

# 2



## THE LOST SON

### Grace/Repentance/Forgiveness

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 1: ENTERING THE KINGDOM

## 1 | Teacher's Notes

**Scripture** Luke 15: 11 - 24

**Objectives** To explain that

- Today's story is about entering God's Kingdom.
- Sin leads to destruction and death.
- Because of our sin we deserve death, but God has given us his life and love instead. That is called "grace". Grace is God's undeserved love for us.
- God's love and salvation through Jesus is a free gift to us that we don't deserve. It is God's grace.
- Repentance is part of receiving the free gift of salvation that the Father offers us through Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to repent and trust and obey Jesus.
- Repentance means having a change of heart, turning from sin, and serving God.
- When we turn back to God, our Heavenly Father welcomes us with open arms and forgives us because Jesus died on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.
- God invites us to live with him in his Kingdom forever, where we can have life with joy, hope and peace.

**Memory Verse** "When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done." (Romans 6:23 - NIRV)

**ACNA**  
**Catechism**  
**Connections**

Today's story of The Lost Son is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q 195 Do you sin against God's Law? Yes. I, together with all humankind, sin daily against God's Law, in thought, word, and deed, both by what I do and by what I fail to do.

Q 3 How does sin affect you? Sin alienates me from God, my neighbor, God's good creation, and myself. Apart from Christ, I am hopeless, guilty, lost, helpless, and walking in the way of death.

Q 4 What is the way of death? The way of death is a life without God's love and Holy Spirit, a life controlled by things that cannot bring me eternal joy, leading only to darkness, misery, and eternal condemnation.

Q 109 What is grace? Grace is God's undeserved gift of his love, mercy, and help, which he freely offers to us who, because of our sin, deserve only condemnation.

Q 6 How does God save you? God forgives my sins and reconciles me to himself through his Son, Jesus Christ, whom he has given to the world as an undeserved gift of love.

Q 107 How does God forgive your sins? By virtue of Christ's atoning sacrifice, in which I put my trust, God sets aside my sins, accepts me, and adopts me as his child and heir in Jesus Christ. Loving me as his child, he forgives my sins whenever I turn to him in repentance and faith.

Q 10 How should you respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ? As soon as I receive and believe the Gospel, I should repent of my sins, put faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord, and prepare to be baptized.

Q 11 What does it mean for you to repent? To repent means that I have a change of heart, turning from sinfully serving myself to serving God as I follow Jesus Christ. I need God's help to make this change.

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

**Lesson Props:** (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Two bags filled with Monopoly (play) money
- Storyboard symbols and word cards from lesson 1: Cross gate, crown, GOD'S KINGDOM, LOVE, LIFE, SIN, DEATH, GOD
- New storyboard symbols: GRACE symbol, REPENTANCE arrow
- Poster picture of the Lost Son (found in props document)
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

**Costumes:** Father and two sons

**Memory Verse:** "When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done." (Romans 6:23 – NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

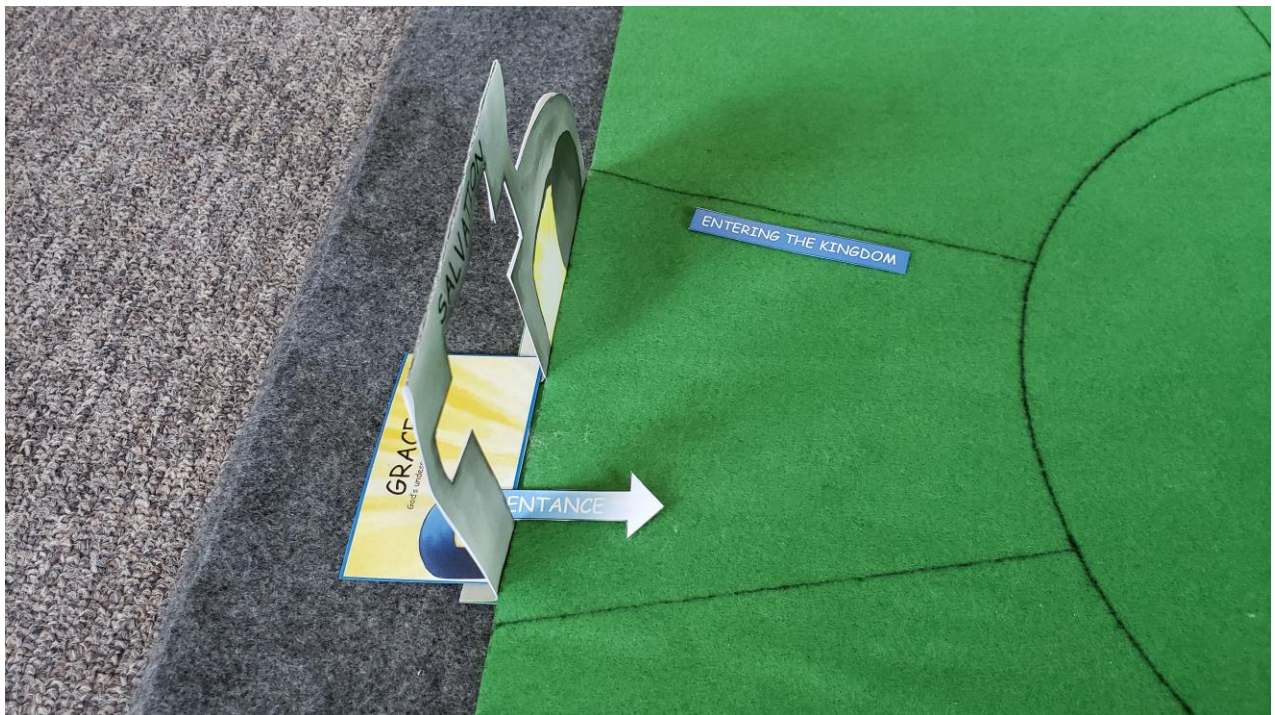
## 2 | Lesson Outline:

