



Week 4
27 March - 2 April 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

LENT & HOLY WEEK



Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation
Weekly worship song, reflection and small group questions

Week 4 – 27 March



THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Joshua 5:9-12	Psalm 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Praise and Worship: <https://youtu.be/o3VT2bMpoYY>
Kevin LeVar "A Heart That Forgives"

Luke 15:1-3 The parable of the lost sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering round to hear Jesus. *2* But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them".

Luke 15:11-32 The parable of the lost son

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. *12* The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So, he divided his property between them. *13* "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. *14* After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. *15* So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. *16* He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. *17* "When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! *18* I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and

against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.” ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. ‘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 round him and kissed him. ²¹ ‘The son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” 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. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ ‘Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ “Your brother has come,” he replied, “and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.” ²⁸ ‘The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, “Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!” ³¹ “My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.””

Reflection the Scripture by: YVONNE ROBERG

The story of the prodigal son is such a well-known parable of Jesus’. Many of us may be able to relate personally to the characters in Jesus’s story. For those of us who have been let down, scorned, betrayed and treated badly by family, loved ones, friends or work colleagues; the Father in the parable presents to us as an anomaly. Rather than resentfully disown his son, he welcomes him with a feast and a warm embrace. What a challenge the Father offers to us! He teaches us forgiveness, compassion and the true meaning of mercy.

Some of us can really relate to the prodigal son. Perhaps you have “messed up royally”, hurt people who love you, made poor choices based on your own desires and greed that have resulted in not only financial loss but social alienation and despair. Rather than stew in his poor choices and absolute hopelessness the prodigal son relents. He humbly seeks forgiveness; acknowledging his fault and understanding that there may be lasting consequences for his choices. He teaches us humility, that we can seek forgiveness from God and others and that even when we are in the depths of despair, there is hope.

Finally, some of us can relate to the brother of the prodigal son. We have done things “by the book” and feel like God and the world owe us something. We resent it when those who have sinned and been less than perfect are forgiven and given a second chance. We resent God’s mercy for those who have sinned, and we secretly relish in their pain and alienation. The brother teaches us about the need for compassion, that our relationship with God is not a competitive one and that we too need to rejoice when reconciliation occurs.



Whoever you relate to in this story, think of Jesus. Jesus taught us the true art of reconciliation. Whilst we were sinners, he died for us on the cross so that we could be reconciled to our Father. Let us, whatever our circumstances practice the art of reconciliation with mercy, humility and grace.

Small Group Questions:

1. At this moment in time who do you relate to in the story?
2. What is the key attitude that you need to address in order to be able to practice the “art of reconciliation” as God the Father does?
3. What will you actively commit to do to change your current situation with regards to reclaiming peace with God or others?

Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:



MONDAY, March 28, 2022: Psalm 53; Leviticus 23:26-41; Revelation 19:1-8

Memory Verse: "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God." Rev 19:1

Prayer: Thank you Father that no matter what my circumstances are you reign over all things. **Amen**

TUESDAY, March 29, 2022: Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10

Memory Verse: "And I fell at his feet to worship Him". Rev 19:10

Prayer: Father we bow down and worship you as the sovereign ruler over ourselves and all of creation. **Amen**

WEDNESDAY, March 30, 2022: Psalm 53; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17

Memory Verse: "So they all ate and were filled, and twelve baskets of the leftover fragments were taken up by them." Luke 9:15

Prayer: Father, I thank you for your divine provision in my life. **Amen**

THURSDAY, March 31, 2022: Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24

Memory Verse: "Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

Prayer: Father I rejoice that you know me by my name and that I am yours. **Amen**

FRIDAY, April 1, 2022: Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:8-15; Philippians 2:25-3:1

Memory Verse: "Those who sow in tears, shall reap in joy" Psalm 125:5

Prayer: Father, no matter what my situation, I believe that you have a plan for me to experience joy again. **Amen**

SATURDAY, April 2, 2022: Psalm 126; Exodus 12:21-27; John 11:45-57

Memory Verse: "And it shall be, when your children say to you, 'What do you mean by this service?'" Exodus 12:26

Prayer: Father we undertake to draw our children into our worship and share your ordinances with them. **Amen**



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR

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Sunday 27th March 2022

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:8-10

The parable of the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10)

(For this next story you will need 10 coins – hide one of the coins somewhere in the area you are teaching before the start of the lesson)

Jesus then went on to tell the people about a woman who lost a coin.

- This woman had 10 coins. Use your fingers to count to ten with me. 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10
- One day she was counting her coins – help me count my coins: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9.....
- Oh no! She had lost one. She took her lamp and started looking everywhere in her house for that coin. Shall we help her look for the coin?



- She looked under things – let’s pretend we are looking under something.
- She stood tall and looked on top of things – let’s stand tall on tip toes and pretend we are looking for something that is high up.
- She stooped down low and looked for that coin. Stoop low with me. (*Squat down*)

Do you think the coin is somewhere in this room? (*Let the children search the room until they find the coin.*)

How do you think the woman felt when she found the coin? (*Allow the children to respond*)

I’m sure she was very happy – show me how happy she looked! (*Make happy faces with the children.*)

The woman was so happy she told everyone she knew.

1. Have you ever lost anything very special or precious to you? Share with each other – what did you lose? How did you feel about this loss?

2. Why do you think Jesus told this story?

Family craft:

Coin rubbings – the children can make “coins” by placing a piece of paper over a coin and then rubbing with a crayon over the coin – the image of the coin will then appear on the paper. The children can make 10 coins, then cut them out and place in an envelope to retell the story – the little ones especially may not be able to cut out the coins – this craft may need the help of parents. The children may like to decorate the envelope that they will keep their coins in.