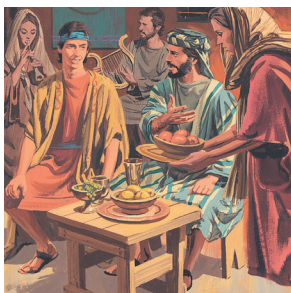
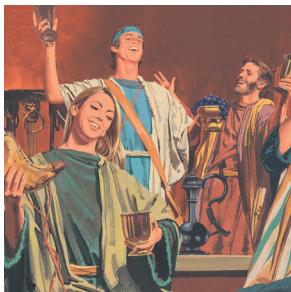


# The Parable of the Prodigal Son



## The Prodigal Son

Read Luke 15:11–24 and the student manual commentaries for Luke 15:12–13 and for Luke 15:14–17. As you read, look for everything you can learn about the younger (prodigal) son by considering the phrases below and thinking about why they are important to understanding and applying the parable. Write down thoughts or impressions you have as you ponder the meaning of these phrases. Also think about the questions listed below, and write your thoughts.

- Asking for his inheritance (verse 12)
- “A far country” (verse 13)
- “Wasted his substance with riotous living” (verse 13)
- Fed swine (verse 15)
- “No man gave unto him” (verse 16)
- “He came to himself” (verse 17)
- “I will arise and go to my father” (verse 18)
- “Father, I have sinned” (verse 18)
- “No more worthy to be called thy son” (verse 19)
- “He arose, and came to his father” (verse 20)

1. What details about the prodigal son do you find particularly important to the meaning of the parable?
2. How can the prodigal son’s actions be likened to the actions of people today?
3. What message would the father’s actions described in verses 20, 22–23 communicate to the son?
4. How might verses 12–24 communicate hope to the publicans and sinners listening to the parable?

## The Father

Read Luke 15:11–24 and the student manual commentaries for Luke 15:12–13 and for Luke 15:20–24. As you read, look for everything you can learn about the father in the parable by considering the phrases below and thinking about why they are important to understanding and applying the parable. Write down thoughts or impressions you have as you ponder the meaning of these phrases. Also think about the questions listed below, and write your thoughts.

- “When he was yet a great way off” (verse 20)
- “Had compassion” (verse 20)
- “Ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him” (verse 20)
- “Bring forth the best robe” (verse 22)
- Robe, ring, shoes, and a fatted calf (verses 22–23)
- “My son was dead, and is alive again” (verse 24)
- “Began to be merry” (verse 24)

1. What details about the father do you find particularly important to the meaning of the parable?
2. How did the father’s actions described in verse 20 make it easier for the prodigal son to return?
3. What message would the details about the father communicate to the Pharisees and scribes? What message would these details communicate to the publicans and sinners?
4. If the father in this parable represents our Heavenly Father, how can these verses give each of us hope?

## The Older Son and the Father

Later in the lesson your teacher will give you instructions about studying Luke 15:25–32.