

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 14 June 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Fruit of the Spirit / Joy – The Lost Son comes home!
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Galatians 5:16-26; Luke 15:11-32
- **CONCEPT:** The Holy Spirit helps me be joyful

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that God is watching and waiting for us as a father waits for his children.
- To help kids realise that God's Holy Spirit living in us makes us more like Jesus.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with jar/bottle of fragranced oil/perfume/bath gel inside (from last week's activity)
- ✓ Fruit tree picture (the same one you used last week)
- ✓ Basket of fruit with at least nine pieces of fruit (real or artificial)
- ✓ Slide showing the word 'joy'
- ✓ Soft toy pig / picture of pig
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

4. Tell the story

This man had two sons. One day, the younger son went to see his dad. You see, he was tired of working so hard with his big brother. He didn't like having to get up early every day and go out to work in the fields. Always the same, day after day. Work, work, work. He was sure that no one else his age had life so hard. There were young people in other cities who had fun all the time. 'It's time / had some fun too,' he thought.

So, the guy went to his dad and told him that he wanted money. "Give me my share of the family money. I don't want to wait until you're dead, Dad. I want it now. Give me my share of the money now." (paraphrase Luke 15:12)

His dad didn't think this was such a good idea. His son was still young. He didn't have any plans for his life. He didn't know how to manage his money. He had never made such big decisions before. Hmm. The man wasn't sure this was the right thing to do, but he decided to give his son the money. He could only hope that his son would have enough sense to spend it wisely.

"Fantastic!" thought the man's son. "I've got loads of money in my bag. I don't need to hang around here at my dad's house any longer. In fact, I don't even need to stay in this country! I can travel! I can go and visit another country! I can meet new people, find a girlfriend – or two – stay in hotels, taste new food, go to parties, ah! This is going to be so much fun. My bag's packed. I won't be back in this house for a *long* time. See ya Dad! See ya bro!"

Off he went. He had the time of his life! He travelled to another country and met a lot of exciting people on the way. He was having so much fun hanging out with his new friends, partying, chilling, spending money ... until one day when he realised there was no money left. His bag was empty! He had spent everything! Everything his dad had given him. In fact, his friends had helped him spend it on wild parties. But they were nowhere to be seen. Just like his money had disappeared, so had his so-called 'friends'. No money, no friends, alone in a foreign country.

To make life even worse for him, there was a terrible famine in that country. *Who knows what a famine is? A time when there is not enough food for many people, and those people get sick and even die.* Even if this young guy had had some money left, there was no food to buy anyway! No money, no friends, alone in a foreign country, and now he had nothing to eat either! How much worse was it going to get?

He thought that maybe he could find a job to earn some money. So he went and talked to a man who lived nearby, explained that he was from another country and that he needed money. The man was kind and gave the young guy a job ... feeding pigs! *Show kids a soft toy pig or picture of a pig.* But no one fed him. Remember there was a famine. Food was precious. As he walked around with the pigs, he thought the pig food looked quite ... nice. Moment by moment, the pig food was looking better and better, almost delicious. He wanted to fill his stomach with it! Who know, maybe he did try it!

Soft toy pig / picture of pig

Suddenly, the guy had a new thought. "Here I am starving to death, while back at my Dad's house they all have enough to eat. Even the servants get plenty! That's it. I'm leaving this place. What reason do I have to stay here feeding pigs? I'm going home. I'll go back and tell Dad how sorry I am for taking his money and leaving him. He won't want to take me back as his son. I know that already. But maybe he'll let me work for him with the other servants."

He set off on the long journey home, hungry, tired, sorry for what he had done.

But, while he was still a long way from home, his dad saw him away in the distance (*shield your eyes from the sun as if you are looking out into the distance*), making his way through the fields. He had stood there every day, watching and waiting, hoping that his precious boy would come back. He squinted against the sunlight. "Is that him? Is that my boy? It is! He's come home!"

The old man started to run, as fast as his legs would carry him. His son saw him coming. He wondered what his dad was going to do. Shout at him for leaving and losing all his money? Tell him to get off his land and never come back again? He couldn't believe what actually happened next.

His father's heart was full of love and joy. The old man ran to meet his son, threw his arms around him, gave him the tightest bear hug he could, and kissed his face. His son, with tears in his eyes, said, "Dad, I'm so sorry. I've sinned against heaven and against you. After all the things I've done, I'm not good enough to be your son any more."

