.*

Prayer Time**Repeated Prayer**

Thank you God, – that if we trust in Jesus, – we are rich. – Please help us – not to want – more and more money. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Ask God to help them to be happy with what he has given them.

Craft Activities

- **Barns** - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a barn and the title, *The farmer spent his life building bigger and bigger barns, but to God he was really poor. Luke 12:13-21* Copy one per child on A4 cardboard. Provide collage material to decorate the picture (including paddle pop sticks to decorate the barn).
- **Cow masks** - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of cow masks. Copy and cut one mask per child on cardboard. Provide collage material to decorate. Attach a paddle pop stick to the back of the mask.
- **Rabbits** - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a rabbit and the title, *The rabbits came and ate up all the farmer's carrots. Luke 12:13-21* *Option 1:* copy on coloured A3 paper and provide white paint and sponges to paint the rabbit white. *Option 2:* copy on coloured A4 paper and provide cotton balls to decorate.
- **Carrot mask** - download the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencils of a carrot mask. Copy and cut one mask from cardboard per child. Cut eyes in each mask. Provide collage material to decorate and attach a paddle pop stick to the base of each mask.

The Parable Of The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

Jesus told this story.
There once was a farmer.
He was a very rich farmer.
He was rich because he had good soil.
His corn grew faster than all the other farmers' corn.
So at harvest time he had much more corn than all the other farmers.
He was happy.
But the farmer had a problem.
He had heaps of corn.
But his old barn was too small to store it all.
It was far too small!
So the farmer had a think, "Um!"
At last he said, "No worries! I will knock down this old barn and build a bigger, better barn. Then next year, I will be rich. Rich enough to have a rest."
So the farmer set to work.
He pulled down the old barn, and he built a new bigger, better barn.
But, at harvest time the next year, the new barn was still not big enough.
You see the farmer had been greedy.
He had planted even more corn.
And some carrots as well.
The farmer said to himself, "No worries. I will build an even bigger, better, super-doooper barn. Then next year, I can have a really great holiday."
So the farmer pulled down the barn and he built a bigger, better, super-doooper barn.
But at harvest time the next year, even the bigger, better, super-doooper barn was not big enough.
Again the greedy farmer had planted more corn, more carrots, and a few lettuces as well.
So the farmer said, "I will build the most spectacular barn in all the world. Then I will be so rich, I will never have to work again!"
So the farmer pulled down the barn, and he built a barn that was enormous.
It was higher than the tallest tower.
When he had finished building the barn the farmer smiled.

"Tomorrow I will harvest my corn and my carrots and my lettuces.
And when that is done I can have some fun! I know what I'll do! I'll
have a party!"

But that very night, while the farmer was asleep, he died.

Just like that!

The birds ate up all his corn.

The cows ate up all his carrots.

The rabbits ate up all his lettuces.

And the biggest, grandest barn in all the world stood empty.

The rich farmer never did get to have a party.

He never got time to enjoy being rich.

Conclusion:

It is very stupid to spend your whole life wanting to get richer and
richer and richer.

To God, you are really poor.

If you love Jesus, then you are rich with God.

The Parable Of The Tower Builder

Luke 14:25-35

Main Point - Jesus wants us to follow him forever. Are you willing to follow Jesus even when it gets hard?

Play Activities

- Construction workers - provide a variety of wooden or foam blocks, plastic wheelbarrows, plastic shovels, builder's hats, play tools and dress up clothes for the children to pretend to be builders.
- Towers - provide duplo, mega blocks or foam blocks for the children to build towers.
- Box play - collect a large number of cardboard boxes of different shapes (shoeboxes, fruit boxes, washing machine boxes...) and encourage children to use them to create tall towers.

Tower Building Competition

Need: foam blocks or shoeboxes

Play:

- Divide the children into groups of 4.
- Provide foam blocks or shoeboxes for each group (approximately 20 per group).
- Ask the children to build the tallest tower they can in the time it takes you to count to twenty.

Conclusion:

- *Jesus told a story about a man who tried to build a tower, but he never got to finish it.*

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of *Kidswise*).

