

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Luke

Lesson 38

The Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

Life of Christ

The Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

Younger Verse

*"My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!"
Luke 15:24*

Older Verse

*"My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!"
Luke 15:24*

Bible Story



*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

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 rejoiced.

Jesus told a third story about a *person* who got lost, but not in the way you might think.

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 did not spend it wisely. 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. 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, apologize, 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 apologized 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

Lesson Goals

- Learn that we are lost until we come to Jesus**
- Learn that God waits for us with open arms**
- Learn that every person can be forgiven**

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.

But not everyone was happy about this. The older son was mad at his brother for all that he had done. His father begged him to join the party, but he refused. He said it wasn’t fair for his brother’s return to be celebrated. He had stayed at home and worked hard for his father, and his father had never celebrated him, but his father explained the joy of having his son back home. He said he loved both of his sons, but he had to celebrate the return of his lost son.

Like the lost son, we have all gone our own way. We are all separated from God because of our sins. That is why Jesus died on the cross—to save us and help us to be right with God. When we confess our sins to God, He will forgive us. Then we become a part of God’s family. And when that happens, God celebrates, just like the father in the story.

Review Questions

1. What did the younger son ask his father? (He wanted his share of his father’s money.)
2. What happened to the younger son after he left home? (He spent all the money and had to feed pigs.)
3. How did the father react when his son returned home? (He ran to his son and hugged him, then threw a big party for him.)

Life Application

Maybe you are like the older son in the story. You have been following Jesus for a while, and you don’t understand how God could forgive certain people. But remember—God loves ALL people, no matter what they have done. He wants all people to turn to Him.

If you are still far from God like the lost son, you can come to God today! He is ready and waiting with open arms. He loves you so much. He wants to have a relationship with you and help you have a good life. He has good plans for your future. Let God become your Father! When you do, you can be sure that he will celebrate!

Planning for Lesson 39
The Rich Man and Lazarus
Luke 16:19-31

Preschool Lesson for The Lost Son

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!

**Hands-on Activities
for
The Lost Son**

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.

Bring pictures of pigs. Talk about how the Jews don’t eat pigs or even get near them because they are “unclean” animals (in the Old Testament). Explain that for the son, the job of feeding “unclean” pigs would have been the worst job he could have had. He would have felt totally worthless. Then talk about how his father made him feel worthy again. That is what God does for us when we come to Him!

Have kids draw pictures of their families. Talk about the different family members, especially their brothers and sisters. Ask them if they are different from their siblings. Talk about how God loves everyone, even those who act different than us. We should, too!

Write each word of the memory verse on index cards or pieces of paper. Hide one of the words. After the kids put the words in order, tell them they have to look for the missing word. When they find it, throw a “party” - pass out the snacks and maybe sing a song like “Celebrate Jesus.”

