



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

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A simple plan for an all-age Meeting for Worship about the lost, the prodigal son.

Preparation for this session: a colourful rug or blanket, a large Bible (if possible) with a copy of the story of the lost, the prodigal son that is on Additional Resource 81. A folded inside it, more copies of the story, A4 white card or paper divided into four equal spaces or copies of the sheet on Additional Resource 81.C, different versions of the Bible including at least one that is illustrated with pictures of the story of the lost, the prodigal son, a copy of the picture story available at <http://resources.sparklebox.org.uk/sb1445.pdf>, plates of biscuits to share.

Begin by welcoming everyone to all age worship. Start with a few moments of quiet.

Say that in meeting for worship today we are going to hear a story that is about a feeling that we can all sometimes have that can make us feel uncomfortable and unhappy – it is called jealousy. Say that jealousy is a horrible feeling and it comes when people think that someone has something that should belong to them or that they should have.

The feeling can be about things or about people – friends or family. It can sometimes make people say and do things that are unkind and that make them feel sad afterwards.

Say that there is a story in the book called the Bible about a brother who was jealous because he believed their dad loved his brother more than him. Say that in a moment you are going to read the story.

Pause

Move to the rug and pick up the Bible. Go back to where you were sitting, pause, and then, slowly and carefully, read the story of the lost or prodigal son that you previously folded and put into the Bible.

Pause

Say that jealousy is a big feeling but it is also a bit sneaky because it often hides other things people are feeling.

Ask everybody to think carefully about one, two or all of the three main people.

As people are thinking or just being still in the quiet, on the rug or blanket, lay down sheets of A4 white card or paper divided into four equal spaces or copies of the sheet divided into four spaces on *Additional Resource 81.C*. Also put out drawing pencils of different sizes, stubby ones for small children, and some black felt pens. Also lay down different versions of the Bible, copies of the story that you have read and, if you can, a copy of the picture story available at <http://resources.sparklebox.org.uk/sb1445.pdf>

Ask everybody to think to themselves about how their person feels – maybe jealous, angry, sad, happy, upset, scared, grumpy or something else.

After a few moments say that, if people want to, they can use the pencils or pens and the sheets of card or paper to draw 4 simple faces that show the different feelings that the two brothers or the dad might have been feeling. This can be done on the floor or where people are sitting.

Offer the option for people just to stay sitting in the stillness of worship or to pick up a copy of the story and read it through to themselves. How do they feel, what do they think as they read it now? Say that people can also look at the Bibles if they want to. Make sure you say that spoken ministry from children or adults is always part of meeting for worship and this meeting is no different.

Maintain meeting for worship for up to 45 minutes. As you judge you are approaching the end quietly walk round offering biscuits to everybody as a reminder of the feast that was prepared for the son who came home.

End with a hand shake.