

WEEK 4 | ELEMENTARY (K-3)

Need to Know: God Is My Father

Bible Story: The Prodigal Son

Bible Reference: Luke 15:11-32



READ THE BIBLE

DO Read the **Bible Story Cards** aloud to the group.

SAY

- *When the younger son left home, did he make all the right choices while he was gone? (No)*
- *But when the son came back home, what happened? (The father welcomed him, was excited to see him, and forgave him right away) Even though the son had made mistakes, the father was so thankful to see his son come home.*
- *When we do wrong things, does our heavenly Father forgive us? (Yes) That's right! God is a perfect Father who will always love us and forgive us.*

LET'S PRACTICE

DO

1. Give each child a **God Is My Father Who... Sheet**.
2. Place **coloring utensils** in the center of the circle.
3. Use the **Leader Guide** to lead your children through the activity, having them color the thumbs up if it sounds like God, our Father, or color the thumbs down if it doesn't sound like our Father.

SAY *One of the best things you can know about God is that He loves you and wants you to be a part of His family. That's why you can call Him Father! So say this after me:*

God Is (both hands point up)

My Father (hug self)

LET'S PRAY

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for being a perfect Father. Thank You for loving us no matter what! Please help us to grow to be more like You. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MEMORIZE IT

SAY

In this series, we're learning all about the different names of God. That's because there is a promise in God's Word, the Bible, that tells us what happens when we know His name. This Bible verse says: (Pause to allow kids to repeat)

"Those who know Your name (point to side of head)

trust in You, (hand over heart)

for You, O Lord, (point up)

do not abandon (shake head "no")

those who search for You." (make binoculars over eyes)

Psalm 9:10 (make book with hands)

DO

Have everyone put their feet in the middle of the group. Going around the circle, have each person say one word of the verse while stomping one of their feet. The person who stomps their foot on "9:10" is out. Play until only one foot remains, or as time allows.

Give children **coloring utensils** and allow them to draw a picture of themselves in the frame on the **God is My Father activity sheet**.



The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

There was a father who loved his two sons and planned to give them each a share of what he owned one day. But the younger son couldn't wait. He wanted his share right away.

So his father gave him the land, money, and other gifts he had promised to his son. The younger son packed up all of his stuff and moved to a faraway country. He wasted all that his father had given him, and before long, he didn't anything left.



So, the son had to find a job. The job he found was not a fun one. He had to go to work feeding pigs! This job was hard work, and the son was so hungry that even the slop he fed the pigs looked good enough to eat.

Tired, hungry, and out of money, he finally came to his senses. He knew it was time to go back home and talk to his father. He hoped that maybe he could at least live in his father's house as a servant. So, he set off on the journey back home.



As he was walking up the road to his father's house, his father saw him and couldn't believe his eyes. He was so excited that he ran up to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. This wasn't at all what the son was expecting.

What do you think the son thought his father would do when he saw him?
(Allow responses)



The son told the father that he had sinned and didn't think he deserved to be his son anymore. But the father didn't feel that way at all!

He called his servants to bring the best robe, and he told them to put a ring on his son's finger and sandals on his feet! The father said, let's have a feast and celebrate! It was time for a big party because his son was back home!



While they were celebrating, the older son was working out in the field. He heard music and saw dancing. Soon, he found out that his brother was back. He wasn't quite as happy as everyone else, though. He was angry because he had been working for his father for years, always doing the right thing, and he never got a party for that.

The father told the older son that he had always been with him and that everything belonged to him. But how could they not celebrate? The youngest son, who was lost, was now found!

The father in this story was a good father to both of his sons, no matter what they did. And that's just like our heavenly Father, God. He loves us and will take care of us, too!

The first one says, "God is a Father who loves me." Is this true? (Yes) That's right! God is a good Father, and He loves you very much. You can color the thumbs up for this one.

The second one says, "God is a Father who is kind to me." Is this true? (Yes) That's right! You can color the thumbs up for this one, too. God is a kind Father who speaks gentle and kind words to us.

The next one says, "God is a Father who forgives me." Is this true? (Yes) That's right! God sent His Son, Jesus, to take our punishment, so we would be forgiven once and for all. You can color the thumbs up for this one.

The next one says, "God is a Father who will be mean to me." Is this true? (No) No way! God cannot be mean because that is not the kind of Father He is. So you can color the thumbs down for this one.

The fifth one says, "God is a Father who is always with me." Is this true? (Yes) That's right! The Bible tells us that God will never leave us alone. He is with us wherever we go! You can color the thumbs up for this one.

The next one says, "God is a Father who is perfect when I'm not." Is this true? (Yes) Right! So which thumb should you color? (Thumbs up) You've got it. We are not perfect, but God is, and He loves us anyway! Color the thumbs up for this one.



The next one says, "God is a Father who will leave me alone." Is this true? (No) So which thumb should you color? (Thumbs down) That's right! The Bible tells us that God will never leave us, He will never forget us, and He is always by our side. Color the thumbs down here.

The next one says, "God is a Father who will never change." Is this true? (Yes) That's right! The Bible tells us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We can count on Him. Color the thumbs up on this one!

