

# Stories of God's Love

## The Good Samaritan

### Day One                      Youth

<b>THEME:</b>	"I will be a good servant"
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Luke 10:25-37
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34 (NRSV)

<b>Objective</b>
<b>Preparation</b>
<b>Material</b>

The youth will be able to explain who their neighbor is; how they can be good neighbors and how to show Christian love. They will be able to explain why we should be good neighbors.

- Prepare and study the day's class, reading the Bible passage several times.
  - Prepare and have ready all the material you will use, so that you might be able to make the best out of the time allocated for the lesson.
  - Always have your Bible in your hand so that the students will know and understand that all they are going to learn is coming from the Word of God.
  - Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance to meet the lesson's objective so that the lesson might be a great blessing for the children and may touch the hearts of those in need.
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- Pictures or illustrations where people are seen helping each other.
  - Visual aids related to the Bible story.
  - Newspapers and magazines (make sure there are pictures of people), poster board, glue, scissors, markers.
  - Memory verse printed out on paper to post on the wall.

#### Introduction

- *Welcome the youth and help them feel comfortable, and help them feel that they have come here with the goal of finding something special for their life. Offer up a prayer thanking God for the day, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead this class according to God's will.*
- *Ask the students to share an experience in which they have helped others or they themselves have been helped. Then ask them why they helped the person or why they received their help. The main point should be love and concern for the other person's wellbeing.*

- *Read the memory passage John 13:34 (you may want to have them look up the passage in their Bibles) and ask: What did Jesus mean when he said "one another?" Listen to their answers. Help them see that Jesus teaches us not only to love our parents, siblings and friends, but to love all who need it, even if we don't know them personally, even those hard to love.*

### **Studying the Bible passage**

*You may want to define the following terms for the children before going on with the story:*

- **Parable** is a type of story which Jesus told the people who followed him. In a parable, there is usually something that Jesus is teaching us
  - A **Neighbor** is not just someone who lives next door to you. A neighbor is really any one you might meet, whether you know them or not.
  - A **Samaritan** is a person who lived in Samaria, a country right next to Israel, where Jesus lived. Unfortunately, the people of Israel and the people of Samaria did not get along.
- ❖ *Option 1: Present the passage by using a paraphrase*  
*First have a student or several students take turns to read the Luke 10:25-37 passage. Then explain the story by retelling it as follows:*

Today, the Words of God teaches us about how people must help one another and love one another (*tell them the Bible is where we learn all that Jesus wants us to do in our lives*).

Jesus was telling a story to explain what it means to love our neighbor:

Once upon a time there was a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. He was going along, riding on his horse, and he had a few coins in his pocket which he had saved to do some shopping and to pay some debts he had in the city of Jericho.

As he was traveling, robbers jumped out and surprised him. The robbers beat him up pretty bad, hurt him and took all he had: his horse, his food, his money, even some of his clothes! The Word of God says they left him almost dead. A little while later, a priest was walking along the same road (a priest was a very special person who worked in God's temple); the priest was well dressed, had his own horse, plenty of food and water, and when he saw the beat up man, instead of helping, lifting him up or look after him, he rode by. A little while later, a Levite (a Levite was also someone very religious and was involved with the temple of God) came riding by also. He got close to take a look but continued on his way without helping the man who had been beat up. But a Samaritan; who was also traveling on that same road, came close to the man and seeing that he was hurt and in need, felt sad for him in his heart and so he came to him and cleaned and bandaged his wounds, added some medicine to them, lifted him up with all his strength to put him on his horse and took him to a little hotel, and he took good care of him all night. The next day, as the Samaritan was getting ready to keep traveling, he took out two valuable coins from his pocket and he gave them to the owner of the hotel and said: take good care of this man, and whatever you have to spend on him, I'll repay you when I return from my journey on this very same road. Then Jesus told the people listening to his story "Go and do the same" which means,

we should help our neighbors in any way we can, in order to show our love to one another.