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Tower Builder* (pages 53-54) as a guide and draw two pictures as you retell the story:

Picture 1: George and an unfinished tower

Picture 2: Peter and his finished tower

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Parable of the Tower Builder* (pages 53-54) as a guide and the following props:

- shoeboxes or foam blocks
- a plastic wheelbarrow (to put blocks in)
- two large human puppets

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- foam or wooden blocks, enough to make two towers

Seat children in a circle.

Hand each child blocks.

Encourage the children to retell the story, building two towers (one that is half the height of the second) as a group.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Who finished their tower?*

(Peter)

- *Show me how high George's tower was.*
(not high, only part way up their bodies)
- *Show me how tall Peter's tower was.*
(very high, taller than them, have them stand on tip toes and stretch)

Conclude:

- *Jesus told this story to help us stop and think before we follow him.*
- *Following Jesus is not easy.*
- *Sometimes our friends make fun of us or people won't be our friend.*
- *Jesus doesn't want us to start following him and then stop.*
- *Jesus wants us to stop and think and then follow him all of our lives.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – please help us – to follow Jesus – when things are easy – and when things are hard. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to pray for one person in the group, that he/she will follow Jesus now and all his/her life.

Craft Activities

- Tower picture - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil titled, *Peter worked out what he needed to build his tower and Peter finished his tower.* *Luke 14:25-35* Copy the stencil on coloured A3 paper, one per child. Provide rectangle stickers for the children to use as bricks to make Peter's tower.
- Tower picture - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil titled, *Peter worked out what he needed to build his tower and Peter finished his tower.* *Luke 14:25-35* Copy the stencil on coloured A4 paper, one per child. Provide coloured brown paper cut into rectangle

shapes for the children to glue on as bricks to make Peter's tower.

- Brick printing - provide a variety of wooden blocks for the children to press onto wet, paint soaked kitchen sponges and then use to print bricks on an A3 sheet of paper.

Morning Tea (optional)

Warning: check for food allergies before beginning this activity.

- Arrange the morning tea in tower formation (i.e. cheese squares built up in a tower, or rectangular shaped biscuits arranged in a flat tower formation).

The Parable Of The Tower Builder

Luke 14:25-35

There once was a man called George.
George wanted to build a tower.
But George didn't have a job.
And George didn't have any money.
But that didn't stop George.
He wanted to build a tower.
So George got to work.
George levelled out the ground.
George dug some holes for foundations.
George borrowed some bricks from his father.
And George began to build his tower.
But George soon ran out of bricks.
So George borrowed more bricks from his father.
And George built more of his tower.
But George ran out of bricks again.
George went to borrow more bricks from his father.
But his father had no more bricks.
George had no money to buy bricks.
George could not finish his tower.
Then his friends made fun of him saying, "Georgie Porgie puddin'
and pie. Couldn't build a tower to reach the sky!"
George hung his head.
(pause)

There was once a man called Peter.
Peter wanted to build a tower.
But Peter didn't have a job.
And Peter didn't have any money.
So Peter sat down.
He drew a picture of his tower.
Then he counted all the bricks he'd need to build his tower.
Then Peter set to work.
Peter got a job building houses.
He worked and worked and worked.
He saved and saved and saved.
A year went by.
Peter counted his money.
He rang and found out how much bricks cost.
And how much ...
Peter counted his money again.

Peter had enough money.
He could build the tower!
So Peter got to work.
He levelled out the ground.
He dug some holes for foundations.
He bought the bricks.
He got them at a great price from a man named George who didn't need them anymore.
And Peter began to build his tower.
However, Peter soon ran out of bricks.
But that didn't stop him.
Peter had enough money to buy some more bricks.
So Peter built his tower.
When Peter had finished his tower, all his friends came to see.
All his friends cried out, "Peter, Peter pumpkin eater. Tower builder, thrill seeker!"
And Peter smiled!

Conclusion:

Peter stopped and thought about how hard it is to build a tower.
But George didn't.
Jesus wants us to follow him.
But following Jesus is not always easy.
Jesus wants us to stop and think first, before we follow him.
So that we will follow him and never give up.

The Parable Of The Net

Matthew 13:47-52

Main Point - When Jesus comes back he will put all of us into two groups.