But his dad wouldn't let him finish. He was waving his hands in the air, excitedly, trying to catch his breath. He turned around to talk to his servants. "Quick!" he said, "Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get to the kitchen. We're going to have a party with lots of delicious food and music and dancing to celebrate my boy coming home. I thought he was dead, but now he's alive. He was lost, but now he is found." (paraphrase Luke 15:22-24)

5. Explain

There was a wonderful party in the father's house to celebrate the fact that the son who was lost had been found. Jesus told this story to teach us something important. Jesus wants us to understand that God loves everyone, even the people who go off and make terrible mistakes. God is like the dad in the story, watching and waiting. People, like us, are like the brother who left home to go and do his own thing. He got into trouble. He made mistakes. He sinned. But he went back to his dad and told him how sorry he was. And what did his dad do? He didn't push him away. He welcomed him! He celebrated! He was full of joy because his child had come back to him.

Boys and girls, God is watching and waiting for us to come to Him. We have to tell Him that we're sorry for the bad things we have done and said and thought. And God, who loves us so much, will forgive us and welcome us into His family. Did you know that when someone says sorry to God, asks Jesus to live in their heart and promises to live for

<p>Him, there is a great big party in heaven? That's how much God loves us. That's the kind of joy we can have too!</p> <p>When God's Holy Spirit lives inside us, He helps us to show love to the people around us, like Mary did in last week's story. He also gives us joy like the father had in today's story. Joy and happiness because we are saved from our sin, because we have a place waiting for us in heaven, because Jesus becomes our new best friend forever! Do you have that joy in your heart?</p> <p>We'll put the pig into the treasure chest to remind us next week of the story of the lost son who came home and the joy in his father's heart.</p>	<p><i>Treasure chest</i> <i>Soft toy pig / picture of pig</i></p>
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<p>C. Prayer Net 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens. 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations. 4. <i>Explain:</i> When we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about, we need to tell God about those things. What are some things we can be joyful about today? Maybe you don't feel joyful today. Is there something you want to tell God about? We can ask Him to give you joy in your heart. 5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations. 6. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>Net (with last week's prayer cards)</i> <i>Small cards / postcards</i> <i>A pen</i></p>
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets) 7 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask kids to put their mats away. 2. <i>Recap:</i> Remember boys and girls, God is watching and waiting for us to come to Him. We have to tell Him that we're sorry for the bad things we have done and said and thought. And God, who loves us so much, will forgive us and welcome us into His family. Do you have joy in your heart? 3. Sing a closing song. (<i>I am not Forgotten</i>) 4. Remind kids to come back this evening. 5. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i> <i>Name tag box</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 14 June 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making children of God sandals.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / laptop / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Task:
 - Fruit tree picture
 - Slide – Galatians 5:22 (first and second fruit)
 - Pre-made card orange labelled 'joy' (which you will later fix to your display. See photos below.)
 - Tennis ball
 - 2 oranges – one marked red, the other marked blue
 - Score card
 - Pen
- ✓ Activity:
 - Tables
 - Pre-cut foam sandal shapes (One left and one right for each child. Use sheets of coloured craft foam – orange if possible to maintain today's theme. Template included in materials.)
 - Pre-made model sandals (see photos below)
 - Decoration materials (jewels, sequins, buttons, feathers, etc.)
 - Craft glue
 - Optional:* Shoeboxes or paper bags (one per child)
- ✓ Oranges (one per child. You could give kids small Mandarin or Clementine oranges for easy peeling.)
- ✓ Name tag box

