

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

## Three Parables

*Luke 15*

### • Use sound effects:

Play various sound effects during the story: a sheep bleating for the first parable, coins clinking for the parable of the coins, pigs snorting for the lost son, and the sound of people celebrating or cheering for when the son comes home. Use a "sad trombone" sound for the older brother.

### • Dramatic dialogue:

When the son returns home, lower your volume to pull kids in; speak the father's and son's lines from different spots facing each other.

**Tax collectors and sinners came to listen to Jesus teach. The religious leaders complained because Jesus welcomed sinners, so Jesus told them three parables to teach them about God.**

**Jesus said, "If a man has 100 sheep and loses one, what does he do? He leaves the 99 sheep in the open field and searches for the lost sheep until he finds it. Then he tells his friends, 'Let's celebrate! I found my lost sheep!'"**

**Then Jesus said, "This is what heaven is like; there is more joy in heaven when one sinner repents and turns back to God than for 99 people who did not wander off."**

**Jesus said, "If a woman has 10 silver coins and loses one of them, what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches carefully until she finds it! Then she tells her friends, 'Let's celebrate! I found my lost coin!'"**

**Then Jesus said, "This is what heaven is like. There is joy in heaven when one sinner repents and turns back to God."**

**Finally, Jesus said, "A man had two sons. The younger son said, 'Father, give me my inheritance today.' So the father gave his son his share. The younger son left home. He wasted his money and lived foolishly. There was a famine, and the people there did not have enough food. The son got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry, even the pigs' food looked tasty.**

**"The younger son made a plan. He would go back to his father and admit he was wrong. He would ask to work for his father like the servants.**

**“So the younger son headed home.** He was still a long way away when his father saw him coming. **His father ran to him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him.** The son began to apologize. ‘I have sinned against God and against you,’ he said.

“But **the father told his servants, ‘Let’s celebrate** with a feast! Bring the best robe and put it on my son! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **This son of mine was lost, and now he is found!’**

**“At this time, the older son came from the fields and heard music at the house.** “What’s going on?” he asked one of the servants.

“Your brother is here,’ the servant said. ‘Your father is celebrating.’

**“The older brother was angry!** He refused to go to the feast. **The father asked him to come inside. ‘Look!’ the older brother said. ‘I never disobeyed you! But you never threw a party for me.’**

**“‘Son,’ the father said, ‘everything I have is yours. We have to celebrate and be happy. Your brother was lost and is found.’”**

*Christ Connection: The religious leaders complained that Jesus welcomed sinners. Jesus told these parables to teach about God’s forgiveness. God sent Jesus so sinners can be forgiven. As Savior, Jesus seeks sinners. He paid the ultimate price—His own life—to save people from sin.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD’S WORD?  
GET  
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that the father never gave up on his son. When people hurt us, God tells believers to trust in Him and keep going. God works everything out at the right time.

(Gal. 6:9) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Seek and Celebrate

Find and circle 5 sheep, 10 silver coins, and 2 sons.

## Mixed Feelings

Write a short description of how each person felt at the end of the parable of the lost son.



**Younger brother:**

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**Older brother:**

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**Father:**

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# Lost and Found

DOWNLOAD THE  
TGP FAMILY APP

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Search the picture to find the lost son, the sheep, and the 10 coins.



**KEY PASSAGE:** Mark 6:34

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Why did Jesus tell parables?  
Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**THREE PARABLES**

- Jesus taught parables about people finding lost things.
- People celebrated when they find what was lost.
- Jesus is the One who seeks and saves the lost.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- How does Jesus feel about people who don't know Him?
- How do we feel about people who don't know Jesus?
- How can we show love to lost people?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Play a game of hide and seek with your family in a local park or in your home. See who can find the "lost" people fastest!
- Help your kids look around your home for lost change. Can they find enough for a candy bar or other treat?

*Younger Kids Activity Pages*  
Unit 22, Session 4



# My Son Is Found!

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete the maze to get the father to his lost son.

DOWNLOAD THE  
TGP FAMILY APP



**KEY PASSAGE:** Mark 6:34

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Why did Jesus tell stories? Jesus told stories to teach people about God.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**THREE PARABLES**

- Jesus taught about God's love.
- God is like a shepherd looking for His lost sheep.
- God is like a woman who celebrates when she finds her one missing coin.
- God is like a father who loves his children no matter what.

