

## The Prodigal Son Parable Lesson

By Felicia Mollohan

Bible Reference: Luke 15:11-32

Lesson Objective: The children will learn how God feels when we repent and come back to Him.

Target Age: 1st grade - 5th grade

### Items Needed:

various items that can be hidden around the room

black crayons

paper

crayons

paper clips

### Welcome Activity:

Before class, hide different items around the classroom. Make a list, on the white board or on a piece of paper, of the hidden items. When the children arrive, let them know that you need help finding some lost items and let them go have fun.

### Bible Lesson Introduction:

"What items did you find?"

"What was it like when you couldn't find an item you were looking for?"

"What did it feel like when you found an item that was lost?"

"Have any of you ever been lost? What was it like for you? What do you think it was like for your parents?"

### Bible Lesson:

Read through Luke 15:11-32 in your Bible, explaining as you read to make sure the children are understanding.

You could use the A Prodigal Son: The Parable told by Jesus Skit to have the children involved in the telling of the story.

So there's this father who has two sons. His youngest son wants to go off on his own and live life the way he wants. So one day, he goes to his father and asks for his share of the inheritance. His father complies and the younger son goes on his way.

For awhile, life is great for him. He has a lot of friends and has a lot of parties. Eventually, his money runs out. He doesn't have any friends and doesn't even have enough to buy some food.

He gets a job feeding pigs. It was then, when the pigs' food looked good enough to eat, that he decides to go back to his father and work for him.

When he's almost home, his father sees him and runs out to greet him. He has a great party for the return of his son. Everyone is excited and happy that the younger son has returned. All but the older son. He is mad that his father is giving a party for his brother who left. His father tells him that he should be happy that his brother has decided to come back.

#### Bible Lesson Understanding:

God is the father in this parable. Christians who follow God's Word and do not stray are the older brother. Christians who stray from the faith, but decide to come back, are the younger brother.

#### Bible Lesson Activity: Black Crayon Picture

Give each child a piece of paper. Have them fill the entire page with color. Make sure that they don't just draw a picture, but actually fill the entire page with color. Using the sides of the crayons, with the papers off, sometimes is the easiest way to get full color faster.

After the full page is covered with color, hand each child a black crayon. They are to color heavy black color over their page. It needs to be thick and black enough to cover all of the color.

After the full page is covered with black, hand each child a paper clip. They can scratch off some of the black (making a picture if they want) to show the color underneath.

#### Bible Verse:

Luke 15:32 "But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found."

#### Bible Verse Activity: Hand Motions

"But we had to celebrate and rejoice" – raise hands up and pump up and down

"for this brother of yours was dead" – close your eyes

"and has begun to live" – open eyes and smile

"and was lost" – shrug shoulders

"and has been found" – point as if you found something

Luke 15 – hold up 1 finger on right hand and 5 fingers on left hand

32 - hold up 3 fingers on right hand and 2 fingers on left hand

Evaluation:

Discuss with the children about their pictures that they colored. They used such beautiful colors to fill the page. Then they had to cover up the beauty with the black. The black represents the sin in our lives. Sometimes it covers the beauty that is in our lives. But, when we decide to repent and come back to our Lord, the blackness can be scratched away to find beauty again.



# The Prodigal Son

Booklet from:  
Luke 15:11-32

By Felicia Mollohan

And He said, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight, I am no longer worthy to be called your son, make me as one of your hired men."' So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he became angry and was not willing to go in, and his father came out and began pleading with him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours, and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends, but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'"





# The Prodigal Son

Reader from:  
Luke 15:11-32

By Felicia Mollohan

And He said, "A man<sup>1</sup>  
had two sons. The  
young-er of them  
said to his fath-er,  
'Fath-er, give me  
the share of the  
e-state that falls  
to me.' So he  
di-vi-ded his wealth  
be-tween them.

2 And not man-y days  
lat-er, the young-er  
son gath-ered  
ev-er-y-thing  
to-geth-er and  
went on a jour-ney  
in-to a dis-tant  
coun-try, and there  
he squan-dered his  
e-state with loose  
liv-ing.

Now when he had 3  
spent ev-er-y-thing,  
a sev-ere fam-ine  
oc-curred in that  
coun-try, and he  
be-gan to be  
im-pov-erished.

