

WELCOME AT ANY TIME

Activity suggestions for a GFS branch meeting by Sandra Bennetts who was at Panania Branch.

Week 1: God the Father Welcomes You at any Time

Bible Truth: The Father waits and welcomes us when we come to Him. And we have known and believe the love that God has for us – whoever believes in Him, will not perish, but live eternally.

Scripture Reference: Matthew 11:28, Mark 10:14, Luke 15:24

Bible Verses to learn: John 3:16, 1 John 4:16, Matthew 11:28, Mark 10:14

Lesson Aim: To help each child understand God is always available. God loves us and wants us to love and obey Him – to come to Him at all times for help and understanding.

Story: The Prodigal Son from Luke 15:11-32

Points to emphasize:

Verse 11 - At the beginning was a man – the Father.

Verse 12 - The Father gave the Son what he wanted.

Verse 17 - The Son realised the Father's workers were better off than he was.

Verse 18 - The Son decided to go home to his Father, the Son admits he was wrong. The Son felt he was unworthy to be the son of the Father.

Verse 20 - The Son went back to the Father, even as the Son came, the Father was waiting and ran to meet the Son.

Summing Up: Like the Father in the story, God is and has always been from the beginning. He made us and loves us. He wants us to love and obey Him, but like the prodigal son, He will allow us to go our own way if we greatly desire it. We need to realise we are sinners who need God's forgiveness. We must decide to come to God, the Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ, (who is the way to God) and ask God to come into our lives – we are too unworthy to be called Sons and Daughters of God. God is ever ready and waiting to welcome us into the family of God. Won't you come to God today?

If a child makes a commitment to God, then encourage him/her to read the Bible each day – make a time to come to God the Father who wants us to pray and read His word every day.

Activity: Make and decorate a serviette for a visitor with a welcome message on it. Or make a placemat (paper or material) with a verse on it.

Songs: Father welcomes all His children

We are Family

Love the Lord

Pass it on

Light up the Fire

Into my heart

Game: Obstacle Race – Get the children to run an obstacle course using what ever you have on hand. (Just like the Prodigal son who may have encountered many obstacles to get home.)