The next one says, "God is a Father who knows me by name." Is it true that God knows your name? (Yes) God tells us in the Bible that He created us. Not only does He know our name, but He knows every hair on our head! He loves us so much! Color the thumbs up for this one.

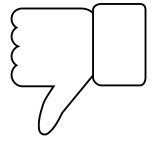
The last one says, "God is a Father who gives me all that I need." Is this true? (Yes) That's right! So color the thumbs up here. God tells us in the Bible that He loves us so much and will give us all we need. It even says that we can ask Him for things, and because He loves us, He will give generously!

GOD IS MY FATHER WHO ...

Color the  if you think that the statement is true about God. Color the  if you think that the statement is not true about God.



Loves me



Is kind to me



Forgives me



Will be mean to me



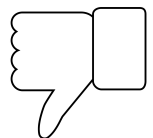
Is always with me



Is perfect when I'm not



Will leave me alone



Will never change



Knows me by name

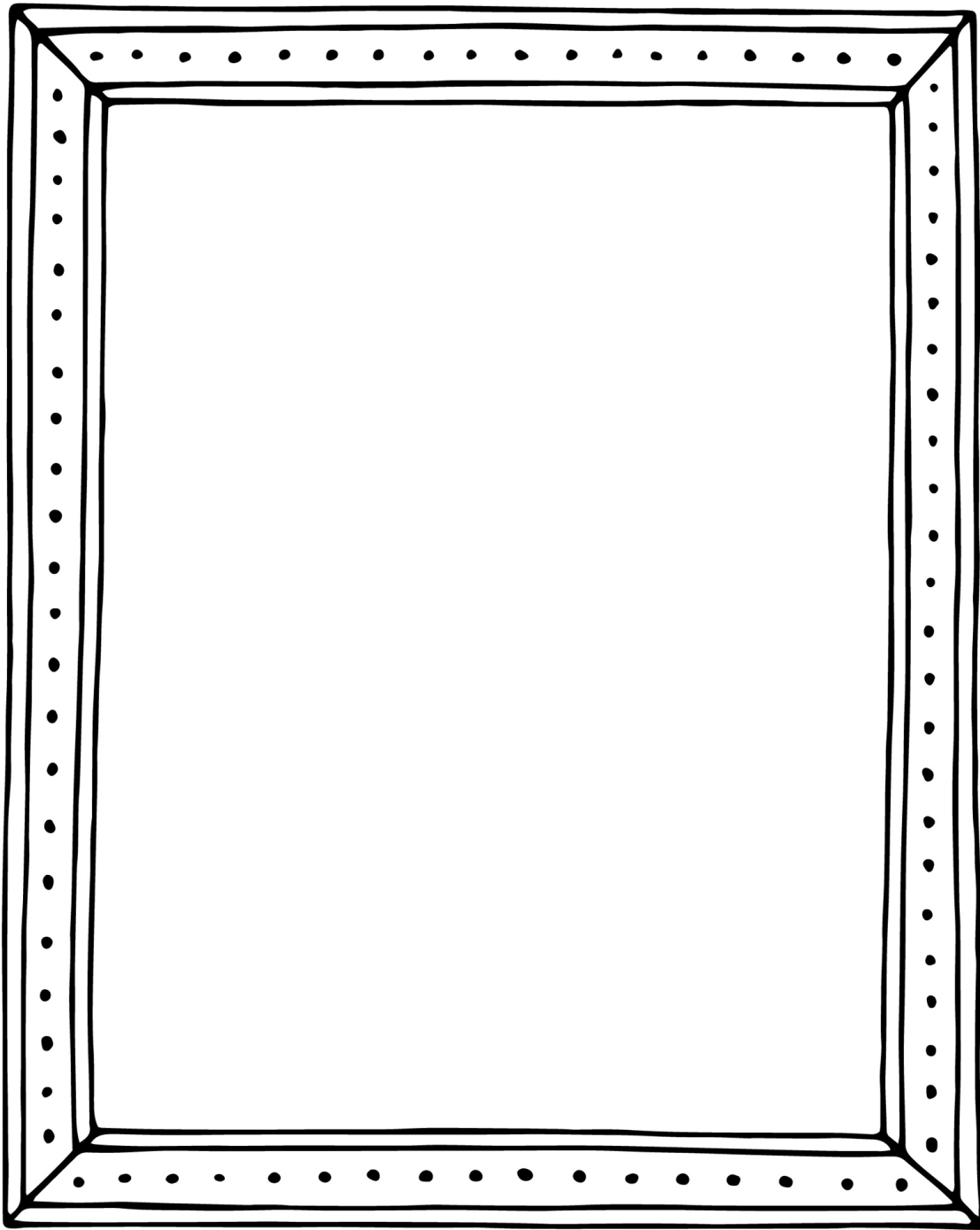


Gives me all that I need



GOD IS MY FATHER

Draw yourself in the frame below.



Week 4 • Need to Know: God Is My Father

Today's Bible Story: The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

Series Memory Verse: *"Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for You." Psalm 9:10 (NLT)*



Name _____