



Luke 15:11–32

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Luke 19:10

MEMORY VERSE

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” **Luke 19:10**

Kids let their parents down. It’s a part of growing up. Your children have let you down before. They will let you down again. And regardless of what you might think, you let your parents down, too. (It’s a shock . . . take a second to collect yourself.) But there is a wonderful redemptive message we can teach our children through disappointment. Jesus taught this very lesson in the Parable of the Lost Son.

Read Luke 15:11–32. Jesus had already shared the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin. Now, it seemed He was relaying just how far-reaching God’s

grace and mercy was, something contrary to the thinking of the religious leaders of that day.

God has set up the family as an active illustration of His love and mercy. When we love our children, we are willing to sacrifice. When they do wrong, and hurt our very hearts, we’re willing to forgive. When they turn from our values, and us, we’re willing to take them back after they have experienced the consequences. In all of these things, God is the supreme example of the Father who loves us so much that He will not walk to meet us when He sees us coming from far away, but will run.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Use this time to encourage each other as family members. Share how grace is extended in your family, making each one feel loved and not rejected. Talk about how forgiveness is offered in your home.

Explore . . .

Family members share in reading Luke 15:11–32. The family discusses: **How hurt would you be if you were the father in this story, having your child ask for the inheritance before your death? What do you think was displayed in the character of the lost son? How do you think the father’s love for his son in the story compares to God’s love for us?**

Transform . . .

The family answers this question: **How important is it to know the extent of God’s love? How can we display such love to other people?** A family member reads: **This kind of love runs contrary to the ways of the world. We must show the world that nothing hurts us so much that it cannot be forgiven. In this way, we display the full extent of the love of God.**

Pray together that your family will display love through forgiveness and acceptance, no matter what anyone has done.