



The Parables: The Prodigal Son  
*Luke 15:11-24*

*LESSON SUPPLY LIST*

- Bible w/ Marked Scripture
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Cut Apart Story Cards
- Copies of Coloring Page
- Copies of lesson overview for children to take home

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## The Parables: The Prodigal Son

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*<sup>11</sup>And he said, A certain man had two sons:*

*<sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.*

*<sup>13</sup>And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.*

*<sup>14</sup>And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.*

*<sup>15</sup>And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.*

*<sup>16</sup>And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.*

*<sup>17</sup>And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*

*<sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,*

*<sup>19</sup>And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.*

*<sup>20</sup>And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

*<sup>21</sup>And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.*

*<sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:*

*<sup>23</sup>And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:*

*<sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.*

### Objective of Lesson:

In this parable our Lord Jesus Christ shows us how pleasing it is to God to save sinners by his matchless, free grace in Christ. The whole parable is a picture of God's free and saving grace.

## Lesson Instructions:

1. The following story is called a Parable. A Parable is a story that our Lord Jesus Christ told to illustrate and teach us how He has mercy on sinners. The parable we are going to hear today is called The Prodigal Son.
2. Once there lived a man who had two sons. Now this man had worked hard to make a fortune that he could leave for his boys when he died. One day his younger son came to him and said, "Father, I am no longer happy here with you. I want my share of your fortune now so I can spend it as I please." Sadly the father divided up all that he had and gave the son his portion.
3. Happy with his new wealth, the son did not take long in gathering up his things and leaving home. He traveled to a country far away, sure that his money was going to bring him everything he wanted.
4. Everywhere he looked in this new strange country there were things to spend his money on. He fell into wicked ways and made friends with wicked people. He played games with his money and bought things for himself and his new friends.
5. Before long, the young man found that all his money was gone. Because he had no money, the new friends who enjoyed his money with him, left him. He was left all alone. Those who had acted as if they were his friends no longer paid attention to him. He began to lose everything his father had given him. He saw that he was going to have to find a job in order to have anything to eat.
6. A great famine came upon that country, and food became very scarce. There were no crops to tend, and the man could not find a job. He was starving and he came across a farmer who agreed to let him feed his pigs. By this time he was so hungry that he would have eaten some of the husks that were fed to the pigs, but no one gave him any.
7. Among the smelling, grunting pigs, the young man could not help thinking of the wonderful home he had left. He thought of the servants who worked for his father and how much better off they were than he was. He had come to no other choice. He had to return to his Father and ask for forgiveness and mercy. He decided "I will go back to my father, I will tell him how sinful I have been and that I know I do not deserve to be his son any longer. Maybe however, he will let me live at home just as a hired servant. That would be enough."
8. Immediately he set out on the long journey toward home. For many days he traveled. Finally he saw his father's house in the distance. And someone stood there waiting for him. It was his father! The father ran to the son and fell on his neck.
9. The son told the Father "I am not good enough to be your son." But the father would not hear any of it. The father turned to one of his servants and said "Bring quickly the best robe for my son, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet. Then we will kill the fatted calf and prepare a great feast. It is time for a celebration!"
10. Just like this prodigal son, the pride and rebellion of every sinner's heart will, sooner or later, in one way or another, display itself. Though to all outward appearance this younger son should have been despised by his father, and he fully deserved his father's wrath, he was in reality the object of his father's love. He is the obvious rebel. He is the thankless, ungrateful wretch. This younger son's conduct is a clear representation of the pride and rebellion of our hearts by nature. This is a picture of your heart and mine by nature, this is what you are; and this is what I am. There are no exceptions. (Mark 7:21-23)

11. Just like this prodigal son, God brings us to a place where we have no other option but to turn to Him for mercy. This prodigal son had to return to his Father or he was going to die. That is a picture of how God's people turn to God the Father, having lost everything in our ruined and sinful state, because if we don't we will die. Even though we deserve the anger and wrath of God for our awful deeds, God our Father has mercy on us and welcomes us into his arms, clothes us and feeds us and restores life to us.
12. God does not give us mercy because we deserve it, we actually deserve to be cast out of God's house forever. However just like this prodigal son, because God delights in showing mercy to lost and ruined sinners we have life restored. It is a wonderful gift of God.

### **Activities:**

- Story Cards - Put them in the correct order
- Coloring Sheet

**The Parables: The Prodigal Son  
Take Home Overview Sheet**



### **Luke 15: 11-24**

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### **Objective of Lesson:**

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### **Overview of Lesson:**

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The Parables: The Prodigal Son  
Story Cards

Cut the following cards apart and have the children help you put them in the correct story order





