

Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32)

This is a sample lesson plan. There are, of course, lots of different ways to teach the littlest ones. This is offered to help those who may be willing to teach them but are unfamiliar young children today.

Go over the lesson plan with the children at the beginning of your session. Using a “rebus” lesson plan, pre-readers can tell what to expect during Sunday School. If they get out of their seats or do something out of sequence, point them to the lesson plan. This helps them to “self-regulate” rather than have the teacher always trying to do it.

1. A review of basic lessons is a good idea when the children are fresh. Go over the Beatitudes using the memory cards.

If each student has his own set he could put a sticker on the card when he can say that Beatitude without prompting. I cut the pictures off of the “free” return address labels I’m always receiving in the mail. They are colorful, sticky, the right size and free. What is Jesus trying to teach us about real happiness? How does that lasting kind of happiness feel different from the crazy kind that almost feels like you had too much sugar?

2. Practice writing the letter “P” in a variety of media. What words start with “P?” prodigal, parable, peace, please, Peter, plenty, etc. What do the words “prodigal” and “parable” mean? Find Luke 15 and look for the word “prodigal” in the heading.

3. Tell the children the story of the prodigal while they work on the coloring page. *(Note: An activity/coloring booklet for this story is also available on this web site. It is written at a very beginning level and has lots of pictures to tell the story that way as well.)*

What Beatitudes do you think apply to this story? What part of the story does the coloring page show? What does it mean when it says that “he came to himself?” Who do you think the father stands for in this story?

4. Have the students retell the story using props. Lego men, thread spools, finger puppet and boardgame markers can all become Bible characters with a little imagination. There is a cut-out for pigs included. Fold the tabs inward and they should stand up.

5. Stand to sing along with a tape or cd.

6. Gather on the floor pillows to read a Bible story book of the student’s choice.

1. 5
review

B ^{eatitudes}
using cards



sitting
in
chairs

2. "P"
write letter



with pencil
and chalk



sitting
in
chairs



listen to story
of Prodigal Son




while coloring page



sitting
in
chairs

4. 5
students
retell

P 
story using markers
and pigs



sitting
in
chairs

5. ♪
sing along with
tape or cd



standing

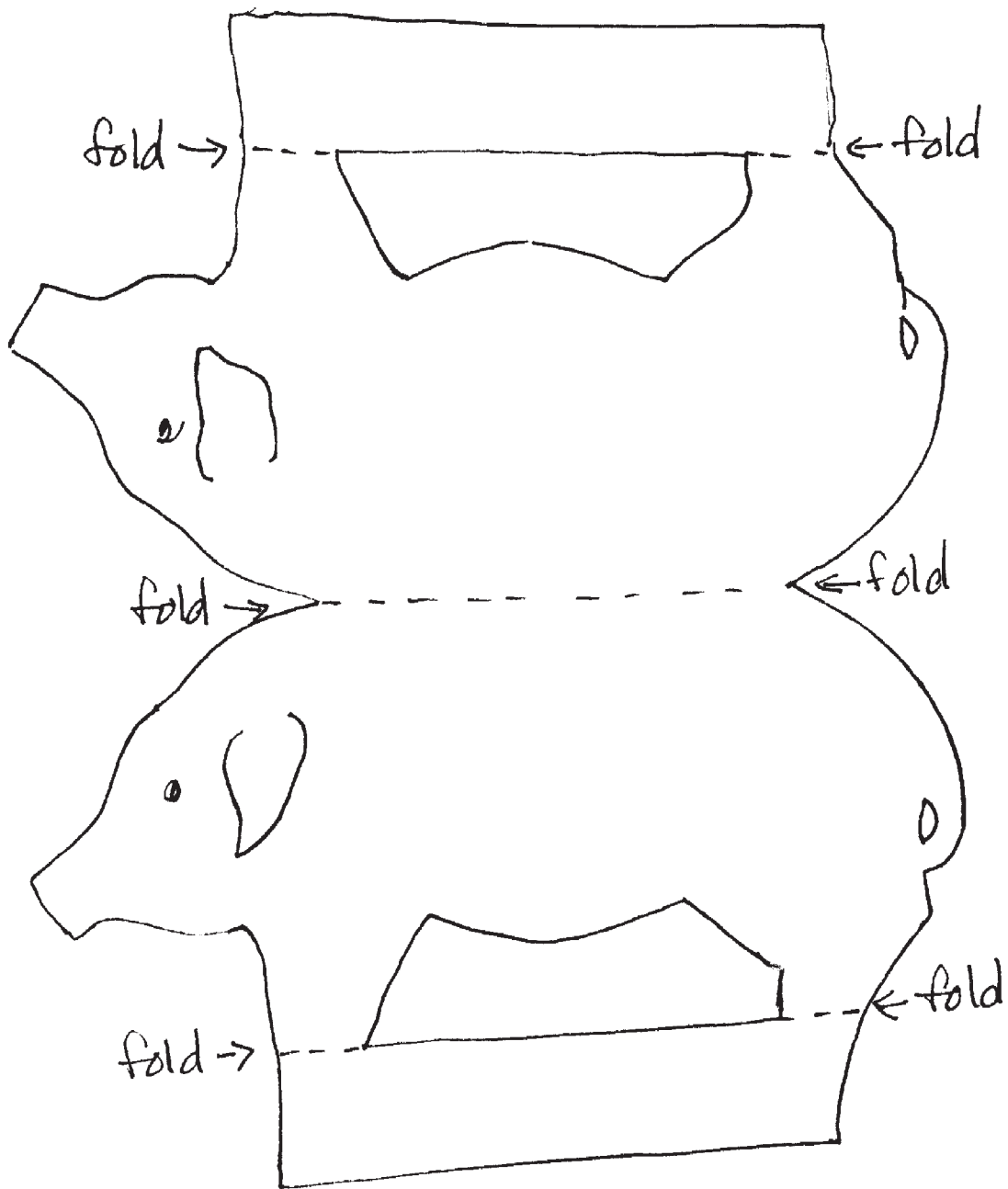
6. A
read together a
student choice
Bible story



sitting on pillows



Coloring page



these work well cut from pink construction paper if you have it.