Play Activities

- Water play - set up water play, include boats and fish.
Warning: never leave children unsupervised around water.
- Imaginary play - provide a variety of sea creatures and plastic boats for the children to play with on a blue piece of material.
- Fishing game - provide a magnetic fishing rod and fish set for the children (these are commercially available). You can also make a set using a string attached to a long cardboard roll with a magnet on the end of the string to use as a fishing rod and cardboard fish with large paper clips on each one. **Note: never leave children alone with this equipment.**
- Jigsaw puzzles - provide jigsaw puzzles of boats and fish for the children to play with.
- Sorting activity - provide things for the children to sort into groups (e.g. coloured pencils, pencils and crayons, cars and trucks, zoo animals and farm animals).

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

The Fishing Game

Need:

- Purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil with two fish shapes (with a tick on one and a cross on the other). Copy and cut six of each on cardboard

(twelve fish total).

- Attach two large paper clips in a cross formation on each fish. This cross formation will make the paper clips secure.
- Provide fishing rods with a magnet tied to the end instead of a hook. **Note: to avoid eyes being poked by sticks or commercial rods, use a long cardboard tube for the rod.**
- Two hoops.
- Note: make multiple sets of this game and play simultaneously if you have a large group of children.

Instructions:

- Seat children in a circle.
- Place the fish in the middle of the circle, ticks/crosses face down.
- Place the hoops either side of the pile of fish.
- Ask a child to come and fish out a fish by using the magnet on the end of the fishing line to grip a fish's paper clip.
- When a fish is successfully caught, look at the back of the fish to see whether it is a good fish (tick) or a bad fish (cross).
- Indicate which hoop is for the good fish and which is for the bad fish.
- Continue to fish, giving as many children as possible a turn at fishing.

Conclusion:

- *At the beginning of the game, we didn't know which fish was good and which fish was bad.*
- *They all looked the same.*
- *But they ended up in two different places.*
- *Jesus told a story about fish and plants that ended up in two different groups.*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Parable Of The Net* (page 60) as a guide and retell the parable using the following props:

- net (can be large string bag)
- fish (can be the ones used in *The Fishing Game* page 56)

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Parable Of The Net* (page 60) as a guide

and retell the story using felt shapes and a felt board.

Felt shapes:

- fisherman, boat
- net (onion bag)
- fish

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- set of fish (with ticks and crosses on one side)

Seat children in a circle with the fish upside down (i.e. can't see ticks and crosses) in the centre.

Encourage the children to retell the story as a group.

Every time a child contributes to the retelling that child has a turn at turning over two fish. If the fish match (i.e. two good fish or two bad fish) he/she gets to keep those fish.

The child with the most pairs wins.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *What did the fisherman do with the fish?*
(put the good fish in one pile and the bad fish in another pile)
- *When Jesus comes back, he is going to put us into two groups. Those who love him and follow him go into one group. And Jesus takes them home to be with him forever. Does anyone know what Jesus' home is called?*

(heaven)

- *Who gets to go to God's beautiful heaven?*
(everyone who loves and trusts Jesus)

Conclusion:

- *People look the same.*
- *But we're not all going to end up in the same place.*
- *When Jesus comes back, he is going to put us into two groups.*
- *Those who get to come into God's heaven and those who don't.*
- *Only those who love and follow Jesus will get to go into heaven.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – thank you that – one day – Jesus is coming back. – Help us – to be ready, – to live each day – trusting and obeying Jesus. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Thank God for heaven and/or pray that Jesus will come soon.

Craft Activities

- Fish picture - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil titled, *Jesus told a story about fish that were sorted into two groups. When Jesus comes back, he will put us into two groups. Matthew 13* Print one per child on blue A3 paper. Provide fish shaped sponges (or fish shaped playdough cutters), dipped in paint, and print fish all over the picture. When dry, sticky tape or staple a net (a piece of onion or orange bag) over some of the fish.
- Hanging fish - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a fish with gills. Copy and cut one per child from A3 cardboard. Cut along the slits in the middle of the fish (i.e. the gills). Provide alfoil, cellophane and shiny scrap paper for the children to decorate both sides of the fish. You will need to provide wood glue to glue the alfoil on. When finished, attach string to the top of the fish.

Push every second gill out to one side of the fish, and then opposite side. The fish should look three dimensional (with gills coming out either side) when finished.

