

## Will Jesus Ever Leave Us?

### Lesson 10

## Luke 15:11-27

### Memory verse

**I (God) give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. John 10:28**

### Opener

Have you ever had a friend that promised to be your friend forever? Then, one day they weren't your friend anymore? Do you think Jesus would ever do that? Some people may wonder if Jesus will ever leave them if they do something wrong. Jesus tells a story to help us learn how much God loves us and how He will never leave us.

### Scripture

#### Luke 15:11-16

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

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

Once there was a man who had two sons. One day the younger son said to his father, "I'm tired of being at home, doing lots of work. I want to go away; so give me my share of the family fortune now."

Without a word, the father handed him his share of the fortune.

### Discussion

#### **Ask: Why did the father give the son the money?**

Parents were commanded to leave an inheritance for their children. However, the inheritance was not distributed until the parents were at the point of death or dead. The request was an unreasonable and offensive request. This surely caused the father great grief. He knew that his son was wrong. He knew that his son did not have the necessary wisdom to go out on his own. He knew that son would squander the money. He also knew that he could not stop his son.

#### **Ask: What did the son do?**

With money in his bag, the son started off for the big city. He spent his money partying and doing whatever he wanted.

God often tries to lead us and keep us from harm. Not unlike the young man, we want to do things our way, in our time frame instead of waiting for God's perfect time and God's perfect way.

**Ask: What do you think happened to the son?**

**Luke 15:17-20**

**"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father.**

One morning he woke up to find that his money was all gone. He had spent all he had. Worse still, there was very little food available. He was in real need. He finally found a job looking after pigs! He was so hungry that he would have been glad to eat the pig-food himself.

**Ask: When you do something wrong, what is your first reaction?**

When the young man realized what he had done, he knew he could go home. He had an idea. "Here I am starving when back at home even my father's servants get plenty of food to eat. I will go back and tell my father how sorry I am. He won't take me back as his son, but maybe he will let me work on the farm with the other servants." He started off at once, painfully walking on bare feet and pulling his dirty clothes around his body.

God wants us to go to Him when we have sinned. It does not matter what our sin is. If we repent, God will forgive us. We may feel ashamed and unworthy but we can always run to God when there is true repentance in our heart. God wants us to be in a right relationship with Him always.

**Luke 15:21**

**"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.**

When he was still a long way from home, his father saw him and ran to meet him, full of love and joy. He threw his arms around him and tears of joy fell from his cheeks.

That fact that the father saw him when he was a long way away from home illustrates the love of God. It hints to the fact that the father was waiting for the young man to return.

**Luke 15:22**

**"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.**

"I'm sorry, Father," the boy said, "I'm not fit to be your son."

But the father would not let him say another word. He turned to the servants. "Get my son the best robe and bring sandals for his feet. Put my ring on his finger. Then get ready--we're going to have a party to celebrate his return!"

God lovingly waits for us to return to Him when our hearts belong to Him. We can always go to God. He wants a relationship with us that is real and intimate.

## Application

### **Ask: What do we learn about God in this story?**

First, Jesus told this story to show that God loves everyone and wants them to come to Him. Just like the son told the father that he did wrong, we must tell God we are sorry for the wrong things we have done.

Just like the father forgave the son and welcomed him home, God forgives us and welcomes us into His family! Did you know that God loves us that much? He does!

### **Ask: What else do we learn about God?**

Another lesson is that once you are part of God's family, He will NEVER leave us or forget us. The father in the story never gave up on the son. He loved him and cared for him even when the boy wanted his way. Sometimes we want our way and run far from God. God loves us and cares for us. He promises that when we are part of His family, He will always stay with us.

### **Ask: Since God loves us and is willing to forgive us, can we do whatever we want?**

That doesn't mean that we can do whatever we want because God will always forgive us. We should always want to do things God's way and follow Him. If we do sin, He promises to forgive us and clean out our sin. We must promise to do right.

### **Ask: Would you like to be part of God's forever family?**

God wants us to know Him and to know His love. However, God does not force His will on us. He waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

### **Romans 10:9-10**

**That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.