

 **Lesson 9, April 26, 2026, A Family Reunion, Luke 15:11-24**

**Bible Truth:** Practicing and accepting God like love and forgiveness can mend broken relationships and make a difference.

**Memory Verse:** "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry" (Luke 15:24)

**Lesson Aim - Key Takeaways:**

**A. Rebellion and Brokenness**

The son's journey shows how sin promises freedom but delivers bondage.

**B. Repentance and Return**

True repentance begins when we "come to ourselves"—recognizing our condition and turning toward God.

**C. The Father's Compassion**

The father doesn't wait for explanations. He runs, embraces, restores, and celebrates.

**D. Restoration, Not Punishment**

The robe, ring, and sandals symbolize full reinstatement as a son, not a servant.

**E. Grace Over Works**

The son tries to offer a servant's speech; the father interrupts with grace

**Names that Matter:**

1. **Author:** Luke
2. **Younger Son: (Prodigal Son)** – squanders his inheritance but returns home repentant. He represents sinners who repent and return to God.
3. **Father:** The father welcomes his repentant son with open arms. He symbolizes God the Father, who is loving and forgiving .
4. **Older Son:** He is resentful of the father's forgiveness towards his brother. He represents those who are self-righteous and lack understanding of grace.
5. **Location:** Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem

## Background & Context:

Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem ([Luke 9:51-19: 27](#)), teaching about God's kingdom.

Social tensions are high: tax collectors worked for Rome, seen as traitors; Pharisees pursued ritual purity.

Table fellowship signified acceptance; Jesus' meals with sinners challenged boundaries of the Jewish leaders. (cf. [Luke 5:29-32](#)).

## Inheritance Practices and Family Honor

- Under [Deuteronomy 21:17](#) the elder son received a double portion. With two sons, the elder would claim two-thirds, the younger one-third.
- Asking for the inheritance early implied wishing the father dead, a grave breach of honor.
- Selling liquid assets into cash required converting land—shaming the entire household in village eyes.

## The Father's Radical Response

- Running—an older man lifting his robes—was undignified in Middle Eastern culture.
- The father's kiss and gifts (robe, ring, sandals) restore full sonship, not mere servanthood.
- Ring signifies authority ([Genesis 41:42](#)); sandals mark free status (slaves went barefoot).

## The Elder Brother's Complaint

- His focus on duty ("I have served") and lack of relationship mirrors the Pharisees' stance in verses 1-2.
- He refuses to address the prodigal as "brother," saying "this son of yours" (v.30). The father counters, "this brother of yours" (v.32), inviting reconciliation.

## ✦ Lesson Summary & Overview

Jesus tells a story about a younger son who demands his inheritance early, leaves home, and wastes everything in reckless living. When famine hits, he finds himself feeding pigs—starving, humiliated, and alone. In that low place, he “comes to himself” and decides to return home, hoping only to be treated as a hired servant.

But the father sees him from a distance, runs to him, embraces him, restores him, and celebrates his return with a feast. This is a picture of God’s extravagant grace toward repentant sinners.

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### The Lesson: Luke 15:11-24

**11**And he said, A certain man had two sons:

**12**And the younger of them said to *his* father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth *to me*. And he divided unto them *his* living.

**13**And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

**14**And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

**15**And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

**16**And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

**17**And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

**18**I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

**19**And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

**20**And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

**21**And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

**22**But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:

**23**And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry:

**24**For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

## I The Openly Rebellious Son: vs.11-16

### 1. The Departure (vv. 11–13)

- Jesus tells of a man with two sons.
- The younger son demands his inheritance early — a shocking insult in that culture.
- He’s essentially saying, “*I wish you were dead so I could have what’s mine.*”
- He leaves home and wastes everything on reckless living.

#### Teaching point:

Sin always promises freedom but delivers emptiness.

When we chase independence from God, we end up far from home.

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### 2. The Consequences (vv. 14–16)

- A famine hits-exposing his lack of resources.
- The son, broke and hungry, takes a job feeding pigs — an unclean animal for Jews.
- He’s so desperate he wants to eat the pigs’ food.

#### Teaching point:

Sin leads to spiritual hunger.

When we walk away from God, we lose not only our resources but our identity.

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### 3. The Realization (v. 17)

- The turning point comes when he “comes to himself.”
- He remembers his father’s house — even the servants there have food and dignity.
- He decides to return, not as a son, but as a servant.

#### Teaching point:

Repentance is not self-hatred; it is a return to truth.

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#### 4. The Return (vv. 18–20)

- He rehearses his apology:
- “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.”
- But before he can finish, his father sees him **from a long way off** — meaning he’s been watching, waiting, hoping.
- The father runs to him, embraces him, and kisses him.

#### Teaching point:

God doesn’t wait for perfect words — He runs toward a repentant heart.

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#### 5. The Restoration (vv. 21–24)

The son begins his confession, but the father interrupts with grace.

He calls for:

- **The best robe** → covering shame
- **A ring** → restoring authority
- **Sandals** → restoring dignity
- **A feast** → celebrating new life

“For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

#### Teaching point:

God’s forgiveness doesn’t just erase sin — it restores identity.

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#### Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the son wanted to leave home?
2. What does “coming to himself” mean in verse 17?
3. How does the father’s reaction show God’s character?
4. What does the robe, ring, and sandals symbolize?
5. How can we respond when we realize we’ve wandered from God?

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<b>Pigpen</b>	<b>Palace</b>
Hunger	Celebration
Shame	Honor
Isolation	Family
Filth	Clean robe
Lost	Found

This visual helps students see that repentance isn't about punishment — it's about restoration.

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 **Key Takeaway for Students**

**God's love doesn't wait for perfection — it runs toward repentance.**

No matter how far we've gone, the Father's arms are always open.