E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 8 minutes 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing two songs together. (This is the Day / I am not Forgotten) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get their mats and sit down.	You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)
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F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes <i>“... the fruit of the Spirit is love and joy ...” (Galatians 5:22)</i> 1. Ask a few questions to recap today's story of the lost son returning home to his father: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The dad in our story today had two sons. The younger son went to talk to his dad. What did he ask him? <i>“Give me my share of the family money. I don't want to wait until you're dead, Dad. I want it now. Give me my share of the money now.” (paraphrase Luke 15:12)</i> - His dad wasn't sure that this was such a good idea, but he gave his son the money he wanted. What did his son do next? <i>He travelled to another country and met a lot of exciting people on the way. He had a lot of fun hanging out with his new friends, partying and spending money.</i> - This wild life didn't last for too long. What happened? <i>He spent all his money. He had nothing; no friends, no job, no food.</i> - There was a famine in that country too. The guy decided that he should look for a job. What job did he get? <i>Feeding pigs.</i> - He was starving to death. He even thought about eating the pigs' food. Then he thought about home and how even his dad's servants had a better life than he had. He decided to go back home. His dad was watching. What did the old man do when he saw his son in the distance? <i>The old man ran to meet his son, threw his arms around him, gave him the tightest bear hug he could, and kissed his face. He turned around to talk to his servants. “Quick!” he said, “Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get to the kitchen. We're going to have a party with lots of delicious food and music and dancing to celebrate my boy coming home.” (paraphrase Luke 15:22-24)</i> 2. <i>Explain:</i> Jesus told this story to teach us something important. Jesus wants us to understand that God loves everyone, even the people who go off and make terrible mistakes. God is like the dad in the story, watching and waiting. People, like us, are like the brother who left home to go and do his own thing. He got into trouble. He made mistakes. He sinned. But he went back to his dad and told him how sorry he was. And what did his dad do? He didn't push him away. He welcomed him! He celebrated! He was full of joy because his child had come back to him. 3. <i>Explain:</i> When we ask Jesus to live in our hearts, He sends His Holy Spirit to be with us. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but He is part of God too – just like Jesus is God, God the Son, so the Holy Spirit is the part of God that He sends to live in us. When Paul's life was changed and he started travelling around different countries telling people about Jesus, he wrote letters to help people understand more about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote in one of his letters that if someone has the Holy Spirit	You'll need ...
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<p>living inside them, then people will be able to see certain things in that person. Kind of like a fruit tree (<i>show fruit tree on screen</i>) – if a fruit tree is planted in good soil, gets enough water, enough food from the earth, and enough light, then it will grow tall and strong with lush, green leaves and delicious fruit for everybody to see. Think of yourself as a tree – if you are planted and rooted in God, if you believe in Him and trust Him, if you try to live for Him each day, read your Bible and pray to learn more about Him, then you will grow into the person God wants you to be, loving and joyful, peaceful and patient, kind and good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled. This is the fruit of the Holy Spirit living in us.</p> <p>4. <i>Explain:</i> Today we heard the story of the father's joy when his son came back home, and how the Holy Spirit makes us joyful. Joyful and happy because we are saved from our sin, because we have a place waiting for us in heaven, because Jesus becomes our new best friend forever! That's what our memory verse says. <i>Show verse on screen and read aloud together:</i> "... the fruit of the Spirit is love and joy ..." Galatians 5:22.</p> <p>5. Repeat verse a few times together as a group, and individually, until you feel kids know it well. <i>Move to a blank screen.</i></p> <p>6. <i>Explain:</i> Last week we talked about love. We put our love strawberry on the wall to remind us of this fruit of the Spirit. Today, we've been thinking about joy, and how the Holy Spirit gives us joy in our hearts. I chose a joyful, happy fruit to remind us of that – an orange! <i>Show kids a pre-made card orange labelled with 'joy' that you will add to your notice board display.</i> Look at the orange. It's bright, round, happy and juicy. I'm going to stick this on the wall a little later.</p> <p>7. Divide kids into two teams – the reds and the blues. Have each team line up at one end of your room.</p> <p>8. Set a tennis ball about 3 metres ahead of the teams.</p> <p>9. <i>Explain:</i> This is <i>Orange Bowls</i>. Both teams will get an orange. One orange has a red mark on it – for the red team, the other has a blue mark – for the blue team. The first person from each team must say the memory verse together. Then they each try to bowl their orange so that it lands as close as possible to the tennis ball. The closest orange bowl means a point for that team. Those two people should go to the back of the line. Then we start again with the next two bowlers – say the verse, then bowl your team orange.</p> <p>10. Have kids repeat the verse once altogether to refresh their memories.</p> <p>11. Have the first two kids say the verse together. Give them their team orange to bowl. Once they have both bowled, add a point on the score card to the team whose orange landed closest to the tennis ball.</p> <p>12. Repeat step 11 until all kids have bowled.</p> <p>13. Finish with a group repetition of the verse.</p> <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it later in the series.</p>	<p><i>Fruit tree picture</i></p> <p><i>Memory verse slide (Galatians 5:22)</i></p> <p><i>Pre-made card orange labelled 'joy'</i></p> <p><i>Tennis ball</i></p> <p><i>2 oranges – one marked red, the other blue</i></p> <p><i>Score card</i> <i>Pen</i></p>
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our story loved his son who was lost, but now was found. Remind kids that when we trust God we are part of His great big family.

4. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave.

Name tag box





