# Party Time! The Prodigal Son, Part 2

#### Materials:

- I. Luke 15:11-24 (refer to the Scripture sheet in the student manual).
- 2. Flip chart with Scripture written on it in same colors as the student manual sheet.
- 3. Different colored scarves or shawls (enough for each character in the story).
- 4. Reminder sheet from the student manual.
- 5. Party invitation. Enough for each person and you will also use this as the prop.

Chapter 2b in Love Walked Among Us and Lesson 3 in The Person of Jesus.

#### Goals:

Love: I need to remember how much God loves me, and then copy that love toward other people.

Jesus: Jesus died so we may attend the everlasting party in heaven!

Faith: God looks at us, his heart fills up with us and he runs to us with love.



**Kim's World:** The percentage of "unreached people" within the world of disability has been said by some to be 97%.

## I. Review the Story

#### 10 Minutes

**Summing it up:** The Prodigal Son knew he had done many things that were wrong and he was sorry for doing them...but he was nervous to come home and see how his father would react.

Q. Who remembers our lesson from last week? (The son who ran away with the money.)

Hold up the prop from last week if prompting is necessary.

Yes, the son ran away with the money that he was to get after his father had died.

Q. What did the son do with the money? (He spent it all.)

Yes, after the son spent the money he ended up all alone.

Q. The son got a job. Who remembers the job he got? (He fed pigs.)

Yes, and while he had this job there was a drought.

Q. Tell me what a drought is. (When there is no rain.)
Yes, while the son had the job to feed the pigs the rain stopped.

**Q.** When rain doesn't come, what happens? (Plants die.) Yes, and when plants die, seeds die too.

Q. When the seeds die, what happens to the food that was to come from the seeds? (The food doesn't grow.)

**Q.** When the food doesn't grow what happens to the people? (They get hungry.) Yes, the son got hungry.

Q. He was so hungry he was thinking about eating whose food? (The pig food.) As he was feeding the pigs, he thought about all the food that was at his house, where his dad and brother lived. So, he decided to go home. But he was scared.

## 2. Experience the story

### 15 Minutes

**Summing it up:** We will experience the story through a variety of different means in order to use all the senses.

Read Luke 15:11-24.

Have the students who are comfortable read aloud one verse each until they finish the passage. Adapt for slower readers by assisting them and/or giving them shorter portions to read.

#### Luke 15:11-24

- II Jesus continued, "There was a man who had two sons.
- 12 The younger son spoke to his father. He said, "Father, give me my share of the family property." So the father divided his property between his two sons.
- 13 Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away. There he wasted his money on wild living.
- 14 He spent everything he had. Then the whole country ran low on food. So the son didn't have what he needed.
- 15 He went to work for someone who lived in that country, who sent him to the fields to feed the bigs.
- 16 The son wanted to fill his stomach with the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything.
- 17 Then he began to think clearly again. He said, "How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food! But here I am dying from hunger!
- 18 I will get up and go back to my father. I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven. And I have sinned against you.
- 19 I am no longer fit to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired workers."
- 20 So he got up and went to his father. While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him.
- 21 The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer fit 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 fattest calf and kill it. Let's have a big dinner and celebrate.
- 24 This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found." So they began to celebrate."

Choose at least two of the next four options to reinforce the primary reading of the passage.

1. Role-play the story.

Use different colored scarves or shawls worn over the head or around the shoulders for costumes. For example:

Person 1: Father

Person 2: Son

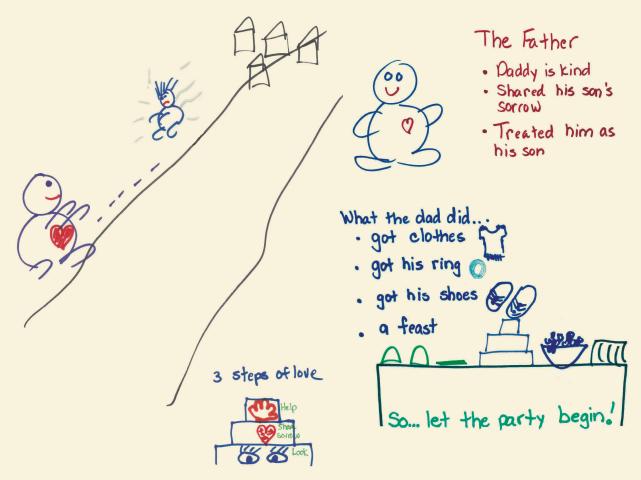
Person 3: Servant #1 (has ring)

