

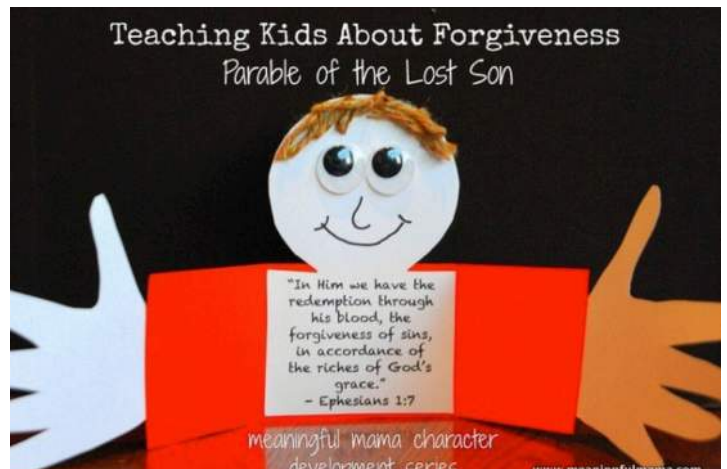
Parable of the Lost Son Craft

Teaching Kids Forgiveness

"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matthew 6:14

Today we focus on teaching our children about forgiveness through the "Parable of the Lost Son," also called the "Parable of the Prodigal Son," which was taught by Jesus and found in Luke 15:11-32. In summary, the story is about a son who decided he didn't want to wait for his father to die before he received his inheritance,

so he asked for it early. After his father gave it to him, the son went off and spent it all on "wild living." Soon, he had nothing and became so hungry and desperate, he dreamed of eating the slop that pigs were being fed. He realized that his father's servants had more than him, so he returned to his father with the plea, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Make me like one of your servants." The father, who was waiting in anticipation, ran out with wide arms to greet his son. Rather than condemn him when he returned, the father threw a celebration. He loved his son so dearly that he eagerly and quickly forgave him completely. This is exactly how our Heavenly Father feels about us. He created us. He loves us. He is eagerly waiting for us to turn to Him for grace and forgiveness. There is NOTHING that can separate us from the love of God. We may feel like our sins our insurmountable, but Jesus told this parable in anticipation of his death on the cross, which offers us forgiveness of our sins and restoration of our relationship with God.



MATERIALS:

- Colored construction paper
- Template(s)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Pencils
- Markers

DIRECTIONS:

1. Using a piece of construction paper or colorful card stock, cut paper strips that measure 3 inches by 11 inches.
2. Fold this paper into thirds.



3. Cut out the printable Template – there are 3 versions for you to choose from based on your students' ages:

- a) Template with face and scripture (*easiest for younger students*)
- b) Template with scripture only (*older students may draw in their own face*)
- c) Template Blank (*older students may draw in their own face and write a scripture*)



4. Draw around your students' hands and cut them out.



5. Students can now glue down the verse/head and hands. I recommend using a glue stick for paper crafts like this.



6. Use Sharpie or other pen to create the mouth and nose. Use white glue if applying Google eyes. *Optional:* Glue on some hair using yarn or twine.

