

THE GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD: THE PARABLES OF JESUS

Great Stories about God's Love
Sunday, October 17 | Tommy Duke
First Baptist Church of Garden City

The Parable of the Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11-24 (NLT)

¹¹ “Jesus told them this story: ‘A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son told his father, “I want my share of your estate now before you die.” So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. ¹³ A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.

¹⁴ About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. ¹⁵ He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, “At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger!

¹⁸ I will go home to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.’”

²⁰ So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

²¹ His son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.” ²² But his father said to the servants, “Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.

²³ And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.” So the party began.’”

The Actors:

The Actions:

HOW DO I EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE?

1. ADMIT THAT I HAVE _____ FROM GOD.

"The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything." – Luke 15:16 (NLT)

"I turned away from God, but then I was sorry. I kicked myself for my stupidity! I was thoroughly ashamed of all I did in my younger days." – Jeremiah 31:19 (NLT)

2. DECIDE TO _____ TO GOD.

"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."' So he returned home to his father..." – Luke 15:17-20 (NLT)

"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before..." – Acts 3:19-20 (NKJV)

3. RECEIVE _____ FROM GOD.

"...And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him." – Luke 15:20 (NLT)

Memory Verse:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." – John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

4. ACCEPT _____ IN GOD'S FAMILY.

"And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began." – Luke 15:23-24 (NLT)

"God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure." – Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS TO:

- Memorize John 3:16-17.
- Return home to God by trusting Jesus as my Lord and Savior.
- Share God's love with families in our community by helping with Trunk or Treat on October 31.
I will help in the following way(s):
 - Candy ○ Car ○ Serve ○ Give \$\$
- Sign up for Fall Growth Group # _____. (Groups just began meeting)

Join us again next weekend as we continue *The Greatest Stories Ever Told* with
"Great Stories about Unconditional Forgiveness." Invite a friend to join you!

** Bible verses are from the New King James Versions (NKJV)
or the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise noted.*

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