- Good fish, bad fish picture - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of fish titled, *Jesus told a story about fish that were sorted into two groups. When Jesus comes back, he will put us into two groups. Matthew 13* Print one per child on A4 paper. Provide smiley stickers for the children to stick on those fish that are the good ones.

The Parable Of The Net

Matthew 13:47-52

Jesus told many stories to teach us about God and his kingdom.
Some of Jesus' stories help us understand what will happen when
he comes back to judge the world.

Like this story about a fisherman.

(pause)

A fisherman went out one day to catch some fish.

The weather was good, his net was strong, and he was ready!

So he threw his net out into the water.

And he threw his net out into the water.

And he threw his net out into the water.

Till all at once, his net was full of fish - lots and lots and lots of fish.

The fisherman pulled and pulled and pulled the net.

He dragged the fish ashore.

The fisherman set about sorting the fish.

The good fish would go in one pile, and the bad fish would go in
another pile.

The fisherman looked at the first fish.

He smiled and put the fish in the good pile.

Then the fisherman looked at the second fish and frowned.

That fish would not do.

He put the fish in the bad pile.

The fisherman picked up every fish.

Some fish he put in the good pile but others he put in the bad pile.

The fisherman did this until all the fish were sorted.

And so the fisherman's work was done.

Conclusion:

When Jesus comes back he will put all of us into two groups.

One group will go to be with him in heaven forever.

The other group, will not.

If you love the Lord Jesus, he will take you to be with him
forever in God's great heaven!

If you don't love Jesus, then you will miss out.

Children do you know which group you are going to be in?

The Parable Of The Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

Main Point - Jesus the King is coming back. You must be ready.

Play Activities

- Imaginary play - provide King and Queen dress up clothes for the children to pretend to be the coming King.
- Figurines and doll's house - provide doll's house and figurines for the children to play with. Make the following point as the children play: *In today's story ten girls get ready for someone special. Let's get this house ready for some special to visit. What do we need to do to get it ready?*
- Playdough - provide a girl shaped cutter for the children to make the ten girls, and a man shaped cutter to make the King.

Singing

See songs suggested for this term in the file titled, *Overview of Pre-school Program* (available free in the Store section of Kidswise).

The Light Game

Need: a strong torch which has two sets of batteries (working batteries and flat batteries)

Instructions:

- Darken the room (pull curtains down, turn lights off).
- **Warning: do not make it pitch black, just dark enough to see the torchlight.**
- Ask the children to line up on one side of the room.
- One leader shines the torch half way along the room, moving it slowly up and down in the one spot.
- A second leader indicates to the children in the line when it is their turn to go.
- The aim is for the children to go, one at a time across the room and not let the light touch them.

- Play until all children have had a turn.

Conclusion:

- *What happens to the torch if we take the batteries out?* (show the children what happens if you take the batteries out)
- *These are old batteries* (place flat batteries in torch). *Can we play the game with old batteries?*
- *I knew we were going to play this game so I got the torch ready.* (replace flat batteries with working batteries)
- *I checked the batteries and I even bought extra batteries, just to make sure.*
- *Jesus told a story about ten girls who had lights.*
- *Let's remember what happened to the girls and their lights.*

Story Time

Option 1

Use the script titled, *The Parable Of The Ten Virgins* (pages 65-66) as a guide and ten paddle pop or peg puppets for the ten girls. These need to be able to stand up or be pushed into playdough to stand. Use a decorated wooden spoon for the King. You can have a second leader place a yellow sticker on the five wise girls when they turn their lamps on, and place five black stickers on the foolish girls when their lamps don't work.

Option 2

Use the script titled, *The Parable Of The Ten Virgins* (pages 65-66) as a guide. One leader wears a pair of white gloves and uses their ten fingers for the 10 virgins. Another leader wears a white glove with a small twist of tinsel pinned to the tip of one finger as a crown for the King. The second leader can place a yellow sticker on five of the other leader's fingers when the lamps are turned on, and then place five black stickers on the remaining five fingers when the lamps don't work.

Memory Verse

John 3:36a

This memory verse is available in the Audio section of a *Kidswise* Membership.

