

## Lesson 15: The Lost Son

[Luke 15:11-32](#)

**Youtube Link:** <https://youtu.be/xzABQsGhdDo>

**Children's Bible Story Video:** <https://youtu.be/pbK75WGRatw>

**Worship Theme:** God is loving and forgiving.

**Memory Verse:** The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. (Psalm 145:8)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. Jesus Loves Children [https://youtu.be/8iUI62Zo\\_Co](https://youtu.be/8iUI62Zo_Co)
2. Lord I Confess to You <https://youtu.be/cNotlSrjHl0>
3. Be Humble Before the Lord <https://youtu.be/7WO74xMesGU>

### Pray

**Song:** Select songs from the list above.

### Icebreaker:

Materials Needed: Paper that says "Sin" "Love" "Forgiveness" (See below)

SIN
LOVE
FORGIVENESS

1. Give to the children 1 folded paper that either says "Sin" "Love" or "Forgiveness."
2. When everyone has the paper, ask them to open it.
3. Children with "Sin" needs to find others with either "Love" or "Forgiveness." (They can have both "Love" and "Forgiveness.")
4. Children with "Love" or "Forgiveness" need to find children with "Sin."
5. The first group with "Sin" + "Forgiveness" OR "Sin" + "Love" OR "Sin" + "Love" + "Forgiveness" can sit down.
6. If there are any children with "Sin" who were not able to find "Love" or "Forgiveness," they can join any group that has "Love" or "Forgiveness."
7. Explain to the children that when we do bad things, they are called sin. And when we sin, we get farther away from God. The only way for us to be cleansed from sin is through love and forgiveness from God.
8. Have all the children say, "God loves me and forgives me!"

### Introduction:

Materials Needed: A big bowl with water, a small plastic container, rocks



1. Pour water into the big bowl and let the small plastic container float on the water.
2. We are like the plastic container that is floating on the water when we have a good relationship with God.
3. But when we sin, we begin to sink into the water.
4. What are some things that we can do that are bad? (Examples: lie, fight, steal, hate) These bad things are what we call sin.



5. Add a rock into the plastic container every time the children mention some sinful actions until it sinks into the water.
6. But when we return to God and ask God for forgiveness, God will forgive us.

7. Have the children say, "I'm sorry, God. Please forgive me" and remove a rock every time they say this until all the rocks are removed and the container floats again.
8. Remember that God loves us and forgives us when we turn to him!
9. In conclusion, what is sin? Sin is ungodly thoughts, wrong words, wrong actions that God does not approve of. **Have the children stand up and use gestures for sinful actions.**

Ungodly thoughts: Point to our head

Wrong words: Point to mouth.

Wrong actions: Make a fist and hit on top of each other.

What God does not like: Wave arms to say "no"

### **Bible Story:**

There was a father who had two sons. The father had lots of money to give his sons as inheritance before he died. But the youngest son didn't want to wait. He said, "Father, give me the money now." The father was sad that his younger son wouldn't wait because this showed that his younger son did not love him. But the father gave him the money anyway.

The son spent all the money on fun things. He spent it on parties and food and his friends—anything that he thought was fun. He did not think about his father or his father's love. Pretty soon all his money was gone. He couldn't pay for food or a house to live in. He was sorry about wasting his father's money. He wanted to go home but he was afraid his father would be angry at him. So he decided to ask his father to take him back as his servant, not as his son.

But when he was still far from his house, his father ran toward him. The father was waiting for his son to return every day. The father wasn't mad. He was happy to see that his son returned to him! He knew the boy was sorry, and because he loved his son, he forgave him. The father gave his son new clothes and a great big party to celebrate and invited all his friends.

This is how God feels about you and me. When we do wrong things and we're sorry, he doesn't want us to hide or run away from him. He wants us to return to him and ask for forgiveness. When we do, because God loves us, he forgives us.

### **Questions to discuss:**

1. Which son asked the father for the inheritance instead of waiting? (The younger son)
2. What did the younger son asking for the inheritance show? (This showed that his younger son did not love the father)
3. What did the son use the money for? (Drink, gamble, go to nightclub to have fun with friends and girls)
4. How did the father react when the son returned home after wasting all the money? (He loved and forgave him and threw him a big party; he hugged and kissed him, gave him a ring, new clothes)
5. How would God react when we return to God with a sorry heart after doing something bad? (He will love us and forgive us)

### **Memory Verse:**

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. (Psalm 145:8)

### **Craft: "Jesus Loves Me and Forgives Me" Coloring Page (See below)**

1. Please help the students write the memory verse after they're done coloring.

**Song:** Select songs from the list above

### **Pray**

#### **Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)**

It probably was no coincidence that the father spotted the son from a distance. More than likely, he was waiting and watching daily for his boy to return. Picture a God anxious to meet you even when you feel ashamed. Know his love for you, and cherish the relationship you have with Jesus. Pray for the children who may need to meet God today.

SIN

LOVE

FORGIVENESS

# “Jesus Loves Me and Forgives Me”



Memory Verse: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---