

PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus teaches us that God loves us no matter what.

**PRODIGAL SON**  
**LUKE 15:11-24**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"The people were amazed at his teaching."

**MATTHEW 7:28, NCV**

**KEY QUESTION**

Who teaches you important things?

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus teaches me important things.

**BASIC TRUTH**

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

**LARGE GROUP**

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**WORSHIP**

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible; instruments or music player; this month's worship song, "Important Things," included in your monthly files; and "Best Friend," available on OrangeKidsMusic.com; *Optional Dance Moves Videos for "Important Things," available in the Media Package if you subscribe or from OrangeKidsMusic.com, and "Best Friend," available from OrangeKidsMusic.com*

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hi, everyone! My name is [your name]. I'm so happy you're here today. We're learning that **Jesus teaches me important things! Who teaches you important things?**"

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "**Jesus teaches me important things.**"

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "That's right! **Jesus teaches me important things.** Stand up and let's sing about that together."

*Lead children in singing "Important Things," this month's worship song.*

"What a fun song! Great job, friends. **Jesus teaches me important things!** Let's say our Memory Verse together with the motions too. Watch me first, and then do it with me.

*"The people (spread arms out) were amazed (hold hands like binoculars, open and shut) at his teaching; (pull O-hands from head) Matthew 7:28. (Open hands like a book.)*

*Repeat the verse and motions with the children.*

"The people WERE amazed because Jesus teaches us so many important things. There is no better friend than Jesus. Sing this with me."

*Lead children in singing "Best Friend."*

"There is no friend who is better than Jesus! I'm SO glad **Jesus wants to be my friend forever.** One more time, **who teaches you important things?**"

**CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER:** "**Jesus teaches me important things.**"



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**WORSHIP LEADER:** "You've got it! **[Transition]** And now it's time to turn around, sit down, shake the wiggles out (*wiggle hands*), so we can hear (*cup hands behind ears*) what the story's all about!"

*Host enters as Worship Leader exits.*

## INTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Clue Letter Week Four" Activity Page, cardstock, small table, red construction paper, scissors, tape, and "Clues" from Week One

*Preset the three prepared clues by hanging them from the front edge of the table or taping them to a wall in your storytelling environment. Set "Clue Letter Week Four" nearby where the children can see it.*

*Host enters as Worship Leader exits.*

**HOST:** "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name or story time]! My name is [your name]. Oh, wow!"

Pick up "Clue Letter Week Four" and show children.

"It looks like [name of children's pastor or lead pastor] left us three more clues. The note says, (*reading note aloud*)

"Hello, friends!  
I left three clues all in a row.  
Turn them over to see something  
Jesus wants you to know."

"Let's look at the first clue. Can you say: 'One, two, what is the clue?'"

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "One, two, what is the clue?"  
*Turn over the first clue.*

**HOST:** "It's a heart! I love hearts. Let's look at the next one. Ready? Say: 'One, two, what is the clue?'"

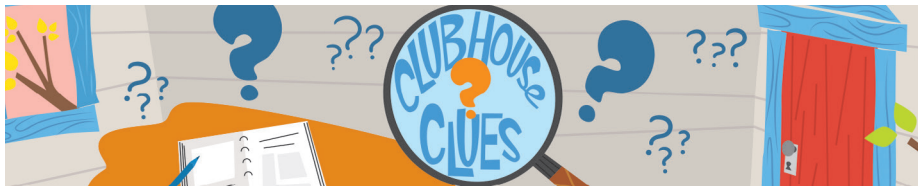
**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "One, two, what is the clue?"  
*Turn over the second clue.*

**HOST:** "Oh, it's another heart. Okay, let's look at the last clue. Ready? Say it with me!"

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "One, two, what is the clue?"  
*Turn over the third clue.*

**HOST:** "What? There is ANOTHER heart? (*Confused.*) Hmm, I wonder what these hearts have to do with our Bible Story today. I can't wait to find out!"

*Storyteller enters as Host exits.*



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## STORY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Small table (*from Intro*), dry-erase board, dry-erase marker, easel, play paper money, backpack, teacup, robe, toy ring, small bin, dad volunteer, and Bible; Optional: poster board or large piece of cardboard with markers; Optional: Story Images and cardstock

*Preset the prepared dry-erase board on the easel on one side of your storytelling area. Set the backpack beside the easel.*

*Storyteller enters, carrying a Bible and small bin, as Host exits.*

**STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! I'm [your name]!"

*Set bin on table.*

"I am here to share a true story from the Bible with you!"

*Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.*

"Today's story begins with Jesus teaching something very important.

*(Option: Display Story Image W5 01)*

"One day, Jesus told some people a story about a dad . . .

*Gesture to dad volunteer as he enters, carrying money.*

" . . . and his son.

*Walk to dad.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W5 02)*

"The dad had saved a lot of money to give to his son when the son was MUCH older. But, one day the son asked his dad to give him all the money right NOW.

*Put hand out as if to ask for money.*

"And the dad gave it to him.

*Dad hands you money.*

"What do you think the son did? Raise your hand if you think the son stayed with the dad. *(Pause.)*  
Raise your hand if you think the son left and went somewhere else. *(Pause.)*

"Yes, the son left.

*Dad exits.*



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"He took the money and went far away from home.

*Grab the backpack from behind the dry-erase board.*

"The son took his dad's money and spent it on EVERYTHING!

*Slowly walk toward table, tossing money in the air as if wasting it.*

*(Option: Display Story Image W5 03)*

"He bought fancy clothes. He ate really fancy food.

*Stop at table. Pick up a teacup from the bin and pretend to take a drink—don't forget to raise your pinky to be fancy! Put teacup back in bin.*

"The son spent money with all of his friends and then . . . whoops!

*Toss the rest of the money in the bin.*

"The money was ALL GONE. Everyone say: 'All gone!'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "All gone!"

**STORYTELLER:** "There was NO MORE money. The son didn't know what to do. He didn't have a bed to sleep in or any food to eat. He was so hungry he even thought about eating pig food!"

*(Option: Display Story Image W5 04)*

"Everyone say: 'Eew!'"

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER:** "Eew!"

**STORYTELLER:** "The son was really hungry, and he was so sorry for what he had done. The son wanted to go back home, but he didn't know if his dad would let him.

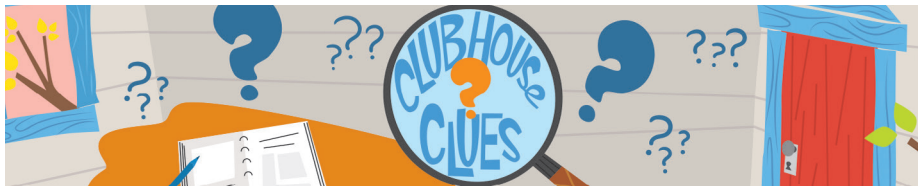
"After thinking about it, the son decided to go home.

*Turn toward house.*

"And, when his dad saw his son coming, he was SO happy to see him. The dad ran to his son!

*(Option: Display Story Image W5 05)*

*Dad volunteer runs in, carrying robe and ring, and hugs Storyteller.*



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"The dad hugged his son, and he gave his son a new robe and ring and shoes.

*Dad helps Storyteller put on robe and ring and then exits.*

"The dad loved his son no matter what. He even threw a big party because his son was home!

"Jesus told this story because He wants to teach us something VERY important. He wants us to know that God loves US no matter what. I'm so glad Jesus teaches us important things. **Who teaches you important things?"**

**CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "Jesus teaches me important things!"**

**STORYTELLER:** "Yes, **Jesus teaches me important things.** [Transition] Our story time is over (*pick up and close Bible*), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

## PRAYER

**STORYTELLER:** "Heavenly Father, thank You for this story Jesus told to teach us something very important! Just as the father in the story loved his son no matter what, we know that YOU love us no matter what! Thanks for loving us, all the time, every single minute of every single day. We love You, God. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

*Host enters as Storyteller exits, carrying Bible.*

## OUTRO SKETCH

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Clues from Intro

The three clues should still be hanging from the table.

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** "Wow! Jesus teaches us that God loves us no matter what. That is important!"

"I think I (*point to self*) got the story. Did you (*point to children*) get it? If you did, say, 'Got it!' Get it?" (*Cup one hand behind ear.*)

**CHILDREN AND HOST:** "Got it!"

**HOST:** (*Give two thumbs-up.*) "Good!"

"Now I see (*point to three hearts*) love, love, love! God loves us no matter what. Wow! I'm so glad God loves you and me SO much! And I'm SO glad Jesus teaches us so many important things. [Transition] And now it's time for more Bible fun. There's more to learn. Come on, everyone!"

*Host dismisses small groups and exits.*