Note: only teach the first half of the verse with the claps:

Those who have the Son have life

Those who have the Son have life

John 3 (claps)

36 (claps)

Discussion (small groups)

Aim: as a group retell the story using the following props:

- two torches per group, one that works and one that doesn't
- bag to put them in

Seat children in a circle.

Place the torches inside the bag.

Encourage the children to retell the story, and every time they tell part of the story, they can have a turn of choosing a torch and turning it on to see if it works or not.

Use the following questions **only if** the children are finding it hard to retell the story.

- *Who were the girls waiting for?*
(the King)
- *Whom did the King take into his party?*
(the girls who were ready, whose torches worked)
- *Who didn't go into the party?*
(the girls who weren't ready, whose torches didn't work)

Conclusion:

- *Jesus is coming back.*
- *We don't know when he's coming.*
- *But he is coming.*
- *The important thing is to get ready.*
- *We get ready by trusting and obeying Jesus now.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

*Dear God, – thank you that – one day – Jesus is coming back. –
Help us – to be ready, – to live each day – trusting and obeying*

Jesus. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Pray for friends and family who are not ready for Jesus to come back or pray that Jesus will come soon.

Craft Activities

- Girl printing - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil titled, *Jesus told a story about ten girls, Matthew 25:1-13*. Make one copy per child on A3 paper. Cut a kitchen sponge into the shape of a girl (you will need at least 4 girl shaped sponges). Provide another two uncut kitchen sponges. Wet these sponges and soak them both in paint. The children then press the girl sponges on to paint filled sponges. They then print ten girl shapes across an A3 sheet of paper. Dry. When dry, children can use crayons to draw a background.
- Lamp stencil - purchase the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of an old fashioned lamp titled, *Five girls had their lamps ready. Five girls were not ready. Matthew 25:1-13*. Make one copy per child on A4 paper. Provide red cellophane for the children to glue on the flame of the lamp and blue or green cellophane for children to glue on the lamp itself.
- Crown stencil - **Warning: children may decide to eat the pasta, so please check for food allergies before beginning this activity.** Download the file titled, *Pre-school Stencils Year 1 Term 2*. Find the stencil of a crown titled, *Jesus the King is coming! Are you ready for Jesus the King? Matthew 25:1-13*. Make one copy per child on A4 cardboard. Using food colouring, colour a variety of pasta shapes. Dry the shapes thoroughly. Provide wood glue for the children to glue the coloured pasta to their crowns.
- Crowns - use yellow cardboard and cut one crown per child. Provide glitter, star stickers, cellophane squares, silver and gold paper off-cuts, etc, for the children to decorate the crowns. When decorated, measure and staple crowns to fit the owner.

The Parable Of The Ten Virgins

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus is coming back one day and he wants us to be ready to meet him.

So Jesus told us this story.

(pause)

There once were ten girls.

The ten girls were excited.

They had heard that the King was coming.

The girls were very excited.

So they got out their torches.

And they began to wait for the King.

The girls waited, and waited, and waited.

But the King did not come.

Five girls made sure they were ready.

They tested their torches to see that they were working.

But the other five girls did nothing.

Still the King did not come.

Now it was getting late, very late - way past the girls' bedtime.

All the girls got very, very tired.

They began to yawn - then one by one the girls fell asleep.

(pause)

Suddenly, someone called out, "The King is here!"

The girls woke up.

It was the middle of the night.

The girls turned on their torches.

But, five girls couldn't see.

Their torches didn't work!

The girls looked inside their torches.

They needed new batteries.

They asked the other girls but they couldn't help them.

The girls had no choice.

They raced off to the shops to get new batteries.

(pause)

Just then the King arrived.

The girls who were ready went with the King.

They went with the King into the King's party.

A little while later the other girls arrived back from the shops.

They looked around. Oh no!

The King had come and gone.

They rushed up to the door.

They banged on the door.
They shouted, "Let us in!"
But the door was locked.
They shouted even louder.
But no one opened the door.
They could not get in.
The King had come and the King had gone.
They had not been ready for the King.

Conclusion:

Children, Jesus is God's King.
Right now Jesus is in heaven getting everything ready.
But one day he will come back.
If Jesus came back today, would he take you into his heaven?
Are you ready for King Jesus to come back?