I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)
God Receives Sinners

Choose a word to complete each sentence, and write it in the acrostic. Two answers are provided for you. The circled letters will give you the answer to number 20.

1. Jesus told this parable after the parable of the lost ___.
2. The ___ son rejected his father’s love and spent his inheritance on sinful living.
3. A ___ struck the land after the lost son had run out of money.
4. The lost son couldn’t even eat the food that had been given to the ___ (swine).
5. The lost son had lived a ___ life.
6. The lost son finally came to his ___.
7. The lost son wanted to return to his ___.
8. The lost son offered to become a ___ man in his father’s house.
9. The lost son knew that he had sinned against his ___ in heaven.
10. When he saw his son, the father was filled with ___.
11. The lost son admitted that he was not ___ to be called a son.
12. The father replied, “___ the fattened (fatted) calf!”
13. The father’s heart was ___ with joy when he saw his son.
14. The father eagerly ___ his son.
15. The father put the best ___ on his son.
16. The father gave him a ___.
17. The father gave him sandals (shoes) for his ___.
18. To celebrate the son’s return, they held a great ___.
19. The son who had been ___ now was found!

20. THE HEAVENLY FATHER RECEIVES REPENTANT SINNERS AND EAGERLY GIVES THEM

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ____
**We Live in our Father's House**

Look up the passages below and fill in the blanks to see what a wonderful inheritance we have as children of God living in the Father's house. Then, on the road leading away from the house, write some temptations and sins that could lead us to leave the Father's house and waste our inheritance, as the lost son did.

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 2 Corinthians 6:18</td>
<td>We are the Father’s ____________ and ____________ .</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. 1 John 3:1</td>
<td>The Father calls us his children—he must really ____________ us!</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. 1 Peter 5:7</td>
<td>The Father ____________ for us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. John 16:23</td>
<td>The Father will give us ____________ in Jesus’ name.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Psalm 103:13</td>
<td>The Father has ____________ on us.</td>
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<td>6. Romans 8:32</td>
<td>The Father gave up his own ____________ for us.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Jeremiah 31:34</td>
<td>The Father ____________ our sins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. John 14:2</td>
<td>The Father has many ____________ in heaven prepared for us.</td>
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Name ___________________________

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation 1</th>
<th>Situation 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, I told God I was sorry for my sin, and I know that his Word says he’ll forgive me. But I think he’ll remember this sin and hold it against me later.</td>
<td>I’ve repented, but I’m not sure that God will forgive all those sins. I was so bad for so long.</td>
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<th>Situation 3</th>
<th>Situation 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>I believe that God has forgiven me. But I know he doesn’t love me as much as before.</td>
<td>I feel sorry, but I don’t think that God really cares if I repent or not. He has a lot of other believers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Read the following situation and answer the questions below.

Chris used to make trouble at your school. He tagged the building with graffiti, he stole things, and he bullied other students. Then he was sent to a school for troubled kids. It’s a year later and he’s back. He says that he’s sorry for what he did and that he’s different now. He’s wondering if he can hang around with all of you. Five of your friends comment:

Mary: Does he think we’re going to just welcome him back with open arms?

Lou: No kidding! Mr. Jones was nicer to him today than he’s ever been to me. And I never messed up as bad as he did!

Lisa: Yeah. Don’t the teachers remember what he did around here?

James: I’m not so sure the guy has changed anyway. I’ll believe it when I see it!

Kara: You know, if he hangs around with us, everyone will think we’re rotten kids too.

1. How would you evaluate your friends’ comments? _____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Now what would you say? __________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
What God Does When I Sin

Luke 15:1-10

Anthony couldn’t sleep. The scene played over and over again in his mind. The ache in his stomach felt worse each time he watched it.

He and his new friends had gone out for ice cream after school. While the owner was scooping their double fudge mint, Jon hissed, “Anthony, grab that bag of candy.”

Anthony was confused. What bag? Why couldn’t Jon reach it himself? And why was he whispering? “Quick! While he’s not looking.”

Then Anthony understood. Jon wanted him to steal the candy. Without giving it another thought, Anthony grabbed the bag and dropped it into Jon’s open backpack. Then they sat there in the shop, eating their ice cream, taking their time, with that stolen bag of candy sitting right inside Jon’s backpack.

Hours later, Anthony could still feel the ice cream in his gut. How could he have done that? And how could God ever forgive him?

In our Bible study, Jesus tells us a parable about God and sinners. As we study we will answer this question:

What does God do when I sin?
Luke 15:1-10

1. Why were the tax collectors and sinners gathered around Jesus?
2. What was the Pharisees’ complaint about Jesus?
3. Why do you suppose the Pharisees complained about Jesus’ time with these sinners?
4. Compare the shepherd and the woman in Jesus’ parables. How are they the same?
5. Read verse 1 again. What was Jesus using to search for sinners?
6. When I sin, what does Jesus do for me?

When I sin, Jesus uses his Word to _____________ for me.

7. How does the shepherd feel when he finds his lost sheep?
8. Why do you suppose the shepherd did not give up on the sheep or punish it when it was found?
9. In the same way, how does God treat those who repent of their sin?

God __________________ repentant sinners.

What does God do when I sin?

God uses his Word to _____________ for me so that I repent. He does not give up on me, but finds me and ________________ my sin.
Words to Treasure
Luke 19:10
For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

Table Talk

- What was the Pharisees’ real problem?
- Why did Jesus spend time with the tax collectors and “sinners”?
- Is there any way for us to find our own way back to God? Why or why not?
- Are any sins too serious to be forgiven by Jesus?
- Name people who search for you when you wander away from God. What do they use to find you? Why?
- Look back at the introduction. What would you tell Anthony?

This Week’s Family ✔ List

**Sunday:** What words from your worship today told you about God’s forgiveness? Thank God for searching for you, finding you, and forgiving all your sins.

**Monday:** Read Psalm 103:11,12. Describe what God does to our sins.

**Tuesday:** Read Micah 7:18,19. Describe what God does to our sins.

**Wednesday:** Read 1 John 1:9. Describe what God does to our sins.

**Thursday:** Read or sing hymn 32, “When Sinners See Their Lost Condition.”

**Friday:** Say a prayer of repentance for any sins that bother you. Know and believe that because of Jesus’ payment for sin, God forgives you completely.

**Saturday:** Rejoice and celebrate in God’s forgiving love. Invite someone to join you tomorrow in worship and praise of a forgiving, loving God.
**2 do**

dogether

- **Write** a thank-you note to someone God sent to “find” you when you sinned and who brought you back through God’s Word.
- **Draw** a picture of the heavenly celebration that takes place whenever a sinner is turned from sin to faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Pray** for those lost in the darkness and loneliness of sin. Ask God to use you in his work of seeking and saving the lost.

**Prayer**

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for searching for me when I wander and for leading me to repentance. Thank you for forgiving me through the work of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

**Answers:**  1. to hear him;  2. That Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them.  3. They thought they were better than the tax collectors and sinners and that a teacher and prophet shouldn’t bother with sinners.  4. They search for one lost item, they find it, and they celebrate.  5. He was using his Word.  6. search;  7. joyful;  8. He loved his sheep.  9. forgives

What does God do when I sin? search, forgives