

The Wonderful Wizard of Ha's



What is the STORY about?

Meet Darby, the son of a Kansas floss farmer, who wants to have fun more than anything else in the world. When he learns about “The Land of Ha’s”—an amusement park with a mysterious wizard who promises to make his dreams come true—Darby is determined to go. But when his father tells him he’s needed to help with the harvest, Darby decides that nothing is going to stop him, and he makes a choice that will change his life forever. With his pet dog Tutu by his side, Darby flees the farm and sets off to find the wonderful “Land of Ha’s.” Along the way he meets a bored scarecrow, a tin man who wants to ride a roller coaster, and a lion that craves cotton candy. Each with their own dreams, they set off to see the wizard. This prodigal-son-like adventure reminds kids everywhere that there’s no place like home.

- *A Lesson in Unconditional Love*
- *Key Passage: Luke 15:11-32*
- *Running time: 49 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *What Bible story is similar to this show? (“The Prodigal Son”)*
- *Why doesn’t Darby’s dad allow him to go to “The Land of Ha’s?” (Because it’s far away, they don’t have the money, and they need to harvest the dental floss.)*
- *What convinces Darby that “The Wonderful Land of Ha’s” is not as fun as he thought? (He runs out of money and discovers that the wizard is really a fake.)*
- *Darby is afraid to return home. Why? (Darby thinks his father will never forgive him because he went to “The Wonderful Land of Ha’s” against his father’s wishes and spent all of his money.)*
- *How did Darby’s father respond when he saw Darby coming in the distance? (He ran to greet him, picked him up, and gave him a huge hug. Darby’s father forgave him and had a party to celebrate his son’s homecoming.)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The biblical account of The Prodigal Son can be found in Luke 15:11-32. Read the story in a translation that is easy to understand OR tell it in this condensed version.

Jesus told a story about a man who had two sons. The younger son wanted his inheritance so that he could leave home and travel to a far away land. There he wasted his money and lost everything that he had. He found a job feeding pigs, but he became so hungry that he thought of eating some of the pigs’ food because no one would help him or give him anything to eat. He finally realized what a big mistake he had made by leaving his home. He decided to return to his father, tell him that he was sorry, and ask to be treated like one of his hired men. When he was still far from his home, his father saw him and ran to him. The father threw his arms around his son and kissed him. The son told his father that he was not worthy to be his son, but the father forgave him and gave him a robe, a ring, and sandals for his feet. He had a feast prepared to celebrate the homecoming of his son that once was lost but now was found. The loving father forgave his son and welcomed him home.

The Story of a Prodigal Son



ACTIVITY

Select an item that is available among your group (scarf, vest, cap, sweater, ring). Assign each child a number and then write corresponding numbers on slips of paper and place in a container. Draw a number from the container and instruct the child with the corresponding number to wear the article that you have selected. That child will begin retelling the story of Darby from *The Wonderful Wizard of Ha's*. After a few sentences, draw another number and assign the next child the article and instructions to proceed with the story. Continue until everyone has had an opportunity to contribute to the story. Be sure to emphasize the ending of the story when Darby's father forgives him. Remind the children that our Heavenly Father always forgives us when we make wrong choices.



What can we DO?

God loves us with an unconditional love. Talk about the meaning of "unconditional love." (*Love without reservation or expecting anything in return.*)

God forgives us when we make bad choices. The father in our story forgave his son when he made a choice that was wrong.

- Encourage discussion about forgiving to family members who do things that hurt our feelings or make us feel bad and/or forgiveness that has been given when we hurt someone else. True forgiveness means you don't try to "get even."
- Make "forgiveness" cards for family members using note cards and crayons/markers. ("Please forgive me...I'm sorry" or "I forgive you... I love you")

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **Ephesians 4:32** "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."
- **Matthew 6:14** "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."
- **Colossians 3:13** "...Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

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Things to remember about the Prodigal Son

1. The son **LOST EVERYTHING** when he sought riches and a better life
2. He asked for **FORGIVENESS**
3. His father forgave him with an **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

KEY VERSE

(**1 JOHN 3:1**) "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God."

KEY NUGGET

There's nothing like forgiveness and there's no place like home.