❖ *Option 2: Present the passage through drama*

*Divide the class into groups and assign one of the characters -- the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan, the person robbed, the robbers, the innkeeper -- to each member in the groups. Explain to each group clearly what they have to do:*

- 1. Read the passage in silence.*
- 2. Plan as a group how to act out the action in the story (Invite them to have the priest, Levite or Samaritan say something as they react to seeing the wounded man).*
- 3. Allow each group to present the story as a short play in front of the class. Though the presentations will be short and without many words, the students will learn the purpose of the lesson and may remember it longer by acting it out.*

❖ *Option 3: Use both option 1 and 2.*

### **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

*Ask the students the following questions, so they can reflect on and realize what Jesus is teaching in this Bible story.*

- Of the three travelers, who was kind to the man who had been robbed and hurt?
- Of the three travelers, who did not show kindness to the man who had been robbed and hurt?
- Why didn't they help him? *(Allow them to share several answers. You may suggest that they did not know if the man was dead, and they were afraid because touching the body of a dead person was a bad thing and they would have had to return to the temple to be "cleansed."* See Leviticus 21:10-11)
- *Help them note that the man who was kind and helpful did so because the Spirit of God was making him feel that kindness in his heart. Through his good actions he was able to show love to his neighbor and helped him in any way he could.*
- What excuses do we make not to help people in need?
- What does it mean when Jesus says in Luke 10:27: "love... your neighbor as yourself"? When is it easy and when is it not easy to love our neighbor?
- Consider this: Jesus was also saying that we need to love ourselves! When is that easy and when is it not easy to love ourselves?
- What does this story teach us about God's love for us? The Bible also says: "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:7-8. List several experiences or Bible passages that show that "God is love" *(you can help by offering passages like John 3:16, Gen. 9:8-11, Isa. 43:4, Isa. 54:7, Mat. 9:36, Mar. 1:41)*

❖ *Optional Activity: Write a Lament*

*A lament is a prayer to God in the midst of difficulty which deeply acknowledges our human pain or suffering, at the same time crying out to God for the delay in*

sending help and at the same time knowing that help is on its way. A lament is not the opposite of praising God, but rather, a first step towards real prayer (Billman and Migliore, 2-3)

What do you think the man in the parable who was hurt by robbers was thinking before the Good Samaritan came? There are moments in which it may be hard to feel God's love, even though we know that God loves us. Let's read Psalm 13, which is a lament. Does it remind you of a particular time in your life? Re-read verse 5. What do you feel when reading that?

*Invite the students to create their own lament (as a group or individually) using the elements of a lament, which are generally, in various orders: (Billman and Migliore, 27)*

Address  
Complaint  
Confession of Trust  
Petition  
Vow of Praise

Let us see where these elements appear in Psalm 13 (or see Psalm 6 and 142)

1 [Address] *How long, O Lord?*

[Complaint] *Will you forget me for ever? How long will you hide your face from me?*

2 *How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?*

3 [Petition] *Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,*

4 *and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed'; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.*

5 [Confession of Trust] *But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation*

6 [Vow of Praise] *I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

### **Applying the Bible passage to our life**

*Divide the class into groups of two or three students. Tell them that you want them to tell a story inspired by the passage for today using pictures from the newspaper and magazines you brought. They will tell the story in a comics format (creating different scenes in frames, one after the other, telling the story). Tell them to cut out pictures of people who seem to be in need of help (someone who looks hungry, sick, sad, etc.), who are willing to help, adult or youth, and of buildings (hospital, church, house). Once they've cut out the pictures, have them order them on the poster board, so they can begin to tell the story. Encourage all of them to participate in creating the story. Once they are in agreement about the story's details, they should start to create dialogue among the characters or make notes beneath each picture explaining the scene. Ask them to write the dialogue on another piece of paper first. When they have finalized the dialogue, then they can glue the pictures, write the text, add drawings, etc. When they're done, ask each group to take turns using their poster board to tell the story to the rest of the class.*

