

OUR LOVING GOD

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



PARABLES OF THE LOST SHEEP, LOST COIN, & LOST SON

Luke 15:1-32

Tell the story of one or more of the parables to the children using enthusiasm, asking questions to pull their attention back to you, and using an interactive element to provide some movement for them. Our goal is to build a foundation of knowledge of the Bible that we can build upon as they are older.

1

GOAL

God loves us & wants to be reunited with us

2

AT CHURCH

In preparation of Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

3

AT HOME

Our love and care for our children, teaches them about God's love for all of us



Class routine:
Move my photo from "home" to "church"



Class routine:
Light a candle - respectfully prayerfully without playing



Class routine:
Venerate our icon



Sing "Lord have mercy" in English, Greek, Arabic, Romanian

INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS FOR STORYTIME

- One student can be the shepherd carrying a lamb on their shoulders.
- The class can stand up and follow the teacher around the room, listening to the story, and looking for the lamb.
- Show 9 coins to the class and let them find the missing coin using their little battery powered candles or flashlights (bring in a flashlight for each child or have a 15 second timer going and then they share the flashlight with the next person as they look for the hidden coin)
- The teacher or another student can be the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. A student can be the younger son who leaves and comes back. The father welcomes him back with a hug.
- The students can give each other a hug after the story.
- Take the kids outside and tell them the story of the prodigal son and let them sprinkle bird seed on the grass pretending to feed the pigs.



“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.” John 10:11

QUESTIONS

- Why is it important to stay near your parents when you go somewhere with a lot of people?
- Do your parents want you to stay safe and make good choices?
- What can you do when you are sad?
(Talk to mom and dad; pray to God)
- Is God happy when we ask Him to forgive us?

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 284-294

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact, pages 192-204

The Parables by Archbishop Dmitri

[GOA: Sunday of the Prodigal Son Resource](#)





ICONS

Christ the Good Shepherd

Jesus is the shepherd in the story of the Lost Sheep.

A shepherd wants to take care of his flock of sheep. If a lamb wanders off, he needs to teach it to stay with him and the flock so the shepherd will carry the lamb on his shoulders for awhile. The lamb gets used to the shepherd's voice and grows attached to him.

"And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."

John 10:4-5

There is a cross behind Jesus because He gave His life for our salvation.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd give His life for the sheep." John 10:11

Parable of the Prodigal (Lost) Son

In the top middle of the icon, we see the angels in heaven standing next to an empty throne. Jesus came down from heaven for us.

On the right side of the icon, we see Jesus (the father in the story) hugging the younger son in the story (all of us).

On the top right side, we see the father's house and a pathway leading down to where they are standing. The father didn't wait for the son to come all the way to him, He came to meet the son.

On the top left side, we see the far away country. Below that, we see the younger son feeding the pigs and wanting to be back home with his father.

OUR LOVING GOD

AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

W *hat saves and makes for good children is the life of the parents in the home.*

St. Porphyrios

On the Upbringing of Children

A *s the mother is, so the child will be.*

St. Nektarios

Motherhood and the Raising of Children

As parents, we have several saints who provide guidance on raising children. Here are two links to digital books:

- St. Porphyrios: [On the Upbringing of Children](#)
- St. John Chrysostom: [On Vainglory & the Right Way for Parents to Bring Up Their Children](#)

Additionally, you can find guidance from St. Nektarios in our church bookstore:

- *For Mind and Heart: St. Nektarios as Teacher*

HOME ACTIVITY #16

Family Discussion: This week in Sunday School, you learned all about the Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Son. All of these parables teach us about God's love for us and His desire to be reunited with us. Why is it important to ask each other for forgiveness? Why is it important for us to go to Confession and ask God to forgive us?

Bedtime story: Read the Bible

Ἡ ΠΑΡΑΒΟΛὴ τῆ ἀσώτου νιότης

