

The Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Memory verse:

- *For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*
- *Preschool and Kindergarten: For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. John 3:16*

STORY TIME

We talked last time about the shepherd who lost the sheep and the woman who lost her coin. In both stories, the people lost something very precious to them. When they found the sheep and the coin, they were so happy!

Jesus told another story, but this time it's about a lost person.

There was once a man who had two sons. One day, the younger son told his father, "I want my share of your money now, instead of waiting until you die." So his father divided up his money and gave the younger son his portion.

A few days later, the younger son packed up everything he had and went far away from home. He began to spend all of the money his father had given him. He didn't save his money. So pretty soon, his money ran out! And just when the son had used up the last of the money, a famine hit the land. There was little food to eat. The boy became very hungry.

He finally found a job feeding pigs (YUCK!). That must have been very hard for him to do after having all that money. But he was so desperate for food, even the pig slop looked good to him! When the boy realized how low he had gotten, he thought about his father's home. He said to himself, "Even my father's servants had plenty of food to eat! I should go home, say I'm sorry, and ask him if I can be one of his servants."

So the boy returned home. But while he was still a long way from the house, his father looked out and recognized him on the road! The father was so happy to see his son! He ran out to his son and hugged him.

Immediately, his son said he was sorry for his bad behavior. He said, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and you should no longer call me son."

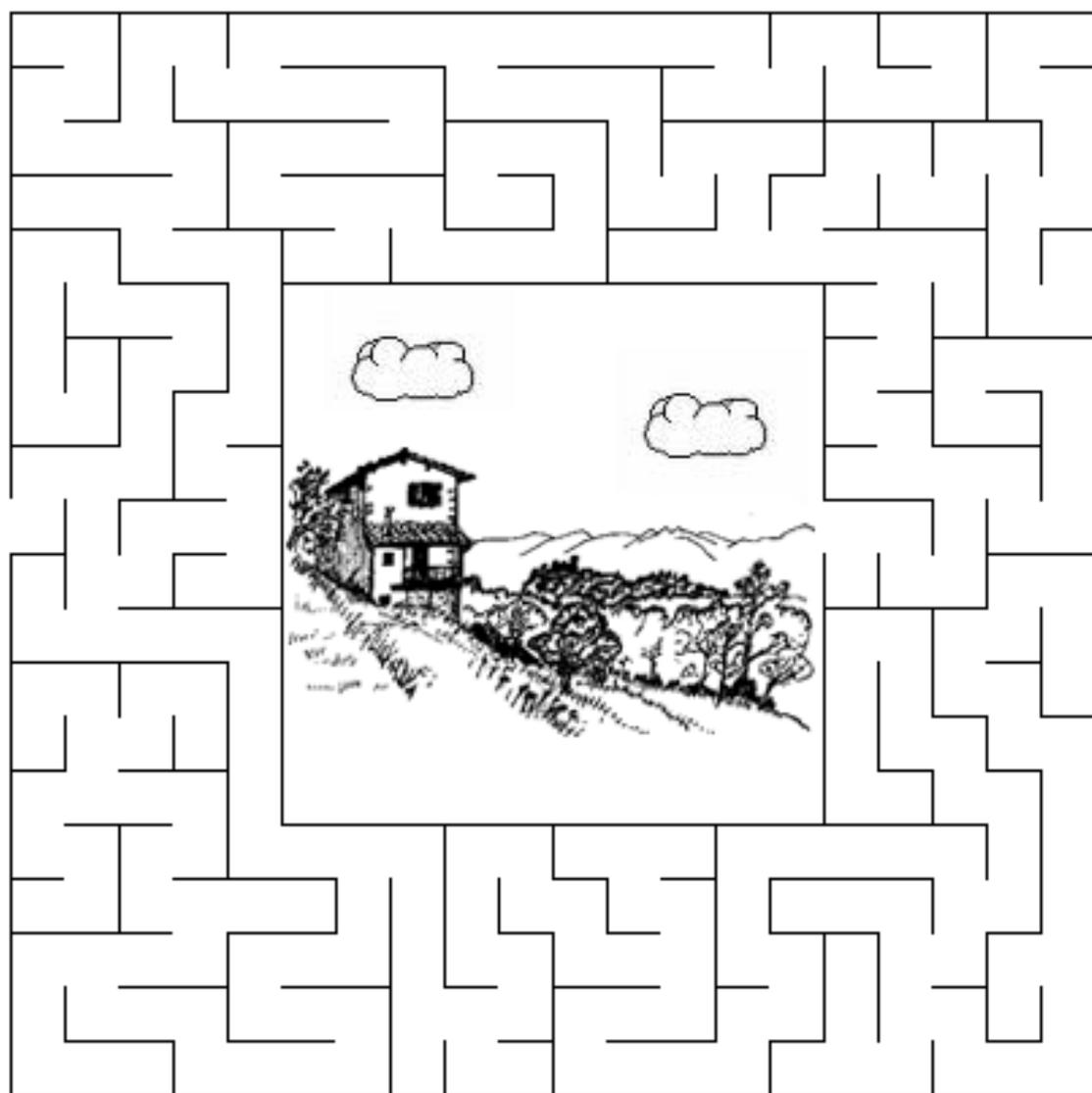
But his father didn't respond to his son. Instead, he called out to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best clothes and put them on my son! Bring a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet! Prepare the best food we have for a feast! My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!" And the celebration began.

Jesus told this story to show that God loves everyone. He wants all of us to be in His family. That is why He sent His own Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. When we ask God to forgive us from the bad things we do, He will. Then we can live for God. That makes God so happy!

ACTIVITY

- Sing “Amazing Grace.” Part of the verse says, “I once was lost, but now I’m found.” Talk about how we are all like the lost son until we accept Christ into our life.
 - https://library.timelesstruths.org/library/music/A/Amazing_Grace/Amazing_Grace.pdf
- Play Hide & Seek
- Hide things that the children have to find when the teacher calls out an item. When the item is found, the children will call out, “LOST BUT FOUND!”

Help the Prodigal Son find his way home.



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