## **Conclusion**

*Invite the students to put into practice what they learned today (take this opportunity to go over the memory text John 13:34). Invite them so that what they learned today they can start applying right away, because God's blessings come over those who help others.*

*Offer a final prayer by inviting the students to join you in praying: you will begin the prayer and then the students will each say a sentence about how they can help other, and then you will close asking God to help us all become better servants of one another and thereby be able to show true Christian love.*

Billman, Kathleen D., and Daniel L. Migliore. *Rachel's Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope*. Cleveland: United Church Press, 1999.

# Stories of God's Love

## The Widow and the Unjust Judge

### Day Two

### Youth

<b>THEME:</b>	"Pray Always: Nurturing our Relationship with God."
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Luke 18:1 -8
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." Matthew 7:7 (NRSV)

<b>Objective</b>	The student will learn that our loving God connects with us in a more personal way than how the judge treated the widow in the parable, and they will learn that praying is our way to have a relationship with God.
<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Prepare for this lesson by reading Luke 18:1-8. Read also Psalm 121, Jeremiah 33:3, Mark 1:35, Luke 22:41-42, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6, Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 10:10-22. Pray for understanding of what God would have you teach through His word.</li><li>• Read through the lesson and time it. Make sure your plans fill the time allotted without being rushed.</li></ul>
<b>Material</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supplies to make prayer journal (paper, pens, glitter glue, markers, stickers, hole punch, ribbon, stapler, etc.)</li><li>• Copies of the handout.</li><li>• Memory verse printed out on paper to post on the wall.</li><li>• Mad Lib Handout</li><li>• Prayer Verses Handout (optional)</li></ul>

#### Introduction

- *Welcome the students and say a prayer thanking God for them, for the way in which God speaks to us and listens to us through prayer.*
- *Make sure everyone has their name tag on and mark them present in the attendance chart*
- *Review the theme and memory verse from the previous day.*
- *Present today's theme and help the students practice today's memory verse.*
- *Tell the students: Today we are going to focus on what it means to talk to God. We are going to discover what it means to pray and how we can talk to God.*

#### Studying the Bible passage

*Have a volunteer read the passage for the day: Luke 18:1-8*

#### Bible Story Retelling

*Retell the story as a mad-lib. Let the students work individually or as a group to fill in the blanks using the handout. (They should be able to figure out the blanks even though the handout uses a different version than what was read by the volunteer). Here is the full version with the*

*handout blanks filled in (Be flexible, because some of their answers might not match what is presented here, but they might show both humor and a sense of really grasping the story):*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus told them a story (*noun*) showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently (*adverb*) and never quit. <sup>2</sup> He said, "There was once a judge (*person of influence*) in \_\_\_\_\_ (*name of a city*) who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people (*plural noun*). <sup>3</sup> A widow in that city kept after him: "My rights (*plural noun*) aren't being respected. Protect me!"

<sup>4</sup> He never gave her the time (*noun*) of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, "I care nothing what God thinks, even less what this widow (*a person*) thinks. <sup>5</sup> But because this widow won't quit badgering (*verb ending in -ing*) me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice-- otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black (*color*) and blue (*color*)."

<sup>6</sup> Then the Master said, "Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? <sup>7</sup> So what makes you think God (*divine name*) won't step in and work justice (*noun*) for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? <sup>8</sup> I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet (*plural noun*). But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?"

### **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

*Discuss the following questions:*

- What was the judge like?
- Why do you think he ended up helping the widow?
- Is God like the judge? How or how not?
- So do you think that God will step in and work justice for his chosen people who continue to cry out for help?
- Why was Jesus telling them this story?
- Does God always give us what we ask for? Why or why not?
- What do we need to do to communicate with God?

