

Home Again!

Luke 15:11-32; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 198-211



Has anyone you loved ever gone away, or moved away from home? How did you feel when they left? Did they ever come back for a visit? A long time ago an unhappy son left home. Here's his story.

Dad, please, I want my part of the inheritance money now!" The young man spoke firmly as he put his hand on his father's arm. He wanted to get away from his family . . . and hard work.

Father sighed. "You've asked so many times. Are you sure? Maybe the time has come to give you your share." The son couldn't help noticing that his father had tears in his eyes as he spoke.

Before long, the inheritance money was divided, and the young man packed his bags and headed out. He went to another country, far away from the farm life he had known. He had plenty of money to spend, and that's just what he did! If he wanted something, he bought it. He gave big parties. He wasted money on whatever his heart desired. And he made new friends who helped him spend his inheritance.

But one shocking day, he realized that his money was gone. No more parties. No more buying whatever he wanted. And no more friends! Everything was gone!

He began to look for a job, but the country was having hard times. In fact, it was a time of

famine. There was no work, and no food to be found.

Finally, someone gave him a job feeding pigs. It was about as disgusting a job as he could imagine, but at least it was a job. He thought he was starving. Even the pig's food looked good to him.

He suddenly said to himself, *What am I doing here? How did I get myself into this mess? Even the people who are servants at my father's*



The Message

People in God's family never stop caring for each other.

Memory Verse

"This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found"

(Luke 15:24, NIV).

house have enough to eat! In fact, they usually have food left over! I know what I can do! I'll go back home and ask my father to hire me as a servant!

As fast as his legs could carry him, the young man headed toward home. He practiced what he would say when he got there. It always began, "Father, I have sinned . . ."

When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. *Can it be?* he thought. *Can it really be my son?* Dashing down the road, he wrapped his boy in a big hug. They laughed and cried together. And then the son began his speech.

"Father, please forgive me. I've sinned against God and against you. I don't deserve to be called your son anymore. . . ."

Before he could finish what he had planned to say, his father called to his servants. "Quick! Bring the best robe for my son. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

Run back to the house and get a feast ready. My

boy has come home, and we're going to celebrate.

This is my son who was lost. I thought he was dead, but he's alive!"

Today, in our own family and in our church family, we want to be just like that father. We want to care about people, even when they make bad choices. We want to accept everyone with love. And we want to celebrate when someone comes home to Jesus.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, play hide and seek with your family. Pretend you are the “lost” son in the Bible lesson story. Who is watching out for you? Read your Bible lesson together.

READ Read Luke 15:20. Teach the memory verse to your family.

SING Sing a praise song before prayer. Thank God for watching over you.

S U N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Luke 15:11-20. Whom do you think the son represents? The father? Ask God to help you make wise choices.

MAKE Begin a picture book of events in the story.

DO Write the memory verse words below on smiley face cutouts—one word per cutout. Luke 15:24 will help you put them in the right order.

of and was mine dead alive lost was son he is is found this again and

M O N D A Y

READ During family worship read and discuss Luke 15:21-32. Did the son say all he had planned? Why? Add drawings to your story picture book.

DO Arrange your memory verse cutouts. Say the verse. Then thank God for a loving family.

DO Sing “I Have the Joy” (Sing for Joy, No. 109).

The law said the younger son would get one-third of his father’s property.



T U E S D A Y

DO For family worship tell your lesson story in your own words, using your picture book version.

DO The lost son wasn’t the only lost one in the Bible. Read the following texts and discover what was lost and found. Write it in the blanks.

Luke 15:9 _____ Matthew 18:12, 13 _____

PRAY Pray for people you know who have turned away from God.

DO Arrange the memory verse cutouts without help.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE During family worship read 1 John 4:8. Then make a card that says, “God loves you no matter what. And so do I.” Think about someone who has hurt you and send them the card. Ask God to help you love each other.

DO Ask a family member to help you look up the word “prodigal” in a dictionary. What does it mean?

DO Say your memory verse in front of a mirror. Then thank God for His love.



T H U R S D A Y

READ

During worship look up these texts and read about some people who were separated from God for a time. Tell why and write their names.

Genesis 28:10-13 _____

Exodus 2:11-15 _____

2 Samuel 12:13 _____

DO Make up a tune for your memory verse.

DO When the prodigal son came home, his father celebrated with a party. Celebrate your family's love by enjoying a special treat. Thank God for that love.

F R I D A Y

SHARE

During worship act out your lesson story as a family. Put a lot of emotion and energy into it. If you have party noisemakers, use them at the end of the story.

THINK

Read Ephesians 4:32. The lost son made his wrongs right and his father forgave him. Take time now to make right any hurts you might have had in your family this week. Pray together that you will always love and care for each other no matter what.

SING

Sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (Sing for Joy, No. 140, verse 1).

Home Again!

PUZZLE

Directions: Help the Prodigal Son find his way home again.

