

# The Prodigal Son: Lesson 3

**SuperTruth:** God celebrates when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins.

**SuperVerse:** “In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!” Luke 15:7 (NLT)

**Bible Story:** Luke 15:1–7, 11–32

## Game Materials Needed:

- Two medium-size, cube-shaped boxes with lids; use three boxes for classes with more than 32 children
- Question and Answer Sheets
- Marker to write on the boxes
- Whiteboard and marker, or chalkboard and chalk
- Sixth grade helper or volunteer to keep score

## Teaching Materials Needed:

- Three Signpost Cards
- Lost and Found Challenge Booklet
- Lost and Found Scripture Pattern
- Optional: cardstock—three pieces
- Model of the Discipleship Challenge craft from Lesson 1
- Scissors
- Optional: tape
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

## SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and marker or chalkboard and chalk
- Eraser
- Three volunteer readers from Grades 5–6
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

## Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

## LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

God is a loving, patient and forgiving father! He wants to forgive and restore us so we can live with Him forever! God celebrates when we ask for forgiveness! God does not want anyone to stray away and be lost forever. He wants everyone to come to Him and be forgiven!

- Superbook takes Chris, Joy and Gizmo to ancient Galilee. Jesus tells the story of the Prodigal Son—a young man who leaves home for what he thinks is the adventure of a lifetime, only to discover that what he wants most in the world is his father’s love. The children learn about God’s unfailing love and the power of forgiveness.
- Let’s watch our Signposts video to learn more about the parable of the Prodigal Son.

## SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

**Game:** A Parable Review (15 minutes)

**Objective:** Play a fun review game.

- This is a game to review the Prodigal Son Parable that Jesus told. The Prodigal son took a journey far away, so you will go quickly from the starting line to the other end of the room on your journey—the catch is that you must travel in the way that I call out, such as skipping or hopping.

**Game Instructions:**

- One person from each team plays at the same time. Listen carefully for the question and the possible answers. There will be two or three answers to choose from.

**Teaching:** The Prodigal Son Points to Jesus. (15 minutes)

**Objective:** Discuss how the parable points to Christ’s love and forgiveness.

- The father represents God, our Heavenly Father. He watches and waits patiently for us to repent of our sin and return home to be with Him! He offers us His grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love.
- Have a different child select each Signpost Card in order, 1–3, and read it aloud.

**Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)**

- Ask children to continue with the challenge and learn the final two verses on the torches and discuss the verses with their families.

**SuperVerse:** Superbook Correction (10 minutes)

**Objective:** Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.

- God watches and waits like the father in the Bible story to spot someone who is coming back to Him. When one returns home, there is great joy in heaven!
- As children cover their eyes, use the list to change one word of the SuperVerse on the board to alter the meaning of the verse, then have the children look at the board and raise their hands to tell you what word should be fixed. Write in the correct word, then repeat the process.

**Prayer:** Forgiveness Prayers (10 minutes)

**Objective:** Communicate with God.

- When we sin, we should run to God and ask for forgiveness! When we do this, God celebrates!
- Let’s take a few moments to pray silently and bring all of our sins to Jesus. We shouldn’t be afraid to admit what we have done wrong, because He died to forgive us! Have the children bow their heads. Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal anything that they need to confess to Jesus to be forgiven. Then have them pray silently and ask Jesus to forgive them.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

**Sandal Game:** Play a game about the lost son’s restoration. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

**Object Lesson:** Illustrate finding what was lost. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

**Coloring Activity:** Color a scene from the Superbook adventure. | **Grades 1–3** | 10 min

**Bible Study:** Discuss the Prodigal Son’s brother. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min