**“My son was dead, but
now he is alive again! He
was lost, but now he is
found!”**

Luke 15:24



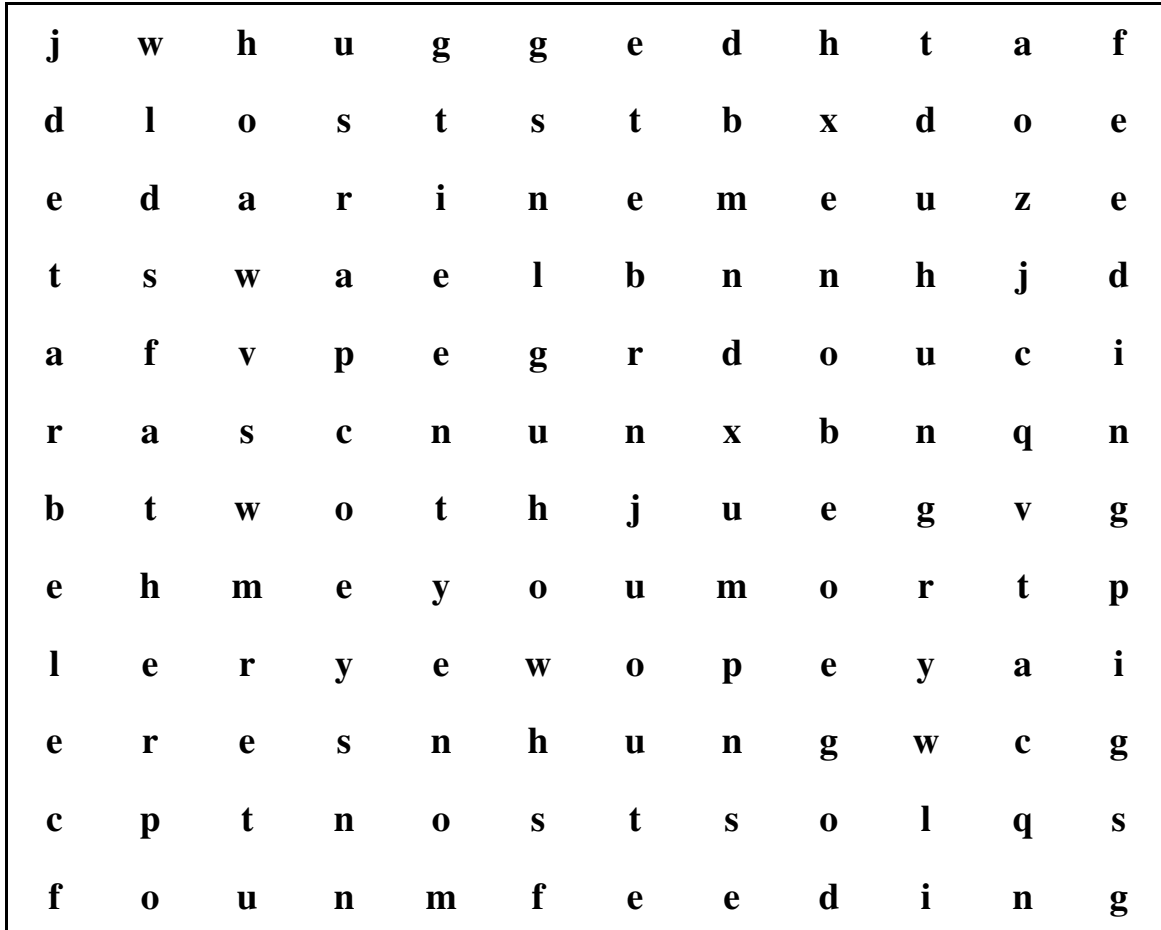
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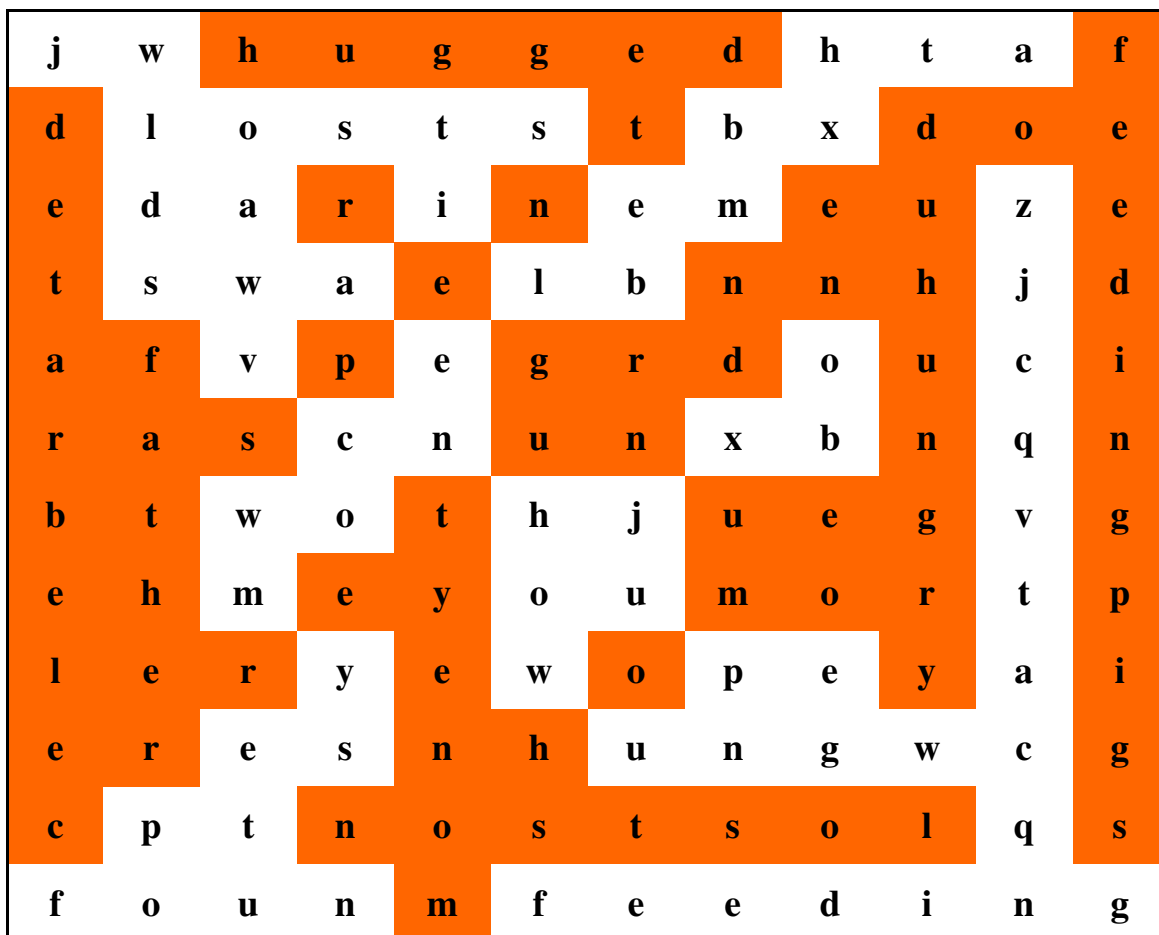
Word Search

The Lost Son



younger	lost son	father
money	spent	hungry
feeding pigs	returned	home
hugged	celebrated	found

Word Search



younger	lost son	father
money	spent	hungry
feeding pigs	returned	home
hugged	celebrated	found

A man had

TWO

sons.

The younger son

s _ _ e _ _ t his father's

m _ _ n _ _ y.

His father f _ _ r _ _ a _ _ e him.

