

Week 4 All Age Luke in Lent material : Luke 15.1-10

Equipment:

Pens/pencils
Colouring sheets
Balloons & Pens to write on balloons
party poppers (if not using balloons)
Party streamers/pieces of paper for paper chains
Large candle or cross/smiley helium balloon.

4.25 – 4.35

10 mins

Gathering activity (refreshments could be served while you do this. A CD could be played quietly in the background.)

Decorate your room for a party or get people to say what decorations they like to have at a party. You could have party hats to decorate, balloons to blow up, streamers to stick up, paper chains to put up.

Discussion question: Who likes parties? Why do people have parties? What reasons do we have to have parties?

Gathering prayer

Write your name on a name card (like you get at weddings – a small piece of card folded in half so it stands up) and place it at the foot of the cross/candle/big helium balloon with smiley face on for God. Have a moment's quiet.

You could use the words:

“Jesus, I am here. Thank you for loving me.”

4.35 – 4.50

15 min

Group discussion & reading. (Refreshments if not done already)

Before the Bible reading, ask everyone to think about what people are mentioned in this story. What were their feelings? Does anything in the story surprise you?

Read Luke 15.1-10 together. As you read, put in an explanation of the words sinner, Pharisee and repent.

Those who like to colour as they talk could colour in one of the party pictures.

Some questions to think about together:

- ☺ Have you ever lost anything? What did you lose? How did you feel? Did you find it again? How did that feel?
- ☺ Which people was Jesus welcoming? Who was unhappy about that? Why do you think they were unhappy? (you might like to point out that sometimes hanging around people who do bad things isn't good if it makes us want to do bad things, but that Jesus didn't do bad things and he welcomed all sorts of people to him. He knew that everyone needed God, even if they did wrong things)
- ☺ What things are lost in the stories? What do the people do to find the things they've lost?
- ☺ Why do we look really hard for things we have lost?
- ☺ What did the people do when they found what they had lost?
- ☺ Repent means to decide we are sorry for wrong things we have done and that we want to live God's way instead. It means we know we have made a mistake and want to start again. Who celebrates when someone decides they want to live God's way?
- ☺ How does it feel that God has a party whenever someone decides they want to live God's way?
- ☺ What do you think a celebration in heaven would look like?

Thought: Jesus came from heaven to help people like us. he is like the people searching for something precious – searching for us so that we can be Jesus' friends and followers.

4.50-5p.m.
10 mins

Game, Response and prayer

Hide a number of coins, chocolate coins, or cotton wool sheep around the room. Encourage everyone to find one. Have some spares in case anyone misses out.

Have a short time of quiet. Think about if we want to be Jesus' friends. Think about if there is anything we have done wrong that stops us being Jesus' friend. Do we want to follow Jesus?

You could use this short prayer.

Thank you God that we are all special to you, even though we get things wrong sometimes. Please help us to follow you and be your friend. Amen.

Remember, people may have an aversion to bangs or could be allergic to balloon latex. Mall bits of balloon are a choking hazard. Balloons should not be popped with the teeth.

Balloon prayers or party popper prayers

Either – write some things on a blown up balloon which you want to thank God for or celebrate about. You can then either take the balloon home or burst it underfoot.

Or

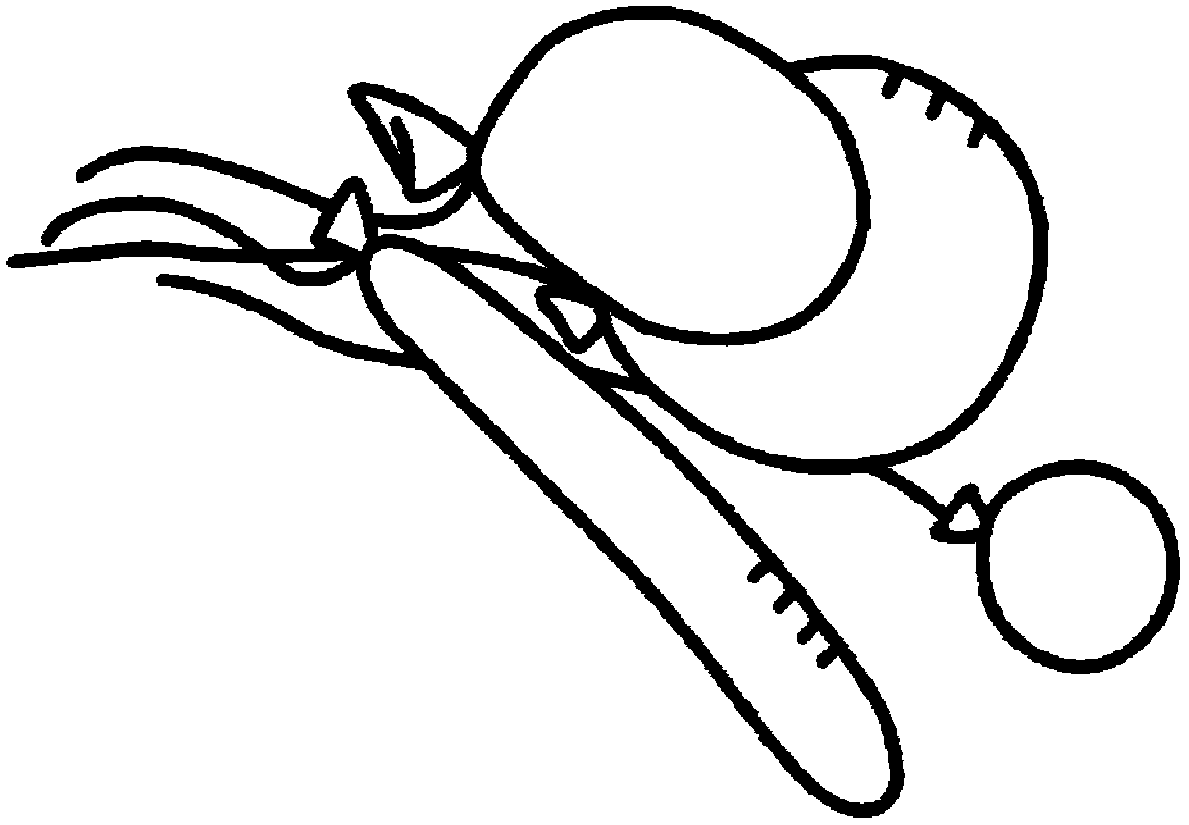
Give everyone a party popper. On the count of 3, pop the poppers and shout out something you are thankful for.

You could use this prayer:

Thank you for all the good things we can celebrate. Thank you for your love. Amen

You could use these words together:

Jesus, we are here.
Thank you for loving us.



Jesus, I am here.
Thank you for loving
me.

Jesus, we are here.
Thank you for loving us.