

Bible Story 47: JESUS TELLS A PARABLE: “THE LOST SON”

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 4:32

BIBLE STORY:

One day Jesus told a parable, a story, about a lost son.

A father had two sons. One day the younger son came to his father and asked for his share of his inheritance. The man divided his inheritance between his two sons.

Soon the younger son left home and took everything that he had. He went to a country very far away and he wasted all his money. There was a very bad famine and the young man did not have any money to buy food. He only could find a job in a field feeding pods to pigs. He was so hungry that he even wanted to eat the pigs' food!

Then the young man remembered his father's home. All the servants there had plenty of food to eat. So he decided to go back home. He planned to tell his father that he had sinned against him and God. He would ask permission to stay home, working as a servant. So he started back home.

From a distance, his father saw his younger son returning home. He ran to his son, hugged him and kissed him.

The son told his father that he had sinned against him and God. He no longer was worthy to be called his son.

The father called his servants to bring his son the best clothes, a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. He told them to kill and prepare the fatted calf and prepare a banquet. Why? Because his son, who was lost, returned home safely.

When the older son came home, he heard that a banquet was prepared for his younger brother. The older son would not join the banquet. The father went and spoke to his older son. He told him that all he had was his, but to come in and join the celebration. Why? Because his younger brother was lost and has come back home safely.

PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?

2. How can you apply this story to your life?

PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. What is an inheritance?
2. Why was it unusual for a younger son to ask for his inheritance from his father?
3. Did his father give his younger son his part of the inheritance? What happened?
4. Why did the younger son decide to return home?
5. What did the father do when he saw his younger son returning home? What did the younger son say to his father? What did the father do?
6. What is sin? What should you do when you do something wrong against God, our heavenly Father? What will God do?
7. What did the older son do when he saw that a banquet was given in honor of his younger brother? What did the father do and say to his older son?
8. What does forgiveness mean?
9. Why is it important to forgive someone who does something wrong against you? Even though you forgive, why is it important to be cautious?