

Names of God

Huddle 15: *God is Father*



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the “In” slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions up front...

- ****Leaders, as you lead discussions, please remember that not all children have the same family experiences. Please be sensitive to how a child may be feeling or if they do not feel comfortable sharing.****
- Take some time to talk to your group about their families. Who do they call family? What is their favorite family memory?
- What do they think of when they think of a father?
- Read Luke 15:11-24.

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group.

LESSON HUDDLE

Let's all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out. Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

What are some ways we can look up to God? One way we look up to God is by learning more about Him. So, we are going to be learning some of the names God is given in the Bible. The name we are going to learn today is Father – God is Father.

Jesus tells us a story, a parable, in Luke to help us all understand what it means to be a father. The story He tells us is called the Parable of the Prodigal Son – this is the story you guys read in your small groups.

There is a father with two sons. One son decided he didn't want to wait for his father to die before he received his inheritance, so he asked for it early. His father gave it to him, and he went off and spent it all on "wild living." Soon, he had nothing and dreamed of eating the slop that pigs were being fed. He figured out 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."

Do you remember what the father was doing when the son returned?

- The father was waiting in anticipation and ran out with wide arms to greet him.
- Rather than condemn (yell, fuss, etc) the son when he returned, the father threw a celebration for the son.
- He eagerly and quickly forgave and embraced his son completely.
- He loved his son dearly, and wanted nothing more than to be in a right relationship with him again.

This is exactly how our Heavenly Father feels about us. He created you. He loves you. He is eagerly waiting for you to turn to Him for grace and forgiveness. He wants to move forward in a restored relationship with you.

Jesus told this parable so we can learn more about God and more about ourselves. We see what a forgiving, providing, caring Father God is and we also see how we are like the sons. We are disobedient and ungrateful. We have forgotten to thank God for His goodness. We have broken His commands, and need His forgiveness. We think we are good, but we are sinners who need God. But God, He desires to be our Father. Jesus came to earth to die on the cross so that we could have the very best, most loving, forgiving Father – so that we could be children of God!

John 1:12 says

But to all who did receive him, who believe in his name, he gave the right to become the children of God.

We, through Jesus, can have a wonderful relationship with our Heavenly Father. Let's pray and thank God for opening His arms and forgiving each of us. Let's ask Him to help us to see who He is and believe He is who He says He is and who Jesus is as His Son.

Huddle Up, Pray, & Break

ACTIVITY: Name Relation Game

Instructions:

- Get the group into a circle (or 2 depending on how large your group is). Then start out by saying your name and a food that begins with the same letter (Eric Eggs). You can also opt to just do your name and any word that begins with the same letter (Excellent Eric).
- Then the next person does theirs, plus yours. Then the third person does theirs, the second's and the first's name and word.
- It then moves on down the line, so that the last person has to do everyone within the group.

ACTIVITY: Face Off Game

Instructions:

- To play this game you need to form two equal circles, one inside the other. Set the circles up so one person from each circle is physically standing back to back to one member from the other circle.
- For each circle, put a spot on the ground to mark the "face-off" pair.
- The circles both start moving in opposite circular motions. A leader will call stop. At that point the people on each spot must turn around and face each other. The person who names the other first wins that round and the "loser" joins the other circle.
- Continue Play...



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