



At-A-Glance: Ages 10-12
Kings & Kingdoms Part 1: The Life of Jesus
Unit 6, Lesson 31

The Lost Son

Lesson Aim: To know God always welcomes us back to Him. (Salvation Message)

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is the most disgusting thing you have eaten?

GAME: Handshake Marathon

THE WORSHIP JESUS AS THE KING WHO TEACHES

Read Worship Scripture: John 14:6.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook.

THE WORD THE LOST SON

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Today, we will hear the Parable of the Lost Son. Reveal Bible Story
Scripture Reference: Luke 15:20-24. Find It First. Highlight Key Verse: Luke 15:24. Pray. Read.

THE WAY GOD THE FATHER FORGIVES AND WELCOMES US

Was the father angry when the son finally came back home? (No.)
What did the father do when he saw the son coming home? (Hugged and kissed him.)

This parable is like a picture of the times when our hearts go to a distant land far from our heavenly Father. Display coin, ring and sandal strap. **Here are three symbols of the parable to remind us of the ways our heavenly Father welcomes us when we come to Him.**

1. **MONEY:** The money reminds us of forgiveness. The father forgave the son for taking the money and spending it all on wild living. Just as the son went far from his father, when we spend our time and savings on something else, our hearts feel far from God. What kinds of things keep our hearts far from God? Take seven seconds of silence to think about something you do that keeps your heart far from God.

Silently ask God to forgive you and He will! Children bow heads in silent confession for seven seconds.

2. **RING:** When the son came back, what did the father give him? (Ring, robe, sandals, feast.) **What do those gifts mean to you?** The ring reminds us of God's love because it has no end. The robe reminds us He cares for us. We belong to Him.
3. **SANDAL STRAP:** What does the gift of sandals mean to you? The sandals remind us we can walk with God every day. When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts forever. The Holy Spirit helps us do things God's way instead of our way.

If you prayed the ABC Prayer or one like it, you will live forever close with God! Some of you may have prayed that prayer a long time ago, but now feel distant from God. Just as the father was not angry, God is not angry with you. God is waiting with open arms. If you have wandered away from God and want to be very close with Him again, pray this prayer with me now. Pray a brief prayer of recommitment. **Whenever anyone prays a prayer like these, all of heaven celebrates.** Provide Children's Guide for New Believers.

If time allows, read The Angry Brother discussion in the Got Time? segment.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God the Father is always ready to welcome us home when we return to Him. 800 years before Jesus told this parable, the prophet Joel spoke the words of the Lord as He called His people to return to Him. Reveal Joel 2:12-13. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: The Lost Son Kingdom Parable Sticker
- W³ BETWEEN THE LINES Journal Entry #31
- OFFERING OF ART: Father hugging his son
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Pig Slop

GAME: Homecoming Relay

CRAFT: Parable Wind Chimes–The Lost Son

DISCUSSION: The Angry Brother

BONUS PARABLE: The Unforgiving Servant

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Fruit Concentrate, Fruit of the Spirit Hopscotch

KINGDOM PARABLE REVIEW