

**Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program**  
**Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 28**  
**The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)**

**Theme:** The Lord Tells a Parable

**I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher**

- A. All the Word is a parable (a story with a hidden meaning).
- B. We are like the prodigal son when we turn away from the Lord and waste our abilities through selfishness.
- C. The Lord is always ready to forgive us.

**II. Story Circle**

- A. Introduce the Story
  - 1. Last time we talked about what the Lord did while He was living here on earth.
  - 2. He showed people how to be good. Sometimes the Lord told people stories to help them see the right way to live.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
  - 1. Retell Luke 15:11-19, then read Luke 15:20-24. The final section of the story from Luke 15:25-32 may be told if there is time and the students are attentive.
- C. Ideas to Discuss
  - 1. How many sons did the father have? (Two)
  - 2. Where did the younger son go? (He went to a country far away from his home.)
  - 3. Why did the son become poor? (He spent all his money. He wasted it.)
  - 4. Why did the son become hungry? (There was a famine in the land, and there wasn't enough food for people to eat.)
  - 5. What kind of job did the son get? (A job feeding swine)
  - 6. Was he still hungry even though he had a job? (Yes) What did he do? (He went home to his father.)
  - 7. Was the father angry when the son went home? (No. He was happy, and he gave him a big party when he went home.)
  - 8. How did the older son feel when his father gave a party for the younger son? (He was angry and jealous.)
  - 9. What did the father say to the older brother? (That they should be happy that the younger son was home safe!)

## Preschool Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2 – Lesson 28

### D. Further Ideas

1. Sometimes we do something wrong. We do what we want to do instead of what the Lord wants us to do. Then we are like the prodigal son, and we go far away from the Lord, our Father. But we can come back to the Lord and tell him we are sorry.
2. The Lord is very happy when we turn back to Him and are sorry that we have done something wrong. This is like the father in the story who was so happy to have his son come home!

### III. Enrichment Activities

#### A. Music

1. "All that the Lord has spoken," *Hymnal* #245.
2. "When I'm happy I like to sing." *First Songs*

#### B. Activities

1. Make a stick puppet for each child with a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other. Go over the story a second time, having the children show you how the prodigal son felt at each part.

#### C. Project - A Picture of the Happy Father and His Sons

1. Materials needed:
  - a. Paper
  - b. Markers or crayons
2. Motivation
  - a. Can you show us how happy the father was to see his son home safe again? How will you make his face?
  - b. Will his mouth look sad or happy? What about his sons? Can you show the older son in nice clothes? What about the younger son, the prodigal son?
  - c. Perhaps he looks a little thin because he hasn't had enough food to eat. Do you think he has on nice clothes when he first gets home? Can you add things to the picture to show the father getting ready for a party? (Food, company, etc.)
3. Procedure
  - a. Let the children draw pictures of the father and his two sons using crayons or markers on paper.

### IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures illustrating the story.

### V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 5, pp. 287-300.

*A Retelling of Luke 15:11-32*

**The Prodigal Son**

The Lord told a story about a man who had two sons:

The younger son asked his father to give him the wealth he would inherit. And the father gave the son a part of his wealth.

A few days later, the younger son took his things and traveled to a country far away. There he wasted all of his wealth, living foolishly. After he had spent all his wealth, there was a severe famine in that country (there wasn't enough food for people to eat), and he was very hungry.

He went to work for someone feeding swine. He would have been happy to eat the swine's food, but no one gave him anything to eat.

Then he said, "My father's servants have plenty of bread, but I will die of hunger. I will go to my father and say, "Father, I have been very bad."

And he went to his father, and his father saw him coming.

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[What do you think the father did? Do you think he was angry with his son? Do you think he was happy to see him? Let's read from the Lord's Word about what happened next.] Read Luke 15:20-24. Then explain what you have read, so that they understand it fully.

This next section, from Luke 15:25-32, is optional, depending on the time and the attentiveness of the children.

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Now the older son was in the field. And when he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

One of the servants told him that his brother had come home. His father was having a party, because he was so happy that he had come home safe and sound.

The older son was angry, and he would not go in. So his father came out to talk with him.

The older son complained that he had always been good, but his father hadn't given him a party.

The father said that the son should be happy, because he would have the rest of the father's wealth - everything that he had would be the older son's. And they should be happy that the younger son had come home safe and celebrate with a party for him!



## The Prodigal Son

Luke 15: 11-32