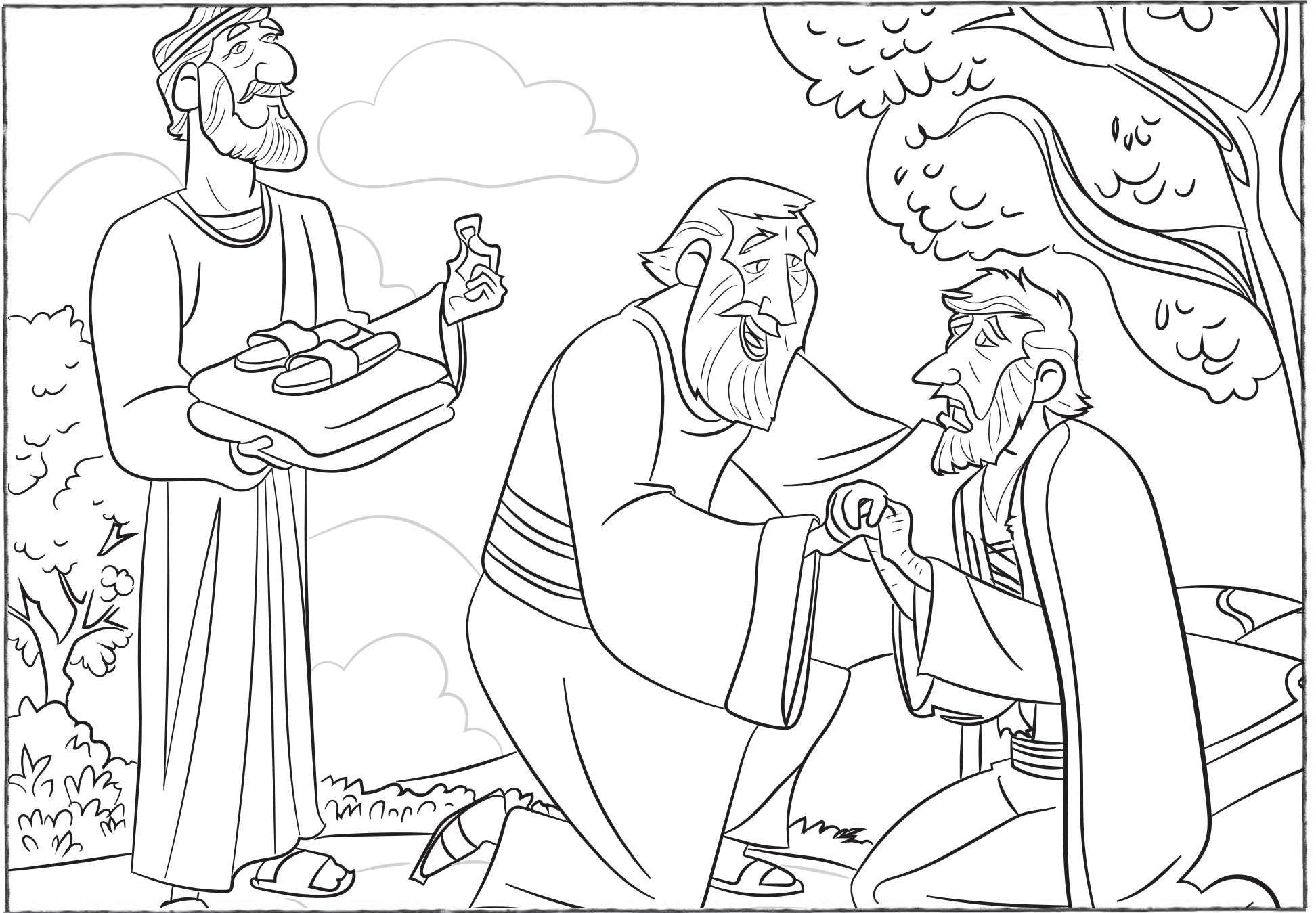
**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- How did the father show he loved his younger son?
- How did the father show he loved his older son?
- How do we know God loves us?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- As you discipline preschoolers this week, lavish them with love after you correct them for a wrong choice. Take them to get a treat. Take them to a store to buy them something they really want. Remind your child that you and God love your child no matter what.

*Preschool Activity Pages*  
Unit 22, Session 4



## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.  
Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.