<b>Welcome</b>	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
<b>Greeting &amp; Collect for Purity</b>	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity ( <i>see Resource Section</i> )
<b>Prayer of Confession</b>	Say the Prayer of Confession ( <i>see Resource Section</i> ) Extinguish the candles
<b>Music</b>	Jesus loves me this I know Jesus you died upon a cross (Salvation Poem – Superbook) Amazing Grace (first verse only) <b><i>Please check internet for lyrics and music</i></b>
<b>Review of foundations</b>	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <b><i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i></b>
<b>Reading</b>	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
<b>Story Board Review</b>	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. <b><i>Story board review is found in Section 4</i></b>
<b>Props/Costumes</b>	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) <b>Big story props:</b> Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
<b>Bible Story</b>	<b><i>Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.</i></b>
<b>Related activities</b>	<b><i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i></b>
<b>Preparation for Communion &amp; leaving class</b>	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <b><i>See Resource Section.</i></b>

### 3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the start of the lesson.



This is how the Entering the Kingdom section should look at the end of the lesson. Leave these and the other existing symbols on the storyboard for next week.

## 4 | Story and Questions

**SETUP:** *Have two teaching areas set up. One for the play and one for the Kingdom Life storyboard. Start the lesson with the storyboard review.*

**BIBLE:** *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's story is from the Bible, and it is about Entering God's Kingdom.'*

**STORYBOARD REVIEW:** (During the storyboard review, explain any difficult words in the story.)

*(Point to storyboard):* Do you remember what the green area represents? (God's Kingdom, where God is King and his good and loving will is done. God's Kingdom is full of love and life.)

Do you remember what the grey area represents? (Life without God, where we are ruled by sin. Sin leads to death. That means that sin separates us from God and his life.)

Why can we not enter into God's Kingdom by ourselves? (Because of our sin that separates us from God.)

How can we enter God's Kingdom? (Through the cross. Jesus is the gate. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we have forgiveness of sin and can enter into the life in God's Kingdom. This is called salvation.)

### **STORY:**

**TEACHER:** Have you ever heard of a U-turn? That is, when a driver discovers he is going down the road the WRONG WAY and decides to turn around and go back the right way? Well in today's story we are going to hear about a young man who was living life the wrong way and he decided to make a big U-Turn! It is also the story of the father who was always hoping and waiting for his son to come back home. This is a story that Jesus told, about entering God's Kingdom, and how our Heavenly Father always welcomes us when we turn back to him.

**ACTION:** *Have three volunteers act out the parts of the father and two sons as the story is told. As you introduce the characters of the play, say the following:*

**TEACHER:** In this story there was a man who had two sons.

Here is the **youngest son**. He ran away from home and got into big trouble, but then he returned home to say sorry to his father.

Here is the **father**, who was SO happy when his lost son came home that he threw his arms around him in love and gave him a special celebration.

Here is the **oldest son**, who was faithful and stayed with his father all along.

Here is how the story goes:

The younger son said to his father,

**YOUNGER SON:** 'Father, give me my share of the family property.'

**TEACHER:** So the father divided his property between his two sons.

**ACTION:** *The father gives a bag of money to each of the sons.*

**TEACHER:** Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away.

**ACTION:** *The younger son walks across the stage away from the father.*

**TEACHER:** There he wasted his money on wild living. He spent everything he had.

**ACTION:** *The younger son opens the money bag and pours the money on the floor.*

**TEACHER:** Then the whole country ran low on food, so the son didn't have what he needed. He went to work for someone who sent him to the fields to feed the pigs. The son was so hungry that he even wanted to eat the food that the pigs were eating; but no one gave him anything to eat.

