

# WELCOME TO OUR FOURTH SERIES OF FAMILY LESSONS

Throughout the Series you will find:

1. Various ways to pray
2. Relationship building with others
3. Connections with Christian community
4. Mission and outreach

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**WEEK #3 (7- 11-21) Prevenient Grace** *(God puts His love and forgiveness out for us when we are still sinners. It's ready for us BEFORE we even know we need it. Then when we come to realize that a change is needed in our lives, and that without Jesus, there is no hope, Jesus is ready to forgive.)*

**KEY WORD: Return**

**MEMORY VERSE :** *"For the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn His face from you if you return to Him." 2 Chronicles 30:9b*

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-20 NIV (The Parable of the Lost Son)**

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

*13 "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. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.*

*17 "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! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 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.*

**APPLICATION/MESSAGE:**

Have you ever wondered whether or not God loves you? Maybe you have done something bad, like telling a lie, taking something that didn't belong to you, or maybe you disobeyed your parents. Does God still love you? To get the answer, you might play the "He loves me — He loves me not" game. You know how to play that game, don't you? You take a flower, usually a daisy, and you pluck out the petals one at a time and with each one you take turns saying, "He

loves me...He loves me not." The very last petal you pull out is supposed to tell you whether he loves you or not. Do you think that is a good way to know if God loves you? I don't think so. To show how much God loves us, Jesus told a story about a man who had two sons. YOU just read it!

Did the prodigal son's dad ever stop loving him? (*No*) How do you know? Wasn't the dad watching for his son to return? (*Yes!*) And what did the dad do when he saw his son off at a distance? (*He ran to meet him and threw his arms around him.*)

What DIDN'T the father do? (*Yell at him, chase him away, or not even talk to him at all.*) Why not? Because even before the son returned, the father WANTED HIM TO COME BACK.

**God wants US to always come back to Him, too. God wants to always give us the opportunity to be forgiven. God is watching and waiting for us to RETURN to His loving arms, just like the dad in the story, even BEFORE we even think about it.**

Wow! That's a pretty great Heavenly Father that we have, too! To even know that when we are still far from Your arms, Lord, you are eagerly waiting for us. I have too often tried to do things MY way, and have ended up disappointing God with my words and actions (*sinning*), God still wants us back in his love and that makes Him an AMAZING FATHER!

**PRAYER:** Dear loving Jesus, there are times when I feel that I have wandered away from the path You want me to follow, and I am wishing I hadn't. I have said things that I know disappointed You. Lord, I'm really **sorry**, and I am asking you to forgive me and help me to do a little better every time I have a choice to make. **Please** help me to ask myself, "What would Jesus do...?" before I make a decision. **Thank you** for showing me the way to be my very best. Amen.

## **SONGS:**

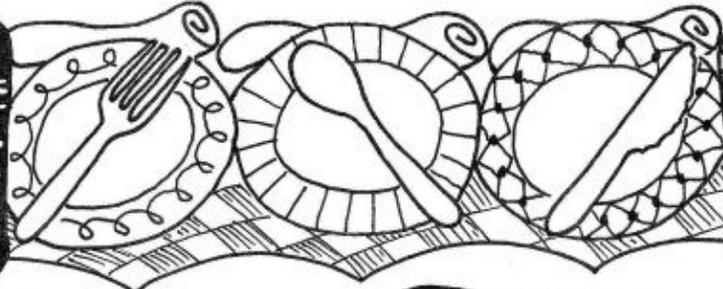
All ages: "This is Amazing Grace" - Phil Wickham @ [youtube.com/watch?v=XFRjr\\_x-yxU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFRjr_x-yxU)  
"Jesus loves me this I know" @ <https://vimeo.com/415611072>

## **CHILDREN AND/OR GROUP HANDS - ON ACTIVITY:**

- Create a poster on a piece of paper. Write the words "**Once I was lost but now I am found... by JESUS**" or "**JESUS FOUND ME!**" in BLACK. Then the poster can be decorated with squiggles, stars, dots, etc! Have a discussion about the celebration when the father found the son!
- **HOT/COLD** - Hide something. Then release the children into the room or area of the yard one at a time to find it. Tell them "Cold" if far away, "Warm" if getting closer, and Hot" when VERY near. Give each child a specific time (30 seconds- 1 minute) then move on to the next child. You can have items hidden in different areas and move from one to the other as each item is found. Or have the children turn their backs and close their eyes (and sing so they can't hear your movements).

## **CHILDREN AND/OR GROUP OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Look up the Bible verse references on the poster below in the Bible to see other times when being lost and found is talked about. Then color the picture.
- Work the crossword puzzle about the Prodigal Son.
- Write a story about a time when **you** actually were lost and tell how you felt until you were found. Tell how it felt when found. Read your story to someone.
- Write a story about when you lost something of value to you and then you found it. Be sure to tell your feelings as you searched and then found it. Share your story.



Wise sheep  
hear  
John 10:27-28  
Mk  
16:7-8  
Lk 15:1-7

# LOST

- & -

# FOUND

Eph 1:4-5  
Romans 8:29-30  
John 6:37,40  
Acts 4:27-28  
2 Cor 5:10  
Romans 4:12

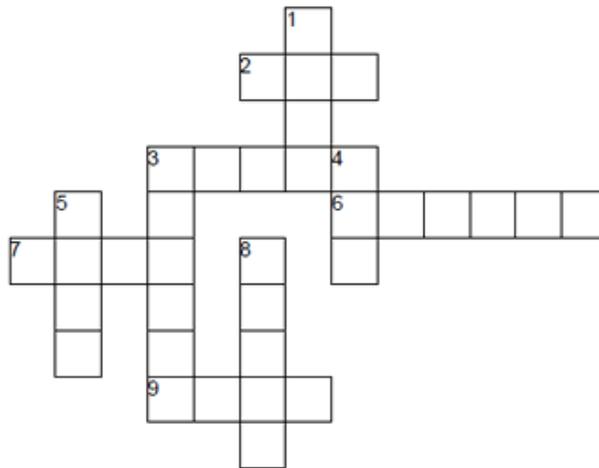


# The Parable of the Lost Son

So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. Luke 15:20 (NLT)



The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32



## ACROSS

2. Farm animals with pink, brown, or black skin, short legs, and a flat nose.
3. A large special meal to celebrate something or honor someone.
6. A large amount of money and other valuable possessions.
7. To not be able to be found. (I \_\_\_\_ my dog.)
9. A piece of jewelry, generally made of precious metal and worn on the finger.

## DOWN

1. To touch or press your lips against another person as a greeting or to express love.
3. A male parent.
4. The number that is equal to one plus one.
5. Your male children.
8. When something which was lost has been relocated. (I \_\_\_\_\_ my dog).

TWO	KISS	RING	WEALTH	FATHER
FEAST	FOUND	LOST	PIG	SONS