Person 4: Servant #2 (has clothes)

Person 5: Servant #3 (gets calf)



2. Draw out the scene as you teach. The picture below shows the completed drawing.



- 3. Watch a YouTube video of The Prodigal Son: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4iuW11uSMY.
- 4. Use puppets to act out the story. There is a nice series of Bible character puppets from www .thepuppetstore.com/biblical\_s/62.htm.



**Teaching Note:** After you have read the story from Scripture and reinforced it with two of the above options, you will begin to get the students involved in the learning process by asking the interactive questions below:

## 3. Understand the Story

### 15 Minutes

**Summing it up:** The father of the Prodigal Son shows love by looking, sharing his son's sorrow, and helping.

Q. We've said this a lot in our lessons, "Jesus is always doing what?" (Looking.) The father, just like Jesus, was looking for his son from a long way away.

Q. Then the father walked up the second step of love. What step is that? (Sharing people's sadness.)



Draw a heart on the father and start to fill it up with a marker.

Q. Whose sadness was filling up the dad's heart? (His son's.)

Q. Do you know what the daddy did? (He ran to the son.)

That's right, he didn't just walk, he ran! He ran to his son and he hugged him, and kissed him.

• Remember the three things the son was going to say to the dad? What was the first thing the son wanted to tell the father? (I was wrong.)

Refer to chart from last week, if necessary.

Q. What was the second thing he said? (Don't call me your son anymore.)

Q. The third thing he said was what? (I'll be your servant.)

Q. Was anything in the son's backpack anymore? (No, it was empty.)

**Q.** What do you think the dad asked? (Answers will vary.)



Write down the students' answers in the form of questions on a flip chart that you have divided. Put these questions on the left side.

Q. What else could the father have asked? (Where were you?)

Q. Tell me something else he could have said. (Wow, you smell!)



Well, this is how the story goes. The father saw the son (draw eyes), his heart filled with compassion (draw a heart and "fill it up"), and the father ran to his son and kissed him.

**Q.** Remember the steps we had from our last lessons?

Draw the steps and label as you go.



Q. Do you remember that we said, "Love costs something"? (Yes.)

Q. What did it cost the father to run to his son? (Time.)

Yes, it did cost time. Also think about what it would look like for an older man wearing a long robe to run.

Q. What would you think if you saw someone running like that? (Answers will vary.) Yes, so the father really didn't care how he looked either. He was just too excited to think about anything other than the quickest way to get to his son to hug him.

# Q. Did the father get messy and dirty? (Yes.)

Now, the father smells like pigs too.

They went back to the house. The dad had lots of servants.

Draw stick figures on flip chart.

Q. Do you know what a servant is? (Answers will vary.)

They are people who help with the chores around the house. The dad had a lot of money to pay for this help. The dad said to his servants, "Quick, bring me the best clothes in my closet and put them on him. Get my ring and put it on his finger. And get shoes for him. And kill the calf that we have been fattening up. We are going to celebrate with a feast."

Continue illustrating on right hand side of the chart.

Q. How do you think the son is beginning to feel? (Happy.)

Q. How do you think the father is feeling? (Very happy.)

Illustrate a very happy face on right hand side of the chart.

The father doesn't act like we thought, earlier we said he was asking, "What did you do with the money? Where were you? Why do you stink? What happened to your clothes?"

Q. What kind of a daddy is that? (Mean.)

Illustrate a face of a mean daddy on the left side of the chart.

Q. But what kind of daddy is this? (Happy.)

Yes, he is happy.

Point to right side of the chart.

Q. What kind of a daddy is he? (Kind.)

Q. Yes, remember what kind of heart did he have? (He shared his son's sorrow.)

Yes, the father's heart is kind; he shares his son's sadness.