**ACTION:** *The younger son looks sad, rubs his belly, and sits down on the floor.*

**TEACHER:** Then he began to think clearly again. He said,

**YOUNGER SON:** How many of my father's servants have more than enough food! But here I am dying from hunger! I will get up and go back to my father and say that I am sorry!

**ACTION:** *The younger son gets up and walks towards his father.*

**TEACHER:** While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son, and he ran to him and threw his arms around him.

**ACTION:** *The father runs towards his younger son throwing his arms around him.*

**YOUNGER SON:** 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.'

**FATHER:** Servants come quickly! Bring the best clothes and shoes we have for him and prepare a big feast so we can celebrate! This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found!

**ACTION:** *Sit down by the storyboard with the children.*

**TEACHER:** Jesus told this story as a picture of how our Heavenly Father will always welcome us with love and open arms when we turn back to him.

Just like the son in the story, we have all gone away from God (*point to grey area on storyboard*) and chosen to rule our own lives instead of obeying God.

Just like sin (*point to "SIN" card*) almost destroyed the younger son in the story, so sin destroys us too. It leads to separation from God and eternal death (*point to "DEATH" card*), which in the Bible is called Hell.

**TEACHER:** (*Hold up Lost Son poster*) But in the story the father still loved the son even though he didn't deserve it, and he longed for his son to return.

We don't deserve our Heavenly Father's love either. Because of our sin we deserve death, but God has given us his life and love instead. That is called "GRACE". (*Hold up "GRACE" card*) GRACE is God's undeserved love for us.

Let's say it again together: **GRACE is God's undeserved love for us.** (*Have children echo sentence*)

(*Place "GRACE" card down as shown in photo.*) God's love and salvation through Jesus is a free gift to us that we don't deserve. It is God's grace, God's undeserved love for us.

**TEACHER:** (*Hold up Lost Son poster*) In order to **receive** the father's love and forgiveness, the son had to turn from his sin and go back to his father. **We can also** turn from our sin and come back to God, our Heavenly Father.

(*Hold up the "Repentance" arrow.*) This is called "REPENTANCE". This looks like a U-turn arrow because we have a change of heart and turn away from our sin and selfishness. We turn back to God and ask his forgiveness. As we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit helps us to do what is good.

Let's say it together: **REPENTANCE means having a change of heart, turning from sin, and serving God.** (*Have children echo sentence*)

**TEACHER:** (*Place the "Repentance" arrow down as shown*) We'll put the repentance arrow through the cross gate, because repentance is part of **receiving** the free gift of Salvation through Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to repent, trust and obey Jesus.

In today's story, the father threw a big celebration when his lost son returned home. Did you know there is also great celebration in Heaven when one sinner repents and turns back to God?

What a loving Heavenly Father we have who invites us to live with him in his wonderful Kingdom forever, where we can have life with joy, hope and peace!

**Life Application Prayer:**

**TEACHER:** Before we pray, let's read our memory verse again: *(Have a child read the verse)*

**STUDENT:** "When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life. That's because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done." Romans 6:23

**TEACHER:** Let's pray. Heavenly Father, thank you for your loving grace that gives us life when we deserve death. Thank you for sending Jesus to save us from sin and death and give us eternal life. Just like the Lost Son in this story, we can receive your love and salvation by turning away from our selfish ways that destroy us. We can come to you and ask your forgiveness, and you will forgive us and cleanse us from all sin. Help us to trust and obey you through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

*If time allows, sing the first verse of Amazing Grace with the children:*

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound*

*That saved a wretch like me*

*I once was lost, but now I am found*

*Was blind, but now I see*

**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What does this story tell us about God?** (He is our Heavenly Father who loves us and wants us to repent of our sins and turn back to him and trust and obey Jesus, he forgives us and gives us eternal life)
- **What does sin do to us?** (Sin destroys us, separates us from God, leads to eternal death which the Bible calls Hell)
- **What does the word "grace" mean?** (It is God's undeserved love for us. It means that God has given us the free gift of his love even though we don't deserve it. Because we have sinned, we deserve death, but God has given us his life and love instead.)
- **How can God forgive our sin and save us from death?** (God forgives our sin and saves us from death through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This forgiveness and salvation is a free gift of grace that God offers us because he loves us.)
- **What does repentance mean?** (Having a change of heart, turning from sin, and serving God. Repentance is part of receiving the free gift of Salvation through Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to repent, trust and obey Jesus.)
- **How does God receive us when we turn to him and confess our sins?** (He welcomes us with open arms because he loves us and wants to give us eternal life)

## 5 | Response Activities

### **Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement**

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

### **Optional activities**

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"When you sin, the  
pay you get is death.  
But God gives you the  
gift of eternal life.

That's because of  
what Christ Jesus our  
Lord has done."

(Romans 6:23)