

PARABLES
THE LOST SON
Luke 15:11-32



QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think the teachers of religious law were upset that Jesus was spending time with sinful people, even eating with them?

2. Why do you think it makes God so happy when sinful people who have so many bad habits and are lost, come to know God and start living the right way?

3. Why did Jesus leave Heaven and come to earth?

4. Why do you think Jesus felt that he had to tell this story with a similar meaning three times?

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5. This story or parable is about a man (a father) who had two sons. Start thinking about the Spiritual or Heavenly meaning of this story. Remember, this story has a similar spiritual meaning as the first two stories.

So, who is the earthly father in this story going to be in spiritual or heavenly terms? _____

Now, think about the two types of people that Jesus was talking to in Luke 15: 1-3 (at the top of page two) in the study. If the two sons are going to represent or be the two types of people that Jesus is talking to, then ...

One son is going to be _____

And **the other son** is going to be _____

6. What did the younger son do?

7. What normally happens to people when they do not work and they waste their money that they have on wild living?

And what happened to the younger son when his money ran out?

Who do you think you are in this story. Which son (daughter) would you be in this story? You may be part of both.

Tell who you see yourself as and why.

Think about your lifestyle.

Are you doing things that are causing you to stray away from God, your loving creator? It could be cheating in school, lying, stealing, drugs, sex before marriage, not obeying or respecting parents, etc.

Do you need to come to your senses and ask God to forgive and cleanse you? _____

Or,

You may need to ask God to forgive you for looking down on others who have a sinful, messed up life. You may want to ask God to give you a heart of compassion for those who are lost, and a heart that rejoices when they come to know God.

Feel free to write a prayer and tell God what is on your heart.

APPLICATION

The main point.

What do you think is the main point that Jesus was trying to teach from these parables? Look back over page two (2) of the study and see how it all got started.

What is the main point of these three parables?

This story is not telling you to hang around with foolish people. The Bible says: ... *walk with the wise* ... (and) *become wise*; ... *walks with fools* ... (and) *suffer harm*.

Prov. 13:20

But the Bible is telling us that we are all sinful people, and there are some people who would follow God if they only knew about him. So we want to help them learn about God by sharing God's wonderful words and sharing his love with them.

What have you learned from this Bible Study?

Write down some things you have learned from doing this study. _____

8. Why does it mean when someone "comes to their senses" ? _____

This young man lost or wasted all of his inheritance (money from his father) and became so hungry that he wanted to eat the food that the pigs were eating. And then he finally came to his senses.

What can you and I do to come to our senses, get smart, get wise and avoid having to learn the hard way? _____

9. So what did the younger son decide to do after "he came to his senses"? _____

10. What did the father do when the younger son returned home? _____

Now who do you think the father is or represents in this story? Who is always looking for lost sinful people to come to him? Who is filled with love and compassion? _____

11. Was the son truly sorry for what he had done? Did he admit or confess that he had sinned? _____
What does the Bible tell us that God does when we confess our sins? _____

Did the father in this story forgive his son and help restore him as a son? _____

12. Why was the father so happy? Why did he say “*We must celebrate with a feast - (a party)*”? _____

13. Why do you think the older brother was angry and did not want to go to the party and celebrate his brother’s return? _____

14. The older brother was right that he had worked hard and faithfully for his father and had obeyed his father. He was also right that his brother had wasted the money that his father had given to him.

But should he have been happy that his lost brother had come to his senses and returned home? _____

Why? _____

15. In verse 31 there are three (3) good things that the older son had because he had stayed and worked with his father. Try and name all three.

The first one is: “dear son” the son was very dear and special to his father.

The second one is: _____

The third one is: _____

16. The younger son had lost all of the money that his father had given him from his inheritance; he had been away from his home and family, he had almost starved to death; he had probably caught a sexually transmitted diseases from having sex with prostitutes.

He was going to have to live with his bad decisions and lifestyle for many years.

But why was the father so happy that day, and why did he want to celebrate? What was he celebrating?
