

.. FANTASY ..

xx REALITY xx

Goal:

God gives real-life blessings!

Scripture Verses:

Luke 15:11-32

Philippians 4:6-7

John 10:10b

As kids develop the ability to think idealistically, they tend to trade in reality for fantasy. "If only I had a different family..." or "If only I were the top athlete and most popular person in school...then life would be wonderful." The "if only" of life blinds us to God's real blessings. This lesson will take a look at how God's love helps us on the road back to realistic expectations.

Choose Your Opening

Option: 1: Shipwrecked

(For this activity, obtain two life jackets if possible. If life jackets are not available, use two coats. Designate one side of your room as a sinking ship, and place the life jackets or coats there)

Have kids stand by the life jackets on the "sinking ship" side of your room. Tell them that the other side of the room is Fantasy Island. Whoever is wearing a life jacket can "swim" by walking between the ship and the island, but anyone not wearing a life jacket must be carried. You choose who wears the life jackets. Good luck!

When all the kids have landed on Fantasy Island, congratulate them on their successful escape. Then **Ask:**

- *What was easy or hard about escaping your sinking ship?
- *What problems do people try to escape from in real life?
- *How do fantasies help people escape their problems?

Now **Say:** Often when people face problems, stress, or boredom, they use fantasy—wishes or daydreams—to help them escape. They fantasize that life would be better if only they had more money or a bigger house or a better anything. Today we'll see that God's real-life blessings are better than any fantasies.

Option 2: Finding Facts

(For this activity, you'll need a box of toothpicks)

If possible have kids sit in a circle. Give each child 5 toothpicks. **Say:** Think of one fact people don't know about you; for example, someone might say, "I can run ten miles without stopping." Also make up one fantasy about yourself, but make it believable; for example, someone might say, "I have traveled in Mexico". One at a time, tell your fact and fantasy, then have the rest of your group guess which is the fantasy. Everyone who guesses wrong must give you a toothpick, but you must give a toothpick to everyone who guesses right. When everyone has finished, **Ask:**

- *Who had the most believable fantasy?
- *Why do we use fantasies to escape our problems or boredom in life?

Then **Say:** Sometimes people use fantasies—wishes or daydreams—to escape from life's problems, stress, or boredom. Today we'll see how God's real-life blessings are better than any fantasy.

THE BIBLE EXPERIENCE

Son on the Run

(For this activity, provide a grocery sack and markers for each person. You'll also need a Bible)



Give each person a grocery sack and a marker. Tell kids to draw a face and a thought balloon on their sacks. In their thought balloons, have kids write a common fantasy people their age might have, such as being the most popular person in school or magically acquiring fame and fortune. Have kids show their completed sacks to everyone.

Ask kids to put their sacks over their heads and walk until they touch a wall. Then have them take off their sacks and sit down in a circle.

Ask: *What are some common fantasies?

*How did it feel to try to "see through" your fantasy?

*How is that like or unlike trying to see thorough our fantasies in real life?

*How can our fantasies blind us to what's going on around us?

Say: Sometimes we get lost in our fantasies about how life would be so much better "if only" we had more wealth or more friends or nicer clothes. Our fantasies may blind us to some good things God has already given us. Let's hear a Bible story about a son and his fantasies.

Read aloud Luke 15:11-19. Give each child another grocery sack and a marker. Instruct each to draw the son's face and a thought balloon on their sacks. Have one write in their thought balloon the son's fantasy. For example, they might write: "Fortune! I'll have the time of my life!" Have someone else write in their thought balloon the son's thoughts about what really happened. For example, they might write: "Living with pigs! I'd be better off at home". Give time to complete tasks then ask them to show everyone.

Ask: *What were the son's fantasies? *How were his fantasies different from reality?

*When have you been disappointed by a fantasy that didn't come true?

Say: Let's read more about what happened to the son when he returned home.



Road to Reality

(For this activity, you'll need index cards, pencils, and a Bible)

Read Luke 15:20-32 aloud.

Ask:

- *What blessings awaited the son when he came back to reality?
- *How is fantasy different from reality?

Give each person an index card and a pencil. Have kids write on one side of their cards one problem they're facing at home or were at school before the virus came along. On the other side of their cards, have them write good things God has given them right now, such as friends, food, home, and health.

Ask:

- *How can the blessings you've listed help you handle the problem you're facing?
- *How are the blessings you've listed better than the fantasies you dream about?

Choose Your Closing

Option 1: Full Life

(For this activity, you'll need the cards from "Road to Reality", a big bag of popped popcorn, and a Bible)

Have kids join hands. Say: Let's pray for what we've written on our cards. Have kids pray silently about what they've written on their own cards. Close by reading aloud Philip-
pians 4:6-7. Then Say: Sometimes people use fantasy to escape their problems. Some-
times they want more excitement than they think real life has to offer. But listen to
what Jesus promises.

Read John 10:10b aloud. Stand in the center of the circle with the bag of popcorn, and
invite kids to hold out their hands. Approach each child and fill his or her hands so full of
popcorn that they overflow. As you do this, say to each child; Jesus came so you could
have life—life in all its fullness.

Option 2: Fantastic Facts

*(For this activity, you'll need the cards from "Road to Reality", additional index cards,
pencils, and a Bible)*

Have kids join hands. Say: Let's pray for what we've written on our cards.
Have kids pray silently about what they've written on their own cards. Close
the prayer by reading aloud Philippians 4:6-7. Then read aloud John 10:10b,
and say: When you know Jesus, your real life can be better than any fantasy.

Give each person an index card and a pencil. Have kids each write a short,
real-life affirmation of the person on their right. For example, someone may
write, "You are a good friend" or "You are fun to be around."

Have kids exchange cards. Tell kids to save the cards as reminders that
real life is better than any fantasy.