

“WHO?” - LESSON 1

“WHO Is Our Heavenly Father?”

Main Focus:

We have a loving Heavenly Father who will never leave us!



Power Verse:

“...For I will be with you...I will not fail you or abandon you.”

- Joshua 1:5



Whatchagaddaknow:

“God The Father Is Perfect!”

LEADER'S INFO

Fathers are a major part of any family. They provide for, protect, and even play with their children. Sadly, many children today are forced to live without a dad. Whether it's because of death, divorce, or pre-marital pregnancy, living without a dad is very difficult for children to cope with.

Whether their earthly father is in the picture or not, children can rest in the fact that we ALL have an incredible Heavenly Father who has promised to be there for us no matter what. If times get tough, He's there. If we mess up and sin, He's still there. He's not going to leave us - no matter what!

In this lesson, the children will learn that all of us have the same Heavenly Father who is perfect in every way! Father's Day celebrates our earthly fathers, but EVERY day can be a day to celebrate our Heavenly Father.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Who's Your Daddy?”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Cali From The Valley teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Owlbert”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“WHO Is It?”



Bible Story

“The Prodigal Son”



Power Verse Video

“...For I will be with you...I will not fail you or abandon you.” - Joshua 1:5



Call To Action

“WHO Is Our Heavenly Father?”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We have a loving Heavenly Father who will never leave us!



Power Verse:

“...For I will be with you...I will not fail you or abandon you.”
- Joshua 1:5



Whatchagaddaknow:

“God The Father Is Perfect!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Owlbert” Theme Graphic/Music
- A Fake, Plastic Owl

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “WHO Is It?” Graphic

Bible Story

- “The Prodigal Son” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “WHO Is Our Heavenly Father?” Graphics
- A Set Of Building Blueprints
- A “Ken” Doll
- A Large Sheet Of Red Construction Paper
- Scissors

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Print Piece
- Design A Dad Print Pieces
- Scissors
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, Or Markers
- Tape Or Glue
- Heavenly Father Print Piece

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Game Time!

“WHO Is It?”

Bible Story

“The Prodigal Son”

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Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a series called “WHO?” Each of you is going to learn all about some very important people in your life with God! You’re going to learn WHO they are and why they are so very important!

I have a question for you. Does anyone know what holiday we have that celebrates dads? (*allow response*) That’s right - it’s Father’s Day! Now, I want you to take a second and look at the people around you! Did you know you all have the same Father? (*allow response*)

I know you may be confused, but that’s okay! We need to check in with our video today. I think it will help it all make sense! Let’s check it out!

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: Isn’t that cool? We all have the same father because God is our Father! No matter what your relationship with your earthly father is like, we all have a Heavenly Father who loves us. He’s amazing! He’s perfect! Today, you’re going to learn a lot more about WHO your Heavenly Father is!

Right now, it’s time to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Owlbert” (Dressed similarly to a lion tamer, Owlbert is an over-the-top character who really believes his owl (Hoots, a fake owl) can do all kinds of amazing tricks. Sadly, when on stage, the owl just seems to be “stiff”!

Owlbert: (enters excitedly) WhootyWhoooooo to all off you! My name is OWLbert, and I am a professional owl trainer! I would like you to meet my amazing owl. His name is HOOTS! (holds the owl up high where everyone can see) Hey, Hoots, give everyone a big, “WHOOTYWHOOOO!” (nothing happens) Oh well, he’s getting old and is a little hard of hearing. (brings owl down in front of his face and yells) Hey, Hoots, let’s give everyone here a big giant, “WHOOTYWHOOOO!” (holds him up high, but again, Hoots says nothing) Oh, he’s just being shy right now. He’ll come around once he gets used to his new surroundings.

Leader: Hello, Mr. OWLbert. We are glad you are here - and also Mr. Hoots! I have never met an owl trainer before, so this is very exciting. Is your owl okay? I mean he looks kind of stiff. (reaches out to touch the owl)

O: Oh yes, he’s fine. Please, do not touch Hoots. He gets this way whenever we go somewhere new. I am sure he will loosen up soon and show all of you some thrilling tricks! You will all be amazed!

Leader: I have never even gotten close to owl before, so I am a little nervous. Will he be okay around the kids?

O: Hoots? He loves kids! In fact, kids are his favorite audience to perform in front of! (looks at the owl) Isn’t that right, Hoots? (owl does nothing) Can I at least get a wink for a yes? (nothing) Well, this is usually his time to sleep, so maybe he’s just tired right now.

Leader: I am sure that’s it. We can’t wait to see all the cool things Hoots can do. I have seen a lot of animals do some cool tricks! I’ve seen dogs and cats, horses, hamsters, and even rabbits! But I have never seen an owl do anything but fly and say, “WHO! WHO! WHO!”

