READY TO USE CRAFT

# The lost son

Use these craft ideas in conjunction with the different summer event plans, or hold a summer holiday craft afternoon for children and / or families.

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## Precious biscuits

**You will need:** plain biscuits such as digestive or rich tea; icing sugar; water; bowl; knife; a variety of sweets and cake sprinkles – silver balls and edible glitter are especially good for this

Among other things, the story of the lost son explores the idea of what is truly precious. Is it money or relationships? This craft opens up the discussion about what the children, themselves, consider to be precious.

Mix the icing sugar with water until you have icing that is spreadable. Spread icing on a biscuit and choose and add sweets that will make the biscuit look ‘precious’. Speak about why children have chosen particular sprinkles and what they think it means to be ‘precious’ as a person. Who is precious to them?

## Family photo holder

**You will need:** paper clips; air drying clay; paint pens or paint and paintbrushes; heart-shaped cookie cutters (I used a small one here)

Family and the love a father has for his children are key themes in this story. This craft provides a way to display a family photo important to the children.

Soften up the clay and roll it out fairly thickly. Cut out some heart shapes with the cookie cutter. Decorate the heart shapes with paint and paint pens. Put a paper clip in the middle of the heart shape, as shown in the picture. Make sure that the paper clip opening is facing upwards. When the paint is dry, put a family photo into the upturned clip and the clip should hold it in place.

Chat about your family and what it means to be part of a family. What is it like to be part of God’s family? (Be sensitive to those children whose family life is difficult.)

## Father’s house

**You will need:** a collection of cardboard boxes; heavy-duty tape; scissors; heart-shaped Post-it notes or heart shapes and tape

The lost son returns to his father’s house and is welcomed back with open arms. This craft explores what that place of welcome might look like.

This is a very open-ended craft and requires some teamwork! Work together to build the boxes into a ‘house’. Can you make a door that opens to welcome someone in? Can you build a house that will fit two people inside? Use the tape to hold the building together and test it out.

Think about the story and how the son is welcomed home. How would you make the home feel welcoming? Stick the hearts over the house as a sign of the love contained there.

## Spreading forgiveness

**You will need:** a cup; water; kitchen roll; felt-tip pens (not permanent markers)

When the father forgives his son, we see a real manifestation of love. This craft illustrates the embracing nature of such love.

Cut the kitchen roll into strips (see photo) and fill a cup a third full of water. With a felt-tip pen, draw and colour in a heart shape about two-thirds of the way up the strip of kitchen roll. Think about people you need to forgive, or things that you might need to say sorry for yourself. Somewhere above the heart, write the initial of the person you are thinking of, or just put a dot to represent that person. Put the kitchen roll strip into the cup and watch as the paper absorbs water and travels up the paper to the heart. The heart will then start to spread out and cover the initials or the dot as a sign of loving forgiveness covering that person. How does it feel to see that happen?

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