

BIBLE STORY: "Parable of the Lost Son"

TEXT: Luke 15:11-31 (Partial story Luke 15:11-25)

BIBLE STORY

INITIAL SITUATION (Background):

Jesus told many parables or stories that taught life lessons or truths. One day a group of religious leaders were with Jesus. They said that Jesus welcomed "sinners." To them "sinners" were people that were not like them, such as tax collectors, people from Samaria, or people who did not do their ceremonial rituals.

So Jesus told them the "Parable of the Lost Son." Also, it is known as the "Parable of the Prodigal Son." This story is found in Luke 15:11-31. (*Leave the Bible open to the text as you tell the story.*)

BIBLE STORY (PARABLE):

A father had two sons. One day the younger son came to his father and asked, **"Father, give me my share of the inheritance of our estate."** The man divided his inheritance between his two sons.

Soon afterwards the younger son left home, taking his share of the inheritance. He went to a country very far away where he wasted all his money. There was a severe famine and the young man did not have any money to buy food. He was hungry, but no one would help him. He became so desperate that he finally took a job in a field feeding pods to pigs. He was so hungry that he even wanted to eat the pigs' food himself!

Then the young man remembered his father's home. All his father's servants had plenty of food to eat. The young man came to his senses and decided to go back home. He would tell his father that he had sinned and 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.

His son humbly said, **"Father, I have sinned against you and against God. Why, do not even call me your son."**

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

May stop here or continue telling the second part of the parable.

When the older son returned home from the field, he heard the festivities and music. He asked the servants what was happening. They responded and told him that a large banquet had been prepared, celebrating the return of his younger brother. They even killed the fatted calf for the occasion! The older son became very angry, staying outside.

The father went outside and asked him to go inside and join the party. In anger, his older son told him that he had been faithful to him all these years and he never even gave him a banquet to celebrate with his friends.

The father replied: **"You are my precious son who remains always with me. Everything that I own is yours. But let us celebrate together, because your younger brother was lost, but now has been found!"**

(When finished telling the story, close your Bible and say something like, **"This story, the Parable of the Lost Son, is a portion of God's Word found in the Bible."**)