



# EARLY CHILDHOOD

## Discussion Guide

**THIS WEEK'S STORY:** A son left home, spent all of his money, and is welcomed back home!

**MONTHLY THEME:** Jesus loves me, and I am special to Him!

### MONTHLY VERSE:

*"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and don't keep them away.'"*

*Ephesians 4:32*

**TEACHING SUMMARY:** Jesus tells the story of a loving father whose youngest son leaves home and wastes all the money he was given. The father rejoices greatly when his son returns home to ask forgiveness for the foolish choices he made.

**READ:** *Luke 15:11-32*

**OPTIONAL:** "Running away" in the Jesus Storybook Bible

### WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

1. What happened with one of the dad's sons? (*That son wanted to have a lot of his dad's money and leave his dad's house.*)
2. What did the son do when he had spent ALL of his money? (*He worked on a pig farm – he even wanted to eat with the pigs because he did not have money for food!*)
3. What did the son do next? (*He decided to go home to his dad and ask for his dad to forgive him for leaving home and spending all of that money.*)
4. How did his dad respond? (*He was SO excited when he saw his son coming down the road! He welcomed him home and said "My son was lost, but now he is found!" He even threw a party for him!*)

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN & WHY DOES IT MATTER? (INTERPRETATION & APPLICATION)

1. What do you think the son thought would happen when he went back home? (*Maybe he thought his dad would be very angry, or would only accept and love him if he offered to work for his dad.*)
2. What do you think about the way the dad chose to respond? Were you surprised that he responded that way?
3. What does this story tell you about God?
4. Did you know that God loves you the same way the dad loved the son in this story? (*He loves you SO MUCH, no matter what you do!*)
5. How does that make you feel?