O: Oh, you just wait! Hoots will blow your mind when you see what he can do. I am sure I can get him to do one of his more simple tricks that he learned when he was just a baby. Okay, stand back, everyone, and please, we need complete silence! If we have any loud noises, it may startle old Hoots and he could get scared and go crazy!

Leader: I would love to see him go crazy right about now. Can we yell and clap after he does his trick?

O: Oh, yes! By all means. Hoots loves it when people show their appreciation for his hard work. Okay, Hoots, are you ready? (pause) I said, “Are you ready?” (pause)

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: Is he ready?

O: SHHHHHHHHHHHH! Please, silence!

Leader: I was just trying to help!

O: If you want to help, just stay there, be quiet, and be amazed!

Leader: Sure, no problem!

O: Ok, Hoots, old boy. Ladies and gentlemen, kids of all ages, when I give the word, Hoots will do his world famous somersault! Okay, here we go! 5...4...3...2...1...WHOOTYHOO! (*owl does nothing*) Maybe I'll say it a little louder! WHOOOOOOOTEEEEEEEHOOOOO! (*nothing*) Go! Jump! Flip! Skip! Fall over! Do something! (*getting angry*) Okay, Hoots! We talked about this. Well, I talked, and you listened. Jump, boy! Do this! (*does a somersault*) It's easy! Come on, boy!

Leader: Mr. OWLbert, it's okay. Maybe he's too full from eating. Or he just does not feel like performing. Don't be angry at Hoots. Animals have minds of their own, you know.

O: Hoots is like a son to me. He was pushed out of his nest when he was little. No one wanted him. I found him abandoned and all alone, and I took him in. I have been a good father to him, and now he just sits there when I need him the most!

Leader: You know, this reminds me of what we are learning today. We are learning all about WHO God our Heavenly Father is. Our Heavenly Father is a perfect Father who cares for us and loves us and wants the best for our lives.

O: Just as I am to Hoots!

Leader: I'm sure you are, OWLbert. And I know Hoots loves you very much. Let's just give him some time.

O: Maybe you are right. Well, we are going to go work on some things because I want all of you to be amazed at what this old bird can do. He really is incredible!

Leader: You are both incredible, and we are so glad you stopped by! Please come back and see us soon.

O: You can count on that. It's not too far out of our way. Only 4 miles, as the crow flies! Or, in our case, as the owl flies! HAHAAHAHA! Well, here's a big ole "Whooteewhooooo" to all off you! See you soon! (*He walks over and picks up Hoots as he is leaving*) Come on boy, we've got a lot of training to do! (*exits as his theme music plays*)



GAME TIME

“WHO Is It?”

Items Needed For Game:

Graphic Slides for “WHO Is It?” game

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Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to play in this trivia game. Load the graphic slides for the game titled, “WHO Is It?”

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How To Play:

In this game, the teams will take turns answering trivia questions about famous people in the Bible. They will hear descriptions of the people and will try to guess WHO it is. At the end of the ten questions, the team with the most correct guesses wins!



Bible Story

“The Prodigal Son”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Luke 15:11-32; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Luke, chapter 15. It’s a story that Jesus told to help people understand how much God loves them. There was a father who had two sons. One of his sons, the youngest, approached his father one day (*show pic*) and said, “Give me my share of the inheritance.” His son had decided he would be better off on his own with NO rules, NO boundaries, NO bedtime, and NO chores! He thought he would have an amazing life of fun and no worries!

The father gave his son what he asked for. The son left his house and went out to live on his own. (*show pic*) He started partying, drinking, and living a sinful lifestyle. He thought he had lots of friends, but most of those friends were only hanging out with him because he had lots of money to spend.

It wasn’t long before the boy had wasted all of his money on wild and sinful living. He ended up with no money to buy anything to eat, so he got a job feeding PIGS. (*show pic*) Can you imagine sloshing around in the mud with a bunch of smelly pigs? It was the worst job you can imagine, but he was so hungry that even the food that he was feeding the pigs looked good to him.

The son looked around at the situation he had gotten himself into. He realized that the PIGS were living better than he was. He said to himself, “My father’s servants live better than this! I will return home and beg for the forgiveness of my father and ask him to take me back as a hired servant.” I imagine he thought his father was going to be angry at him. He probably expected a long lecture from his dad, if his dad would even talk to him at all. But that’s not what happened. (*show pic*) As the boy approached his father’s house, his loving father, who had been watching and hoping every day for his son’s return, saw him coming and ran to meet him. (*show pic*) He threw his arms around him and hugged him and kissed him. He threw a huge party to celebrate. He said, “My son was lost, but now he is found!”

Jesus told them that the father in the story represents God. The lost son represents all of God’s children who try to live life on their own without God. In your lesson today, you are going to learn that God is a lot like the father in this story. He loves us, waits patiently for us, and will never give up on us.





Call To Action

“WHO Is Our Heavenly Father?”

