

August 5, 2018

Morning Overview

Lesson: *The Lost Son*

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins. Today our children learn about the parable of the lost son, or commonly known as the prodigal son. The story has several elements that are critical to point out. The first is the father's willingness to divide the inheritance prior to his death; a rather large insult to the father, but he willingly gives a portion to the younger son. The second is the recklessness of the younger son who spent his inheritance on who knows what. He contrives a plan to beg for his father to take him back. Whether this is true repentance or not, we do not know because it does not matter. The third aspect to note is the father's response to his son's return. The younger son's plan has no chance, the father without hesitation, and in an embarrassment to himself, joyously welcomes his son home. The final thing to note is the older brother's disgruntled response. His bitterness and resentment of not only his younger brother, but his father, has kept him from celebration. We should not forget where this parable is situated; Jesus' fellowship with sinners and tax collectors and the Pharisees abhorrence to it. Easily we can draw out that the Pharisees are like the older brother, the sinners and tax collectors like the younger brother, and God like the father. The father's love for the younger brother cannot be missed. The joy of the moment is captured by the phrase, "He was lost, and now he is found."

Scripture: Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Story: Vos Child's Study Bible, Pages 305-307; The Jesus Storybook Bible, Pages 272-279; The Beginner's Bible, Pages 422-426.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

Craft: The Prodigal Son Booklet

Supplies: 8 x 11 inch paper, scissors, crayons/markers

Instructions: 1. Fold paper top to bottom so title is on the outside
2. Fold side to side to create booklet
3. Cut along bottom to free pages; color if desi



Relay of the Day: See below

Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Opening Activity: Hedbanz

- **Cherub Church** for 3's (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165) – 11:40-11:55

Craft: The Prodigal Son's Father

Supplies: Face circle, 2 hands, blue strip, verse sticker, tape, glue, crayons/markers

Instructions: 1. Glue or tape face to center top of blue strip.
2. Glue or tape hands to ends of blue strip – one on each side.
3. Place verse sticker below face.



Relay of the Day: Repent - Demonstrate what it means to repent for your students by walking away from them and instructing them to yell, "Repent!" to you. You turn around and run back for a hug. Let each of them take a turn "repenting" as you talk about reasons they might walk away from doing what they know they should, such as, "Margaret's mom told her to pick up her toys. She did not want to listen and obey. She chose to walk away but then she decided to REPENT and do as her mom asked." After she turns around and runs to you, give her a huge hug. Talk about how the father could have been angry with the son, but he chose to show him grace and mercy.

Story: *The Lost Son*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, when was the last time you were lost? [Allow time for answer; maybe share a time yourself] In our story today, a younger son leaves home and is “lost” but he knows how to get back. Let’s find out a little more about how this younger son is lost...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children’s Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner’s Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Teaching Summary:

- God’s promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God’s people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus continued to teach and minister to many especially “sinners.”
- The religious leaders continued to observe Jesus at a distance often complaining about him.
- Jesus told two stories to help illustrate God’s love for sinners, or the lost. He told a story about a sheep and a shepherd, and then a woman and a lost coin.
- Jesus then told a story of the lost son. The story is about a father who has two sons. The older son is hard-working and seems good; the younger son wants to explore the world and will do whatever it takes to see it.
- The father sells property and divides it among his two sons. The younger son takes his money to a faraway land and becomes poor very quickly.
- The younger son devises a plan to go back to his father and beg for work.
- As the younger son approaches his home, the father sees the younger son and runs out to greet him.
- The father throws a party and what little wealth he has left lavishes it on the younger son.
- This story is about a father (God) who joyously welcomes home those (sinners) who were lost, but are now found. This story shows us God’s acceptance and love for us.

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, when was the last time you were lost? [Allow time for answer; maybe share a time yourself] In our story today, a younger son leaves home and is “lost” but he knows how to get back. Let’s find out a little more about how this younger son is lost...

The Lost Son

Jesus continued to teach to the crowd around him. It was filled with sinners and tax collectors. Most people did not like sinners and tax collectors in Jesus’ day because many thought they were dishonest or not good. The Pharisees and teachers of the law did not like sinners and tax collectors especially. The Pharisees thought they knew what was good and right and how God wanted them to live. But they really did not know.

In addition to the story about a sheep and a shepherd, and then a woman and a lost coin, Jesus told a third story to the crowd. “A man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, ‘Give me my share of the property.’” The father sold almost all his property. He took the money and split it between his two sons. Then the younger son packed a bag, gathered a few things and left home. He wanted to see the world! The younger son traveled far away to another country. Once he got to this faraway place, the younger son spent his money in unwise ways. Eventually the younger son had no money left! Soon after that, the land became very dry, and there was no rain. There was not enough food to eat anywhere in the country. The younger son was hungry and needed money. So, he got a job with one of the citizens there. The man sent the son into the fields to feed pigs. The son was so hungry that he was willing to eat the food the

pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything. The son realized that he had been very foolish. As he was eating the pig food, the younger son had a thought, "All my father's servants have plenty of food. But I am here almost dying with hunger. I will leave and return to my father. I'll say to him: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son. But let me be like one of your servants." So, the son left the pigs, the job and the faraway place and travelled back home.

The Bible tells us, "While the younger son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming." The father had compassion for his son. The father ran as fast as he could to the younger son and hugged and kissed him. He had not seen his son for a very long time. The younger son said, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get our fat calf and make dinner! We are going to eat and celebrate!" Then the father said something very important, "My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!" The father threw a very, very big party for his younger son.

The Bible goes on to tell us that, "The older son was in the field. As he came closer to the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. So, he called to one of the servants and asked, 'What's going on?' The servant said, 'Your brother has come back. Your father has thrown a big party because your brother came home safely!'" The older son was angry and would not go in to the party. So, his father went out and begged him to come in. The son said to his father, "I have served you like a slave for many years! I have always obeyed your commands. But you never even threw a little celebration for me to have with my friends. But your other son has wasted all your money. Then he comes home and you throw a huge party for him? It's not fair!" The father said to the older son, "You are always with me. All that I have is yours. We had to celebrate and be happy because your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found."

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who came to hear Jesus teach?
- How many sons are in our story?
- What did the younger son ask of the father?
- What did the father do?
- Where did the younger son go with all his money?
- What happened to all the money?
- How did the father greet the younger son when he came home?
- What did the older son have to say about the huge party?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

Scripture Memory for Summer:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

Catechism Questions (1-20)