



GOD'S KINGDOM

LOVE

LIFE

GRACE

God's undeserved
love for us

SALVATION



REPENTANCE

ENTERING THE KINGDOM

SIN

DEATH

Lesson 2: *The Lost Son* (Condensed Version)

GRACE/REPENTANCE/FORGIVENESS (Scripture: Luke 15: 11-24)

Objectives: To explain that: * 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. *Repentance means having a change of heart, turning from sin, and serving God. It is part of receiving the free gift of salvation through Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to repent and trust and obey Jesus. *God receives us with open arms and forgives us when we repent.

Review and "I Wonder" Questions: This picture shows us a green section that represents God's Kingdom, where God is king and his good and loving will is done. In God's Kingdom we enjoy his love and life. The grey section 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. We enter God's Kingdom through the cross. Jesus opened a gate for us when he died on the cross and rose from the dead. Through Jesus, we have forgiveness of our sins and new life.

*I wonder who the young man is with the ragged clothes. *I wonder who the old man is. *I wonder why he is welcoming the ragged looking man. Let's find out more in our story....

Lesson Props: Bible (NIRV version recommended), Bag of coins. Optional large version of story picture on pg. 3

Lesson Summary: 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? Today 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 about his father who was always hoping and waiting for his son to come back home. Jesus told this story to explain that our Heavenly Father always welcomes us when we turn back to him. Let's read this story from the Bible. *(Read Luke 15: 11-24)* As we heard, the younger son left his father and went to another country and wasted all his inheritance *(hold up money bag)* on wild and sinful living. He had nothing left and was starving. His sin almost destroyed him. But when the son decided to return to his father and ask for forgiveness, his father welcomed him with open arms *(point to lost son picture)*. Just like the son in the story, we have all gone away from God and have chosen to rule our own lives instead of obeying God. **Sin** destroys us. It leads to separation from God and eternal **death** which in the Bible is called Hell. But in the story the father still loved the son even though he didn't deserve it. 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**. *(point to 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. In order to receive the father's love, 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. This is called **REPENTANCE**. *(point to REPENTANCE arrow below cross)* 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, ask his forgiveness, and start serving God and doing what is good. Repentance is part of **receiving** the free gift of **Salvation** through Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us to repent and trust and obey Jesus. 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!

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?** (destroys us, separates us from God, leads to eternal death) ***What does the word "grace" mean?** (It is God's undeserved love for us. Because we have sinned, we deserve death, but God has given us the free gift of his life and love instead.) ***How can God forgive our sin and rescue us from death?** (God forgives our sin and saves us through Jesus' death and resurrection. This 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.)

Bible 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



Back of page 3

Year 2 - Lesson 2 – The Lost Son