Materials Needed:

The “WHO Is Our Heavenly Father?” graphics; A set of building blueprints; A “Ken” doll (or other male doll); A large sheet of red construction paper; Scissors

Preparation:

Take the large sheet of red construction paper and cut it into a heart. Begin with the title slide, “WHO Is Our Heavenly Father?”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Today, we are learning about someone WHO is very important. It is our Heavenly Father. We need to understand some very important things about God, our Heavenly Father. We are going to learn about those, today. As we have mentioned, whether your earthly Dad is in your life or not, we ALL have the same Heavenly Father. He is amazing. So, let’s learn several things about our Heavenly Father that will encourage us.

He’s A Perfect Father *(slide)*



(hold up the “Ken” doll) Anybody know who this is? *(allow kids’ response)* That’s right, his name is Ken. He’s Barbie’s husband. Barbie is the perfect little doll, and she has a perfect little husband, Ken. He has perfect hair, perfect teeth, perfect clothes, and drives a perfect car. I’m sure he treats Barbie perfectly, is always perfectly on time for every appointment, never breaks a promise, and gives his kids a perfect weekly allowance.

There’s only one problem with perfect little Ken...he’s not real. Nobody is this perfect. Even our dads, although they may try their hardest, will never be absolutely perfect. Sometimes they will miss our soccer games when they thought they might be able to make it. Sometimes they will get upset and lose their temper in front of us even though they didn’t mean to.

Sometimes earthly fathers even decide to leave their families and don’t talk to their kids as much as they should. That hurts. It’s not easy to have that happen to you. Whether you are growing up in a home with or without a dad, one thing is for sure - earthly fathers aren’t perfect.

Our Heavenly Father, on the other hand, is absolutely the *perfect* Father. He will never break a promise. He will never hurt us. He will never treat us wrong. He will NEVER leave us. He is absolutely PERFECT as our Father. God knows what we need, and our Heavenly Father longs to give us the very best in life! Not only that, but...

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Call To Action (Continued)



He Has A Perfect Love *(slide)*

(hold up the giant red heart) Because God is our perfect Father, He loves us with a perfect love. Now, how many of you have had someone tell you they love you or that they are your best friend, but then when you did something they didn't like, they were no longer your friend? *(allow response)* Since we learned that nobody's perfect except for God, we know that human beings just can't love us with a *perfect* love. But God can! His love is so much bigger and stronger than anything we have ever imagined.

The Bible says that “God is love.” That means that He has so much perfect love for you and me that it's almost all that He is made of. He IS love. His love is perfect. The best part is - no matter what we do, His love stays the same. You might think, “Well, what if I let God down and make a mistake and sin? Will He still love me then?” The answer is, “YES!” Just like the father in our Bible Story, God forgives us and welcomes us back.

God's perfect love never fails and it never stops. No matter how much we ignore Him, disobey Him, or hurt Him, God still loves us with that perfect love. Isn't that amazing?



He Has A Perfect Plan *(slide)*

Not only is God a perfect Father who has a perfect love for us, but He has a perfect plan for our lives. *(hold up the blueprints)* When you go to build a building, you don't start without a plan. If you do, your building will probably turn out looking pretty messed up. You need to know exactly what you want it to be before you start, right? Did you know that just like that, God had a plan for you before the world was created? It's true.

God had a perfect plan for you even before you were born. He knew who your friends would be, what you would grow up to be, and every little detail about you. God's perfect plan for you is what you need to follow. If you want to know what His plan is for your life, just ask Him. He speaks to you through the Bible and in your hearts and thoughts. He will help you make decisions. He will help you do all the things that will help you become more of the person that He planned for you to be.

WHO is our Heavenly Father? I'll tell you WHO! He is our *perfect* Heavenly Father who loves us with a *perfect* love and who has a *perfect* plan for our lives. He will be there for you no matter what. Just like our PowerVerse tells us, “He will never fail us or abandon us.” He's a good, good Father.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Give children a chance to thank God for creating them and making them His children. Thank Him for being a loving Heavenly Father. Pray especially for those who do not have dads in their homes. Pray that God will help them find their strength in Him.



REWIND!

Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “God The Father Is Perfect!”

2. Which member of the family did we talk about today?

Answer: Dads

3. What did the young man decide to do in our Bible Story?

Answer: Leave His Father’s House

4. Did his money last very long?

Answer: No

5. What kind of job did he end up getting?

Answer: Feeding Pigs

6. How did his father react when he came home?

Answer: He Was Joyful

7. According to our lesson today, “God Is A Perfect _____.”

Answer: Father

8. According to our lesson today, “God Has A Perfect _____.”

Answer: Love

9. According to our lesson today, “God Has A Perfect _____.”

Answer: Plan

10. Where was today’s Power Verse found?

Answer: Joshua 1:5