

---

# Lesson 6: The Selfish Son

## BIG IDEA

God is a father who loves to welcome home his children when they are sorry for rejecting him.

 **Luke 15: 11-24 (paraphrase)**

Jesus told a story:

There was a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me my inheritance now'. So, the father gave it to him. The younger son took his money, left home and went far away. He wasted the money until he had nothing left. He took a job feeding pigs. He wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating. He had nothing.

The son thought about what he had done. He said to himself, 'My father has servants and they have food to eat. I will go to my father and say, "I have turned away from God and from you. I am not good enough to be your son. Please accept me as one of your servants."' "

He returned to his father. When he was a long way from the house, his father saw him and ran towards him. He put his arms around his son and kissed him. "Father", the son said, "I have turned away from God and from you. I am not good enough to be your son."

But the father shouted to his servants, 'Hurry, get the most beautiful coat we have and put it on my son. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. We will eat a big meal and celebrate together. I thought my son was dead but he is alive. I thought he was gone forever but he has come home.'

 **Teacher Preparation****Read Scripture**

- Luke 15:11-24 in your Bible
- Luke 15:11-24 paraphrase (on page 2)

**Read *Meet Jesus Book***

- Chapter 6 – The Selfish Son

**Print Resources**

- APPENDIX 6.1 – Print (on card if possible) 1 for the whole group or 1 for each pair.
- APPENDIX 6.2 - Print 1 for teacher's reference.
- APPENDIX 6.3 - Print 1 for each pair of students and cut in half.
- APPENDIX 1.5 - Reuse print from lesson one.

**Other Equipment**

- Whiteboard / table
- Whiteboard markers
- A die or dice

## Activate Prior Knowledge

APPENDIX 6.1 - Print 1 for the whole group on card if possible.

You will need a die for this game.

Play it as a class or in pairs/small groups.

Don't rush this. Encourage discussion.

## Predict the Content

Write, 'The selfish son' on the board.

Ask, 'What do you think the story will be about?'

## Read and Comprehend

Depending on the level of your students you might:

- Read the passage of scripture to them;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in English;
- Direct them to read the passage of scripture in their heart language; or
- Read the passage of scripture later in the lesson.

### OWN HEART LANGUAGE

Depending on the level of your students, you might like to invite them to read the passage in their heart language.

Visit [bible.com](http://bible.com) or [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) to find a number of international translations.

## Activities

### Activity 1: Spot the errors

APPENDIX 6.2 - Print 1 for teacher's reference.

Read the story (using the correct words) to your class at a steady pace with natural expression.

Retell the story, but this time use the incorrect words highlighted in the text. As you go, pause and use body language and invite listeners to correct you.

### Activity 2: Retell the story

In pairs ask the students to retell the story to each other.

### Activity 3: Reread the story

APPENDIX 6.3 - Print 1 for each pair of students and cut in half

Give out text. Students read silently.

Invite students to clarify vocabulary.

Invite one student to read aloud.

## Invite Curiosity

APPENDIX 1.5 - Reuse print from lesson one.

Place the ? on the table and ask:

- Are there any new words?'
- What questions might someone have about this text?
- What comments might someone have about the text?



## An Important Question

Say, 'Jesus told stories to teach people about God. The Father in this story shows us what God is like.'

Ask, 'What is Jesus telling us about God?'



## Concluding Statement

God is a father who loves to welcome home his children when they are sorry for rejecting him.

# 6.1 Appendix

Print (on card if possible) 1 for the whole group or one for each pair.

## Board Game

<p><b>START</b></p>	<p>Do you have any sons?</p>	<p>Describe this picture</p> 	<p>What is it like being far away from home?</p>
<p>move forward 5 spaces →</p>	<p>What is an inheritance?</p>	<p>Have you ever wasted any money?</p>	<p>What do you see?</p> 
<p>Have you ever been hungry?</p>	<p>What is the worst job you have ever had?</p>	<p>What does selfish mean?</p>	<p>Tell us about a difficult decision you have made</p>
<p>What does regret mean?</p>	<p>Describe this picture</p> 	<p>How difficult is it to say sorry?</p>	<p>What is your favourite meal?</p>
<p>Describe this picture</p> 	<p>Tell us about a big celebration you have been to</p>	<p>Tell us about a gift you have been given</p>	<p>Have you ever lost something?</p>
<p>Describe this picture</p> 	<p>Have you ever found something you thought was lost?</p>	<p>move back 3 spaces ←</p>	<p><b>FINISH</b></p>

## Spot the errors - teacher's reference

Jesus told a story:

There was a man with two **daughters** sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me my inheritance now'. So the father gave it to him. The younger **daughter** son took his money, left home and went far away. He **saved** ~~wasted~~ the money until he had nothing left. He took a job feeding **horses** pigs. He wanted to eat the food the **horses** pigs were eating. He had nothing.

The son thought about what he had done. He said to **his friend** himself, 'My **mother** father has servants and they have food to eat. I will go to my **mother** father and say, "I have turned away from God and from you. I am not **healthy** good enough to be your **daughters** son. Please accept me as one of your servants."'

He returned to his father. When he was **close to** a long way from the house, his father saw him and **walked** ran towards him. He put his arms around his son and kissed him. "Father", the son said, "I have turned away from God and from you. I am not good enough to be your son." But the father **whispered** shouted to his servants, 'Hurry, get the most **colourful** beautiful coat we have and put it on my son. Put a ring on his **wrist** finger and shoes on his feet. We will eat a big meal and celebrate together. I thought my son was dead but he is alive. I thought he was gone forever but he has come home.'

## 6.3 Appendix

ACTIVITY 3: Print 1 for each pair of students and cut in half.

### Lost son narrative

#### Luke 15: 11-24

Jesus told a story:

There was a man with two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me my inheritance now'. So the father gave it to him. The younger son took his money, left home and went far away. He wasted the money until he had nothing left. He took a job feeding pigs. He wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating. He had nothing.

The son thought about what he had done. He said to himself, 'My father has servants and they have food to eat. I will go to my father and say, "I have turned away from God and from you. I am not good enough to be your son. Please accept me as one of your servants."'

He returned to his father. When he was a long way from the house, his father saw him and ran towards him. He put his arms around his son and kissed him. "Father", the son said, "I have turned away from God and from you. I am not good enough to be your son." But the father shouted to his servants, 'Hurry, get the most beautiful coat we have and put it on my son. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. We will eat a big meal and celebrate together. I thought my son was dead but he is alive. I thought he was gone forever but he has come home.'