

# PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

Jesus told this story show how God feels about sinners who ask for His forgiveness

## Let's Get Started

**Episode Theme:** Worshiping God- Jesus Talks about God's Kingdom

1. [Luke 15: 11-32](#) tells a story about a young man who made a very selfish choice that hurt his father, brother, and eventually himself. In spite of all the harm he had done, his father forgave him. Ask yourself, what's hard about forgiving a family member? What are some great joys about forgiving a family member?
2. [In Luke 15](#), Jesus tells three parables: The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and The Lost Son. Luke 15:1 - 2 points to the reason for the stories, "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'" As you listen to the story, think about who the different audiences are for these stories. What things would "the tax collectors and sinners", "the "Pharisees and the teachers of the law" and Jesus' disciples have learned as they heard the parables?

## Memory Verse

For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

**Luke 15:24**

## After You Listen

Jesus told parables to show people what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. His audience was everyone in earshot. [In Luke 15](#), Jesus tells three stories of things that are lost. At the end of the three parables, Jesus describes the celebration that happens when a sinner who has repented comes into God's presence.

The self-righteous group of "Pharisees and teachers of law" heard that there will be "more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." They could tell that Jesus was comparing them to the older son who had complained about the banquet for his recently-returned brother. How would they have received Jesus' message?

The second group were the "tax collectors and sinners," who Jesus had spent time visiting. When these folks heard the stories, they knew that God celebrated them, repentant sinners turning to God. How would they have received Jesus' message?

Finally, the disciples and bystanders heard that God gives his people second chances. Jesus gave "Kingdom of Heaven" examples of mercy and forgiveness available to all who repent and believe. How would they have received Jesus' message?

Today, pray to God and ask for a second chance and be forgiven. That's not a one time offer. Throughout your life, you can continue to pray to God the words of the Lord's prayer ([Matthew 6: 9-13](#)) "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Want to dig deeper and learn more about God's forgiveness? Check out [Matthew 6:14-15](#), [Isaiah 1:18](#), and [Psalm 103:10-12](#).

## Challenge

Create your own paper coin, like the one found by the woman or the one given away by the young son. Write the word "forgive" on the front and "mercy" on the back. Keep it in your wallet, purse, or other safe place. When you come across it, see it as a reminder to give and receive the forgiveness that God is giving you.

## Take the Episode Quiz

**Question 1:** At the beginning of the story, what did the younger son want from his father?

**Answer:** He wanted his share of the family property.

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**Question 2:** When the younger son had spent everything, how did he now earn money?

**Answer:** He worked for a pig farmer.

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**Question 3:** True or False. The father was happy that his son had returned.

**Answer:** True

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**Question 4:** What kind of clothing did the father put on his son?

**Answer:** A robe and some sandals.

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**Question 5:** What did the father say to the angry older brother?

**Answer:** My son, you are always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad. This brother of your was dead. Now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.

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