4

So he went and  
hi-red him-self out  
to one of the  
cit-i-zens of that  
coun-try, and he  
sent him in-to his  
fields to feed swine.

5

And he would have  
glad-ly filled his  
stom-ach with the  
pods that the swine  
were eat-ing, and no  
one was giv-ing  
an-y-thing to him.

6 But when he came  
to his sen-ses, he  
said, 'How man-y of  
my fa-ther's hi-red  
men have more  
than e-nough bread,  
but I am dy-ing  
here with hun-ger!

I will get up and go 7  
to my fa-ther, and  
will say to him,  
"Fa-ther, I have  
sin-ned a-against  
heav-en, and in your  
sight;



8

I am no long-er  
worth-y to be  
called your son;  
make me as one of  
your hi-red men.”

9

So he got up and  
came to his  
fa-ther. But while  
he was still a long  
way off, his  
fa-ther saw him  
and felt  
com-pas-sion for  
him, and ran and  
em-braced him and  
kissed him.

10

And the son said to  
him, 'Fa-ther, I have  
sinned a-against  
heav-en and in your  
sight; I am no  
long-er worth-y to  
be called your son.'

11

But the fa-ther  
said to his slaves,  
'Quick-ly bring out  
the best robe and  
put it on him, and  
put a ring on his  
hand and san-dals  
on his feet;

12

and bring the  
fat-tened calf, kill  
it, and let us eat  
and cel-e-brate, for  
this son of mine  
was dead and has  
come to life a-gain;  
he was lost and has  
been found.' And  
they be-gan to  
cel-e-brate.

13

"Now his old-er son  
was in the field, and  
when he came and  
ap-proached the  
house, he heard  
mu-sic and danc-ing.

14

And he sum-moned  
one of the  
ser-vants and  
be-gan in-quir-ing  
what these things  
could be. And he said  
to him, 'Your  
bro-ther has come,  
and your fa-ther has  
killed the  
fat-tened calf be-  
cause he has re-  
ceived him back safe

15

But he be-came  
an-gry and was not  
will-ing to go in; and  
his fa-ther came  
out and be-gan  
plead-ing with him.

16

But he an-swered  
and said to his  
fa-ther, 'Look! For  
so man-y years I  
have been serv-ing  
you and I have  
ne-ver ne-glect-ed a  
com-mand of yours;  
and yet you have ne-  
ver giv-en me a  
young goat, so that  
I might cel-e-brate  
with my friends;

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17

but when this son  
of yours came, who  
has de-voured your  
wealth with  
pros-ti-tutes, you  
killed the fat-tened  
calf for him.'

18 And he said to him,

‘Son, you have

al-ways been with

me, and all that is

mine is yours.

But we had to

19

cel-e-brate and

re-joice, for this

bro-ther of yours

was dead and has

be-gun to live, and

was lost and has

been found.””

## The Prodigal Son - A Parable told by Jesus

By Felicia Mollohan

This skit was written directly from Luke 15:11-32. A father has two sons and the younger son takes his inheritance and squanders it, while the older son stays and does his duty to help his father. The younger son comes back and the older son gets angry that the father throws a party for him. The father explains that his brother was lost, but now is found. Jesus told this parable to explain how we should all be happy when someone leaves the faith, but comes back.

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Characters:

Jesus

Father

Older Son

Younger Son

Citizen

Servants

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Jesus: A man had two sons.

Younger Son: Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.

Father: I will divide my wealth between you and your older brother.

Jesus: And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished.

Younger Son: I am out of money and I have no food. Maybe I can get a job with a local citizen.

Citizen: I'll hire you. I need someone to go into my fields and feed my swine.

Younger Son (feeding swine): Wow! I am so hungry that these pods that the swine are eating actually look good. (acts like he is about to eat some of it, but stops)

Younger Son: What am I thinking? How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.



Jesus: So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

Younger Son: Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.

Father (to servants): Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.

Jesus: And they began to celebrate. Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

Older Son (to servants): What is going on over there?

Servant: Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound. Won't you go in and celebrate with them?

Older Son (angrily): No, I won't go in. I can't believe all of this!

Father: Son. Won't you come in and celebrate with us?

Older Son: Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.

Father: Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.