The Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

In Jesus’ parable, what did a father do when his son sinned?

God’s ways are different from our ways.

get set!
Luke 15:11-13

1. Let’s match two people from the parable with those they represent. Underline in red the description(s) that match the younger son. Underline in blue the description(s) that match the father. One description will not be used.

a. anyone who rejects God’s love
b. God the Father
c. anyone who loves God most of all
d. anyone who turns away from God’s ways

2. Usually a father’s inheritance would not be distributed until after he died. Why did the younger son want it earlier?

3. Circle all the words that describe the younger son:
   selfish    impatient    greedy    rebellious
   wild    sinful    foolish    wasteful

Key Point: How did the younger son turn away from his father?
The younger son left his ______________ house and led a __________________ life.

4. Circle in red the spiritual blessings we have received from God.

faith    money    forgiveness    God’s love
his Word    eternal life in heaven    popularity    possessions
wild living    earthly fame

Finish this sentence: The words not circled represent things that could ___________ us away from __________.

5. How did God use the younger son’s negative experience to spiritually change him?

Key Point: What changed attitude did the younger son have when he decided to return to his father?
The younger son was humbly ______________ for sinning against __________ and his father.
God Welcomes Sinners

God has promised that anyone who sins and then repents will find God’s love and forgiveness waiting for him or her. How does our heavenly Father welcome us as repentant sinners?

• God is filled with _______________ for us.

• God _______________ our sins and gives us Jesus’ robe of _______________.

• God joyfully welcomes us back as his dear _______________.

• God celebrates with his returned children now and _______________.

Actions and Attitudes of Repentance

Imagine that at the beginning of the school year, you found the answers to all your science tests for the year. You’ve been cheating by memorizing those answers in order to get an A+ on every test so far. But now you’ve been caught. You will spend a week in detention and will need to retake and pass every test before you have any recess. Which of the following actions and attitudes would show your repentance? Put an X in front of all correct answers.

_____ Apologizing sincerely to the teacher and to God.

_____ Being angry about the punishment I’m receiving.

_____ Finding a way to use the answers I have in order to pass the tests I’m retaking.

_____ Destroying the answers and promising never to cheat again.

_____ Being too afraid to pray because God must be angry with me.

_____ Trusting in God to forgive me for Jesus’ sake.

Luke 15:20b-32

6. List things from verse 20b that show the father loved his son and was glad to see him returning home.

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

8. Although the older brother had remained at home, how did he show that he was selfish and self-righteous?

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

9. Both sons acted sinfully. Yet what did the father still have for both of them?

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

KEY POINT

How did the father treat his repentant son?

The father rejoiced over his son’s _________ and lovingly _________ him.

7. Draw pictures to show more things that the father did to welcome his repentant son:
Summarize Jesus’ parable for your parents. With their help, evaluate this imaginary situation:

A young woman who worked as her church’s secretary stole a lot of money from the church and made it look as if the pastor had taken it. When she was finally caught, she left the church. Years later she repented and rejoined the church, but many church members refused to talk to her. Some felt she shouldn’t be allowed back into the church.

1. Which character in the parable was the young woman like?

2. Which character were many church members like?

3. Based on the parable, how do you think God felt about the young woman’s return?

Student’s initials: _____  Parent’s initials: _____

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The Keys

First: What is the use of the keys?
The use of the keys is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners but refuse forgiveness to the impenitent as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?
The holy evangelist John writes in chapter 20, “[Jesus] breathed on [his disciples] and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’”

Hymn 379:1,3

Memory Treasures Exercises
Red the Ephesians 2:8,9 memory treasure.

• What does not save us? ________________________

• Who has given us undeserved love (grace)? ________________________

Look at the Conclusion to the Commandments.

• Underline in red the words that tell how we can show love for God.

• Underline in blue what God promises to his children.

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Aim: In Jesus’ parable, what did a father do when his son sinned?

Truth: The loving father _________________ his son and _________________ him back home.

Application: Our heavenly Father is eager to _________________ our sins.

Response: We _________________ of our sins and trust that God lovingly _________________ us.