



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
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

What did the son do when he left his father? (Spent his money on wild living in a distant land.) **What did the father do when his son came home?** (Hugged and kissed him.) **What did the son say?** ("Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.") **How is the lost son like us when we choose to do things our way instead of God's way?**

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! Whenever anyone prays a prayer like that, all of heaven celebrates. What do you think heaven's celebration looks like? Provide Children's Guide for New Believers to those who prayed.

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

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Without Jesus, we are like the lost son, far from our heavenly Father. God the Father welcomes and forgives us when we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Jesus saves all who believe in Him from a life forever apart from God. 800 years before Jesus told this parable, the prophet Joel explained how we can be saved for a life forever close with God. Reveal Joel 2:32. 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
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- 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