



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

Story Script

First and Second Levels (Session 1)

An active retelling of the Bible story

The Prodigal Son

Props needed:

- *3 fake beards*
- *a money bag*
- *couple of toy pigs*

Jesus was well known. He'd been doing miracles (can anyone tell me some?), telling stories and talking to people about God.

Everybody had an opinion about him. Just like today, some people loved him, wanted to know more, believed he was someone special. Some people weren't sure and were trying to find out more and some people hated him.

One group of people who hated him were called the Pharisees. They believed in God, believed in the rules. They believed that keeping the rules made you right with God, and that got you into heaven. They believed they were the best at keeping the rules and didn't want to go near anyone who couldn't keep the rules.

That's why they didn't like Jesus. He spent time with people who broke the rules. He even had meals with them.

Jesus heard their complaining and told them this story.

So this story didn't actually happen. But the Bible says Jesus did really tell it.

There was a man who had two sons.

Choose three boys and give them beards. Get them to come to front.

An older son and a younger son. They both worked with him on the family farm.

Act out farm jobs.

One day the younger son decided he didn't want to do that any more. He wanted to make his own choices and do whatever he fancied doing that day. So he asked his dad

‘Can I have my inheritance please?’ ‘Can I have the money I’m going to get when you die?’

Get kids to pretend do this.

Well, this was so incredibly rude and hurtful. It was like saying to his dad, you may as well be dead. I don’t want anything to do with you any more. I just want your stuff.

Surprisingly perhaps, the father gave the younger son his share of the inheritance.

Dad gives son money bag.

And off he went. To a distant land.

Younger son goes to other side of classroom.

And there, he lived just as he wanted to. He didn’t have to do what his dad told him to do any more. He spent his money at parties and on food and drink.

Act out drinking, eating, dancing.

But his money ran out. And just as it ran out there was a famine in that far off land. He had nothing. He found a job as a pig farmer.

Pass the younger son the toy pigs.

Remember he is a Jew, and they believed pigs were unclean animals, they didn’t eat them or farm them. So this job was the worst, most horrible job he could have got. But he was so hungry. Hungry enough to want to eat the pods he was feeding the pigs.

It was while he was there he came to his senses. What am I doing here when at home even the servants have enough to eat. I will go home. Tell my father I know I was wrong and that I know I’m not worthy to be his son but maybe I could work for him as a hired hand.

That’s what he did. And his dad saw him coming. His dad ran to him.

They can act this out.

Hugged and kissed him or high fived!

The son said 'father, I have sinned against you and God. I'm not worthy to be your son'. But before he could say 'Please can I work for you?' his father had called the servants and said 'bring the finest robes, and sandals and a ring, and kill the fattened calf. We must have a celebration. My son was dead but now is alive. He was lost but now is found.' And so they did. The party started.

Pretend to dance.

The son was being welcomed back into the family.

But what about the older son? He was still at home. Still working on the farm. Doing whatever his father told him to do.

Act out farm tasks.

He heard the music and noise and asked a servant. What is going on? When he was told ... he was furious and refused to go in.

Encourage the older son to make his best under your beard furious face?!

How rude he was being to his father, how disrespectful. With everyone watching his dad had to come out to speak to him.

Dad goes to older son.

The son yelled at his dad.

Act out/mime/furious face again.

He did not really care about his relationship with his dad. He wasn't really happy obeying him. Did he even love him?

His dad said 'you have always been with me. Everything I have is yours.We had to celebrate ...

And that's where Jesus left the story. We don't know what choice the older son made. Did he go in and join the party? Or did he stay outside? I wonder what choice you would have made?