

Week 22

The Lost Son

Jesus wanted His helpers to know how much God loves us. He told this story to let us know that God is eager to forgive.

Once there was a man who had two sons. The younger son asked his father for the money that would belong to him someday. The father gave the money to the son, and the son moved far away. He spent all the money doing foolish things. Soon the money was all gone.

The son got hungry, so he got a job taking care of a farmer's pigs. He was so hungry that the food the pigs ate looked good to him. The son thought about his father's servants and remembered that they were never hungry. He was sorry that he had gone away and wasted all of his money.

(*) The son decided to go back and ask his father to forgive him. He planned to get down on his knees and ask if he could work as one of his father's servants. But the father was so happy to see his son coming, he ran out to meet him and gave him a big hug. The father still loved his son. The father forgave him and welcomed him back.

We, too, have forgiveness because of Jesus. Rejoice and pray with your child:

Dear Jesus, please forgive me
For every wrong I do.

I know that You forgive me
And that You love me too. Amen.

Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point in the story indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping part of the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

Think about It

You can read this story in Luke 15:11-32. Remember: God does not like the wrong things we do, but He will always love us. He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins.

Bible Words

Forgive as the Lord
forgave you.
Colossians 3:13 (NIV)





Dear Family,

Forgiveness is difficult to explain to young children. The best thing that we can do to teach it is to model forgiveness. We are to be forgiving as God is forgiving to us. When a child sins, very often we feel anger over the wrongdoing. Anger is a very real emotion. However, it is wise to separate the anger we feel about the wrong committed from the way we feel about our children. We do not love the sin, but we continue to love the child.

Here is a great message to give your child: "I don't like it when you take things that don't belong to you, and I can't let you do it anymore. It hurts me, it hurts other people, and it hurts you. It makes Jesus sad. But remember, I forgive you and Jesus forgives you. I will always love you, and Jesus always loves you!" That is, after all, the same message that Jesus gives to us!

Read more about the Bible lesson on pages 374–376 in *The Story Bible*, available from Concordia Publishing House (CPH).