

LEARNING ABOUT BEING LOVING

Jesus Tells a Story About a Loving Father

Scripture Reference: Luke 15:11-32

Jesus continued (telling another parable): “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 the pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“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.”

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.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him.’ 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.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 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.’

“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 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.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT BEING LOVING

Read the following verses in your Bible that talk about being loving. Then write the matching reference in the box.

Matthew 5:44
1 John 4:21

John 3:16
Romans 12:9

1 Thessalonians 3:12

Romans 12:10

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

“And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”

“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.”

“I (Jesus) tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute (are mean to) you.”

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.”

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

Draw a picture of yourself next to the things you can do when you are having a hard time loving someone. (Or write what you would do if you don't want to draw).

1. Pray and ask God to give you His love for that person.
2. Think about one thing you CAN love about the person.
3. Wonder what it would be like to BE that person.
4. Offer to help with something or to do something fun together.
5. Or _____



The younger son was sorry he had left home.
He went back to his father and said, "I'm sorry."
The father was happy that his son came back because he loved
his son very much.

Luke 15:11-24