

**Key Passage:****Parable of the Lost Son- Luke 15:11-32 NIV (Excerpt taken from BibleGateway.com)**

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

### **Main Point:**

The young man was foolish with his money. He wasted it all on luxury items and having a good time. It was fun for a time, and the boy had many “friends” who helped him spend all that money. But when the money was gone, the friends vanished. He was penniless, friendless, and homeless. The only place he could find to sleep was in a pigpen.

It was there the boy decided to go home and beg for his father’s forgiveness, knowing that even the least paid of his father’s servants lived better. But when the boy’s father saw him coming home, he ran to him! He hugged his son and welcomed him back. He threw a big celebration to welcome home his son!

Jesus told this story to show us why He Himself had come to Earth. We are that prodigal son. Humankind had everything, and we chose to do our own thing when Adam and Eve chose sin. In spite of all the mistakes we have made, our Heavenly Father loves us still. He sent Jesus to tell us to come home, and God waits to welcome each one of us when we accept Jesus. When we repent of our sins, Jesus will forgive us. This is the message not just of the gospels, but the whole Bible. God loves us, and He wants us to come home to Him!

### **Closing Prayer:**

Dear God,

Thank you for your amazing love and forgiveness!

In Jesus’ name,

Amen

**Here are some things you can do at home this week:**

### **Game Time**

#### **What you will need:**

- Small Skillet or Pan
- Cooked Pancake/ Sausage Patty

#### **What to do:**

\* Don't heat the skillet or pancake/sausage patty. Use a cooked pancake or sausage patty but make sure everything is cooled when using\* Each player will attempt to flip the pancake or sausage in the skillet, tossing it up in the air and catching it in the skillet. No hands, no spatula. Each player will flip the pancake or sausage as many times in a row as they can. The one who can make the most successful flips in a row wins!

### **Craft Time**

#### **What you will need:**

- Empty Toilet Paper Rolls
- Pink Construction Paper
- String or Yarn
- Crayons, Markers, and Other Craft Supplies

#### **What to do:**

Cut empty toilet paper rolls in half. Cut out a circle of construction paper and tape it to the end of each half roll. Draw pig nostrils on the circle. Then, attach string to the other end of the roll so the kids can wear their pig noses.

### **Memory Verse**

Psalm 25:4: " Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you."  
Say the verse with your best pig oinks!

## **Make it Stick Parent Page**

Here are some ideas of ways that you can think about the story through the week:

### **Parent Time- What You Need to Know:**

The prodigal son is a wonderful picture of the love of God. Read the story with your kids this week, and ask them to explain it's meaning to you. Pray with them, and thank God for His awesome love!

### **Hanging Out:**

Let your kids navigate home from church or the school one day. See if they know the way home. Then ask them if they remember what the prodigal son is about- who the father really is.

### **At Dinner:**

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did the son decide to do when he was feeding pigs?
- Why did the father welcome his son home?
- Who does the father in the story represent, and what is the message of this story?

### **At Bedtime:**

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NIV)

**Next Week** – We're continuing to look at **ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE**

### **Things to gather for activities:**

#### **Game**

- \*Plastic Plates and Cups
- \*OR Building Blocks

#### **Craft**

- \*Empty Water Bottles/Shoebboxes
- \*Crayons, Markers, and Other Craft Supplies