GENESIS TO REVELATION | PARABLE

The Son Who Came Home

Luke 15:11-32



YOUR BIBLE READING

The father offered compassion to the returning son and an invitation to the angry son.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

The Journey Away and the Journey Home

Luke 15:11-32



Jesus told a parable about a father who had two sons. The younger son asked for his share of the family property, and the father divided his living between them. Not long afterward, the younger son gathered what he had and traveled to a distant country. There he wasted his possessions in reckless living. Jesus describes a serious choice and its consequences without inviting us to invent extra adventures.

After the son had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country. Food became scarce, and he began to be in need. He attached himself to a citizen of the country, who sent him into the fields to feed pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted the pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. His own waste and the wider famine both belong to this particular story.

Then he came to his senses. He remembered that his father's hired workers had more than enough bread while he was going hungry. He decided to return and admit that he had sinned against God and against his father. He would say that he was no longer worthy to be called a son and ask to be treated as a hired worker. His plan included an honest admission, not an excuse.

The son got up and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. He ran to him, embraced him, and kissed him. The father did not wait until the son had reached the house or completed a careful explanation. Before the son could name his wrongdoing aloud, the father's welcome had already reached him on the way home.

Remember: Mercy can welcome someone back while making room for honest feelings.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

A Welcome for Both Sons

Luke 15:11-32



The son confessed that he had sinned and was no longer worthy to be called a son. The father called his servants to bring the best robe, a ring, and sandals. He told them to prepare a feast. His son, he explained, had been as dead and was alive again; he had been lost and was found. The celebration began around a returning member of the family.

The older son had been in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing and asked a servant what was happening. Learning that his brother had returned and been welcomed with a feast, he became angry and refused to enter. His father came out and pleaded with him. The father's concern therefore reached beyond the son already being celebrated to the son standing outside in anger.

The older son complained that he had served faithfully for years and had never received even a smaller celebration with his friends. He spoke of the returning son as if he no longer wanted to call him brother. The father answered that the older son was always with him and that what he had was his. He also spoke of the younger son as this man's brother, restoring that family connection in his reply.

It was right to celebrate, the father said, because the brother who had been lost was found. Jesus ended the parable there. We are not told whether the older son joined the feast, stayed outside, or answered again. The open ending leaves the invitation before the listener. The younger son had received compassion, and the older son was also being called into the father's welcome and shared joy.

Pause and think: What might help someone accept another person's fresh beginning when they feel hurt or overlooked?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Honesty, Welcome, and an Unfinished Answer



The younger son admitted what he had done and began the journey back. When you make a mistake, honesty can be the first step toward repair. A trusted adult can help you name the action, apologize, and decide what should happen next. This parable does not say that every poor person made reckless choices; it tells one son's particular story.

The older son was angry, and his father went out to him. You can speak honestly when another person's welcome feels unfair to you. Your feelings can be heard without turning the other person into a name or a label. In families and classrooms, different people may need different kinds of help. Someone else's support does not make your own place disappear.

Jesus did not finish the older son's answer for us. That gives us room to think rather than pretending the hard part was instantly solved. What might help a person listen when they feel left out? How could they remain honest and still become willing to rejoice? The father's invitation remains open as we consider those questions with care.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

The father offered compassion to the returning son and an invitation to the son who stayed outside.

What might help someone accept another person's fresh beginning when they feel hurt or overlooked?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. How did the father greet the returning son?

2. Do we know whether the older son joined the feast?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ The father invited the angry older son to celebrate.
- ☐ The younger son left and wasted his share.
- ☐ He returned, and his father welcomed him.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw the father welcoming his returning son, with the house nearby.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Mercy can welcome someone back while making room for honest feelings.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Luke 15:20-32

A thoughtful conversation

This is a parable about repentance and welcome, not a claim that poverty proves bad choices. The older son's response remains open; do not invent his joining the party.

Activity answers

1. He ran to embrace and kiss him.
2. No. Jesus did not tell that part.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help me admit wrongs and grow in compassion for others.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Luke 15:11-32. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 42_Lk_15_07_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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