

Lesson 5

The Lost Son

Luke 15:11-24

The goal of this lesson is to guide students to see God's grace toward us before we even acknowledge who He is and what we are; a sinner. This story demonstrates God's Mercy and readiness to forgive us when we come to him with a heart of repentance. In this story we see the joy expressed when we come to God.



This logo means ideas for children

Bible Truths:

- Rebellion leads us far away from God
- Repentance brings us back home to God
- When we Repent God, our father, is ready to bring us into His family.
- God offers full Forgiveness: (restored relationship – acceptance)
- God, our Father wants us to come to Him just as we are (He will clean us up and dress us in His righteousness)
- Salvation brings Joy
- Salvation breaks the bondage of sin – true freedom
- God is filled with compassion for us.
- God wants us to turn to Him for salvation.
- God's grace doesn't give us what we deserve but permits God to love us and forgive us
- God's mercy receives us when we turn to Him in repentance

Life Truths:

- Sin has a short time of enjoyment but a consequence that last an eternity – separation from God
- Sin is like an addition it leaves you hungry (not satisfied)
- Sin is a Bondage/slave to sin
- God is waiting for me, I must turn to God and repent of my sin
- I can ask for God to forgive me and He will
- I can experience the joy of God's forgiveness/salvation
- I can rejoice when others receive God's salvation
- I can have true freedom through God's salvation
- Without God's grace I would have no hope

Introduction:

This week we have looked at God's love for man. God created man, Man disobeyed God, and Man's Sin blocked man so God and man not joined but separated. We saw God made a way to save Noah and his family when the flood came. We learned that God sent Jesus to be our Savior. If we repent, believe and accept Jesus in our hearts we are saved. He cherishes man. He will not tolerate sin but He has made a way for us to come to Him. God sent Jesus to us to show us about Him. He sent Jesus so we could again belong to Him. When Jesus was on earth he would tell stories to help people understand about God's Salvation and His Kingdom. One story Jesus told was about the Lost Son.

Story:

There was a man, he was wealthy; he owned a large area of land. There he had crops, cows, sheep. There, water plenty for his animals, his crops, and plenty of water and food his family. He had servants to work the fields and care for the animals. He had two sons and they would help him too. Everything they needed was there satisfied

One day the youngest son came to the father and said, "Father, I am bored and tired of working this farm, same old thing day after day. I want to get away from here and have some fun. Give me my share of wealth so I can leave. I want to be independent make my own choices and have some fun."

The father gave the son his portion of wealth. The son took it, gathered his things and he left. He went as far as he could go. He arrived at a place; there he found a place to hang out. He had plenty of money to buy all the drinks he wanted, buy all the food he wanted, He had wild parties, he had many friends and He did everything to satisfy himself. He didn't have to get up to go to work. He could stay up all night. There was no one to tell him what to do, he was free. This was the life he had dreamed of. Until one day his money spent all, gone, he was broke. His friends no longer interested in him, they left. A famine hit the land. Food was very limited. Jobs were very limited. He had no money to buy food and he became hungry. He searched, searched for work; finally, a man hired him to feed his pigs. He was relieved to have a job and get money and food. But the work was hard, daily, all day long, he would bring a bucket of scrap food to pour on the ground to feed the pigs (he would be dirty and sweaty). And he was so hungry (starving) but the man gave him no food. One day while he was feeding the pigs, he looked in the bucket and thought to himself, I'm so hungry I could eat this food. Then he remembered, "My father has many, many servants and he has plenty of bread to feed them. After they eat and eat till are full, still there is more bread have, plenty. I will go to my father, and I will confess that I have sinned. I am wrong and say I am sorry, I not deserved to be called his son. Maybe he will take me and hire as a servant."

He got up immediately (doesn't hesitate, doesn't clean himself or change clothes) and traveled to return to his father.

While he was still far off the father looked out across the land and saw him, recognized him and compassion (love/mercy) filled him. He ran to his son threw his arms around him hugged him and kissed him.

The son said, "Father, I have done wrong, sinned against you and God. I don't deserve to be called your son."

The father turned to his servants and said, "Quickly, bring the best robe and put it on him. Get the ring and place on his finger. Get the sandals and place on his feet. The fattest calf go and bring here kill it for our feast. We must celebrate! For this son was dead, now alive, was lost, now found."

They celebrated the son's return.

Activity:

- A. Ask the pupil the questions in order. After each question give pupils time to respond then tell the story again exactly the same way. Continue until you have completed all the questions. It is important to do all 5 questions.
1. What happened in this story? The events, sequence of the story-retelling of it.(who,when,where)
(leader: Tell the story again the exact same way)
 2. Tell me about God? What did you see or notice about God? What did you learn about God?
(leader: Tell the story again the exact same way)
 3. You like that story? Which part did you like? Which part you didn't like? How does this story make you feel?
(leader: Tell the story again the exact same way)
 4. What do you notice right? Wrong?
(Ask for a pupil to volunteer to tell the story)
 5. What will you change about yourself?
(Everyone is to answer the question directly. We can all learn something)
- B. Work on Bible Story Book
- C. Memory verse in ASL: 1 John 4:19, "I love God because (why?) He first loved me. "
- D. Bible Story Game



Coloring Pictures

Other activities as assigned

NOTES to the Teachers:

- Notice the boy did not have to work to earn his father's forgiveness. If the son had never returned to the father he never would have received the gifts and the restored relationship that was waiting for his return.
- He simply turned from where he was living and went to his father
- Before the son said anything, the father immediately demonstrates mercy to him and accepted his son just as he is.
- After that the boy admitted his sin and asked for forgiveness