

# Confession

## 1. Prodigal dramas—(You'll need Bibles.)

Form three groups and have each group read Luke 15:11-24. When they're finished, say something like: **This is a story some of us may have heard before, but let's see how the story might change if we create a "remake" using modern circumstances.**

Assign each group one of these three scenarios: (1) Instead of leaving home, the younger son gets addicted to drugs. (2) Change the younger son into a teenage girl who gets pregnant out of wedlock. (3) Instead of leaving home, the younger son gets suspended from school for cheating on his exams.

Say something like: **As much as possible, leave the story line intact—change only what is necessary to update the story with your new character. Work as a group to design your "remake," then prepare to present it to the whole group.**

As kids redesign their stories and prepare their dramas, make sure everyone is involved in the re-creation and the drama. Encourage kids to play the role of props or provide "special effects" where appropriate in the story. Have them take turns presenting their "remakes."

## 2. Common sins—(You'll need 3x5 cards, pens, and Bibles.)

Give each person a 3x5 card and a pen. Say something like: **These dramas illustrate some of the sins lots of young people get caught up in. But those aren't the only sins we struggle with. On your 3x5 card, write a symbol or word that represents a sin you struggle with in your own life.**

When kids have done this, say something like: **We all struggle with sin. What can this story teach us about what it means to confess our sins to God, and why confession is so important? Let's find out.**

Have kids return to their three groups, and give each group one of these mini-assignments: Group 1—Read Luke 15:17. When it says the son "came to his senses," what do you think that means? Group 2—Read Luke 15:20. When it says the son "got up and went to his father," how might that apply to the way we deal with sin in our own lives? Group 3—Read Luke 15:21. In the story, the son confessed his sin to his father. What might that "confession" look like in our own lives?

When groups are finished, have them take turns sharing their discoveries with the whole group. Then say something like: **True confession is more than just admitting we've done something we shouldn't. It involves a change of heart, a change of mind, and a change of direction. Confession is an important spiritual discipline because it helps us fight against the power sin can gain over our lives. The fact is that sin is crazy, and confession helps us "come to our senses" and realize that we really don't want the sin at all.**

**What we really want is God.**

## 3. True confessions—(You'll need the 3x5 cards from the previous activity and a Bible.)

Have kids pull out their 3x5 cards. Say something like: **We all struggle with sin—no one is exempt. But when we confess our sins to God honestly and with humility, God will always forgive us—just like the father in the story. Jesus died on the cross to make that wonderful gift of forgiveness possible. We just need to "come to our senses" and receive it. Let's close in a time of silent prayer. During our prayer time, quietly confess your sin to God.**

Close the prayer time by reading aloud the end of the story—Luke 15:22-24. Then say something like: **Amen. Go and celebrate God's forgiveness in your life.** ☒