

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY
CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)

Lesson #67

DATE:

SUBJECT: The Runaway Boy Returns Home to His Father

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32

AIM: To show the children that no matter what happens we can always come to our Father God and He will always be there to care for us.

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 18:18-20 "... Jesus ... spoke to them saying ... I am with you always ..."

Content:

Do you remember a parable that the Lord Jesus told the disciple? Remember the shepherd have 100 sheep and lost one? He would use every effort to find the lost one and carry the sheep on His shoulder to bring him home. Another story is about a lady who had ten pieces of silver and lost one, she would sweep the house carefully till she finds the one piece of silver. Surely, every one of us is very important to Him and He does take very good care of us. Today you are going to hear a very nice story about a Father and his two sons and how the Father loved his sons very much. Even when one of the sons was not so good, the father still loved him and was always there to care for him.

One day the Lord Jesus was teaching the people and He told them a story. There was a man who had two sons. One son was older than the other. In those days, a father would give all that he owned to his sons when he got very old. This man was planning to divide his wealth between his two sons. One day the son who was the younger came to his father and asked for his share of wealth. He did not want to wait till his father got old. He wanted his share now. He had no patience. Many times we have to wait to get things. Learning to wait and not be upset is a good thing and pleasing to the Lord.

A few days later after receiving all the property or wealth from his father, the younger son left home to go to a far off land. How sad. He left his father and brother. He loved his money and his things more than his family. This is very, very sad. In this far off land, the son spent all of his father's gift. Away from his father, the younger son did many bad things.

Soon all the money was gone. There was also a severe shortage of food (a famine). Soon the son had nothing and became very hungry. He even wanted to eat what the pigs ate because he was so hungry. Nobody gave him anything to eat. This is very sad.

He began to think that there was food in his father's house. Even the servants who worked for his father had food to eat. What would you do if you were he? What do you do when you are hungry? Right, you go to your mommy or daddy and they are always there to feed you.

So the younger son decided to go home to his father. He was going to tell his father, "Father, I have sinned against God and you I am no longer worthy to be called your son. I will work for you." The son figured that he could work for his father and then be able to eat. As he was returning to his father, the father saw him far off in the fields. His father felt love or compassion for his runaway son whom he had not seen for such a long time. He really missed his younger son. The father ran to him and hugged him and kissed him. The son said, "Father, I have sinned against God and You; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." The father was very loving and he forgave his son. He was so happy to see his son.

The father ordered his servants to give the son the best robe, a ring for his hand and shoes for his feet. They also cooked the best food. They were happy because the family was back together again and the son who was lost was now found.

What did we learn from this story? Right, there was a father who loved and forgave his son even when that son had done some bad things. The Lord Jesus told this story so we would see how loving and forgiving our Father God is. He is the same way. No matter how bad we have been, we can always go to the Lord and tell Him that we are sorry that we did not please Him and as a wonderful Father, He will forgive us and love us. Our God is a loving Father who always wants us to be near Him in His family.