

## **JUNE THEME: TURN**

**Returning • Receiving • Following • Practicing Love**

### **BIG IDEA FOR THE MONTH**

We can always turn back to God, receive forgiveness, and follow Jesus into new life.

This month invites children, youth, and adults to explore what it means to TURN—to stop, notice where we are, and return to God’s love again and again. Through story, prayer, conversation, and practice, we remember that God never stops welcoming us home.

TURN is not about shame or punishment. It is about grace. Jesus shows us that every new beginning starts with being welcomed, loved, and invited forward.

### **CORE SCRIPTURES FOR THE MONTH**

#### **Gospel of Luke 15:11–32: The Forgiving Father / The Lost Son (aka the Prodigal Son)**

God welcomes us home with joy and compassion.

#### **Book of Psalms 51:10–12** “Create in me a clean heart, O God...”

God renews and restores us.

#### **Gospel of Matthew 4:18–20** “Follow me.”

Jesus calls ordinary people into new life.

### **MONTHLY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: TURN**

*Turning back to God happens in small moments every day:*

- Saying “I’m sorry”
- Beginning again
- Asking for help
- Choosing kindness
- Letting ourselves be loved
- Following Jesus one step at a time

Encourage every age group to practice this simple prayer throughout the month:

**“God, help me turn back to you.”**

### **WEEKLY FAMILY PRACTICE**

**SAY IT ALOUD:** Throughout the week, encourage households to repeat: “God welcomes me back.”

Ideas: say it in the car, write it on mirrors, include it in bedtime prayers, text it to family members, place it on the refrigerator

### **WEEK 1 TAKE-HOME BLESSING**

“May you know that no matter how far you wander, God runs to meet you with love. May you trust grace, receive welcome, and begin again in peace. Amen.”

**AGES 0–4 Main Idea:** God always welcomes you back.

**Main Story:** Gospel of Luke 15:11–32

**Story Focus:** Tell a simple version of the lost son story:

- A child goes far away
- The parent misses them
- The child comes home
- The parent runs to hug them

*Emphasize:* “God is happy when we come close again.”

### **Wonder Questions**

- Who helps you feel safe?
- What does a big welcome feel like?
- When do you like hugs?

### **Hands-On Ideas**

- Draw hearts and houses
- Practice “welcome home” hugs
- Make a simple path with blocks leading home
- Sing repetitive songs about God’s love

### **Sensory/Movement Activity**

Have children walk away from a caregiver and then joyfully run back for a hug while repeating: “God welcomes me back!”

### **Bedtime Prayer**

“God, thank you for loving me. Thank you for hugs and home. Amen.”

**AGES 5–10**

**Main Idea:** No matter what, God wants us to come back.

**Main Story:** Gospel of Luke 15:11–32

**Scripture Focus**

Retell the story of the lost son in child-friendly language.

Key verse: “My child was lost and now is found.”

**Discussion Questions**

- Why do you think the father ran to his son?
- Have you ever made a mistake and been forgiven?
- What do you think God says when we come back?

**Interactive Activities**

- Create “Welcome Home” signs
- Act out the story
- Draw two paths: “far away” and “coming home”
- Practice saying: “God welcomes me back.”

**Game Idea: “Turn Around Relay”**

Children walk the wrong direction, hear “TURN!”, then turn back and run toward the finish line labeled “Grace.”

**Bedtime Prayer**

“Dear God, thank you for loving me all the time. Thank you that I can always come back to you. Help me sleep knowing I am safe, loved, and forgiven. Amen.”

## **AGES 11–13 (Tweens)**

**Main Idea:** God’s grace is bigger than our mistakes.

### **Scripture Focus**

Read: Gospel of Luke 15 & Book of Psalms 51

notice: emotions, reactions, surprises, questions

### **Group Discussion**

- Why is it hard to admit we need help?
- Why do people sometimes stay “far away” emotionally?
- What does real forgiveness feel like?
- Which brother do you relate to most?

### **Expanded Journal Prompts**

- When have I needed a second chance?
- What makes it difficult to believe I’m fully forgiven?
- Have I ever welcomed someone back—or refused to?
- What would it look like to start again in one part of my life?
- What do I think God feels when I turn back?

### **Creative Response**

- write a prayer
- write a song lyric
- write a text message from the father to the son
- write a modern retelling of the story

### **Dinner Discussion Questions**

- What does forgiveness change inside a person?
- Why do shame and grace often feel opposite?
- What does “coming home” mean emotionally?
- What would radical welcome look like at school or online?

### **Closing Prayer**

“God, help me believe your grace is real, even when I struggle to forgive myself. Teach me how to return to you and welcome others with love. Amen.”

## **Ages 14–18 (Teens)**

**Main Idea:** Turning back takes honesty, humility, and courage.

### **Scripture Exploration**

Read: Gospel of Luke 15:11–32, Book of Psalms 51:10–12 & Gospel of Matthew 4:18–20

### **Themes to Explore**

- shame vs. repentance
- resentment and comparison
- identity after failure
- the difficulty of receiving grace
- Jesus' invitation to begin again

### **Discussion Questions**

- Why do people sometimes resist grace?
- What role does pride play in forgiveness?
- Is restoration always immediate?
- What would it mean to truly believe you are loved after failure?

### **Reflection Exercise**

Consider one thing you wish you could start over. What would healing feel like? What would a new beginning look like?

### **Dinner/Anytime Discussion:**

- Why do you think the society is drawn to cancel culture? or online shaming?
- When do you hear gossip? Do you participate? What is behind gossip?
- When have you felt excluded? When have you excluded others?
- What does it look like and take to rebuild trust with people we have hurt? With people who have hurt us?

**Ask:** *What would Jesus-like restoration look like in these spaces?*

### **Spiritual Practice:** Nightly reflection this week

- Where did I feel far from God today?
- Where did I feel welcomed back?

## Adults

**Main Idea:** God's grace continually invites us into transformation.

### **Scripture Reflection**

Read: Gospel of Luke 15, Book of Psalms 51 & Gospel of Matthew 4

### **Themes for this week**

- repentance as healing, not punishment
- grace and self-forgiveness
- resentment and comparison
- responding to Jesus' call
- practices of beginning again

### **Discussion Questions**

- Which character in Luke 15 do you identify with today?
- What keeps us from returning to God honestly?
- How has your understanding of forgiveness changed over time?
- What spiritual practices help you “turn back”?
- How can churches become places of genuine welcome?

### **Personal Reflection**

“What part of my life needs to turn back toward God?”

### **Spiritual Practice for the Week**

Practice a simple daily confession:

1. Notice where you felt disconnected
2. Name it honestly
3. Receive grace
4. Begin again

### **Suggested Closing Prayer**

“Merciful God, when we wander, call us home. When shame weighs heavily on us, remind us of your grace. Create in us clean hearts and teach us to follow Jesus with joy. Amen.”