Now, the boy's tummy is still empty.

Q. What was the daddy going to do? (Kill the calf and have a feast.)

• What is the difference between a dinner and a feast? (A lot of food.)

Yes, sometimes you can call it a spread... with a long table.

Illustrate a feast, and discuss as you draw.

Q. Think of a Thanksgiving feast. What do you eat at that feast besides turkey? (Bread.) Yes, not just one kind of bread but maybe four kinds. You don't just have water to drink. No! You have all kinds of soda, shakes, and lemonade.

- Q. Why do you think the dad did this? (He's nice.)
- Q. Did he treat the son like a servant? (No, he treated him like his son.)
- Why did the dad do this? (Answers will vary.)

  Because the daddy said that it was almost like his son had died. He lived far away. He didn't talk to his dad. It was like he was dead. Now he came back to his dad and he was alive!

You know what God says? "So let the party begin!" Write that down.



Q. Do you think Jesus likes parties? (Yes.)



## 4. What about me?

10 Minutes

**Summing it up:** What do we learn about God from this story? God loves us like the father of the Prodigal loved his son. Jesus has prepared a party for us...we need to RSVP!

**Q.** What does this story tell us about Jesus? (Jesus loves us no matter how much we want our own way.)

Q. What do we see and learn from Jesus' story?

Jesus says the father is like God. The son is like us. And we say, "I don't need God, all I want is the stuff he gives me and to have fun. He gives me friends, books, movies, the library and money."

Refer to the illustration of the boy leaving with his backpack full of money and all dressed up

We go on our very own road. We decide to do what we want and leave God out of our life. Just like the son left his father and did what he wanted. Sometimes we just wake up not even thinking about God. We just wake up thinking about us and how we want to have fun. We leave Jesus out of our life and our plans. We live for ourselves and not for God.

Q. Have you ever done that? (Yes.)

# Q. Have you ever said to God, "I'm not doing what you want me to do, I am doing what I want to do." (Yes.)

We all have. That is why Jesus tells this story. Well, sometimes while we are doing stuff that we know isn't right we feel empty. We know we are doing the wrong thing. Maybe we say to ourselves, "I shouldn't be here." "I shouldn't be watching this." We can almost be afraid to go back to God. We think he might be like this.

Refer to the left hand side of the flip chart of the mean dad.

## Q. Do you ever think God would be mean to you? (Answers will vary.)

But if we are here without any of our stuff and we are all dirty from things we did that weren't right ...God is going to run to us.



Illustrate God looking at us, his heart filling up, and then running to us, and calling us his children.

## Q. Did you know he calls you his daughters and sons? (No.)

If God calls us sons and daughters...He is our Father.

Some day when we get to heaven the Bible says that God, our Father, will clothe us.

God is going to go into his closet and get us his amazing clothes to wear. It says in the Bible that God is going to give us not a ring, but a crown. And then it says we are going to have an amazing feast. And the party will be forever! (Rev. 19:6-9)

But to go to parties you need an invitation. Did you know Jesus has given you an invitation? It is really in this book. Here are Jesus' words: (read John 3:16-17).

Hold up the Bible while reading.



**Gospel Connection:** The invitation says this: "You are invited to my never-ending party in heaven." But to get this invitation you need to do one thing. You need to come to me just like the prodigal son did: sad about your sin, sad about your heart. Come tell me that you keep doing things that are not right and then I'll help you change and do things that please me. I love people who know they have done things that are wrong and ask to be forgiven. Just like the father in the story, I will run to you."

Distribute the filled out invitations.

The way to RSVP to this party is to pray. You pray and ask God to forgive you for doing things that do not please him. You thank him that he loves you.

Then you get on an RSVP list. God has a list (really, the list is so big it is in a book) of all the people who have asked him for forgiveness.

Let the party begin...and this is forever.

## 5. Close in prayer

Jesus, thank you for telling us this story. Thank you that we are your daughters and sons and you are our Father. Please forgive us for the bad things we have done. Help us not to do those things again that make you sad. Thank you for the invitation that you will give me to the party in heaven. I am glad I'm going to that party! We will wear special clothes and have a crown! Thank you. I love you.