### **Applying the Bible passage to our lives**

There once was a soldier who was forced to take shelter from his enemies in a ruined building. Knowing he was going to be there for some time, and wanting to divert his mind from his hopeless situation, he fixed his eyes on an ant that was carrying a grain of corn larger than itself up a high wall. He counted the number of times it attempted this feat. The grain fell to the ground sixty-nine times; but the insect persevered, and on its seventieth attempt, it reached the top. Recalling this incident to his friends later in life, he said, "This sight gave me new courage at that moment, and I never forgot the lesson." He learned, as Proverbs says, "Go to the ant ... consider its ways and be wise!" (Proverbs 6:6)

Persistence is vital to completing anything meaningful in this life. This is true not only in a physical sense, but also in a spiritual sense, and especially in the matter of prayer. Who of us have ever found prayer easy? Certainly there have been times when our prayers were answered even before we had time to put them into words. But that's the exception rather than the rule. Most of the time prayer is far from easy, and reminds us of the fact that living the Christian life is a spiritual battle, a battle we cannot hope to win without prayer.

No one knew this better than Jesus. He often took time to go away by himself and talk to his father. He wasn't having an easy time as it was but even worse he knew what was coming. He also knew what his disciples were going to face and that their best resource would be prayer.

Prayer is still our best resource. Jesus tells us to pray and not stop. Pray when times are great, pray when they aren't even close to great. Pray when you are ecstatic, pray when you are distraught. "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

- What are some of your experiences with praying?
- When do you find yourself praying?

Here is another perspective on prayer: Consider how important communication is in a relationship - talking and listening - in order to keep a relationship alive. Think about your best friend and consider how often you talk to that person. It is important for the relationship to have open and frequent communication.

In the same way as Christians we have a personal relationship, a friendship, with God through Jesus, and prayer is our means of communication. Sometimes, however, we may do more talking than we do listening when we pray.

### **Prayer Journal**

#### *Supplies Needed:*

- *5 half sheets of paper per youth (8 ½ x 11" sheet cut to make two 8 ½ x 5 ½ " sheets)*
- *Scissors*
- *Hole punch*
- *Glitter glue*
- *Stickers*
- *Markers*
- *Ribbon or Stapler*

#### *Instructions:*

1. *Have youth look up and read aloud Bible verses on prayer (These are just to get them started. You may add others: Psalm 121, Jeremiah 33:3, Mark 1:35, Luke 22:41-42, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Philippians 4:6, Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 10:10-22)*
2. *Optional: Before proceeding, you may want to select and discuss other passages from the list of passages on Prayer.*
3. *Give each youth several half sheets of paper and have them write a different verse on prayer at the top of each page.*
4. *Give them one more half sheet and tell them it will be the cover to their prayer journal. Have them decorate the title page using the glitter glue, markers and stickers*
5. *Have them punch a hole on the top and bottom of the far left side of their pages and use ribbon to tie the journal together (a stapler can be used if ribbon is not available)*
6. *Explain to them how to use a prayer journal*
  - *Record concerns to God*

- *Record dates concerns were given to God*
  - *Record dates God answered the concerns*
7. *Explain that as they do this they will become more aware of God's work in their lives. The point is to focus on God, so try to notice how God is responding to your prayers, even to concerns you never really articulated in prayer.*

❖ *Optional Activity: Breath Prayers*

One of the ways we can pray constantly is through the breath prayer. It is traditionally, (*inhale*) "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God..." (*exhale*) "...have mercy on me, a sinner."

*You are going to ask the students to write their own breath prayers. These are simple prayers we can pray anywhere. They help center us, focus on God, and help us open up for God responding to us.*

- *Ask them to sit quietly, eyes closed, paying attention to the rhythm of their breathing in and breathing out.*
- *Explain that the breath prayer has two parts. The first is the name of God in several words or syllables, such as "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God" or any other naming or descriptive phrase. The second is asking God for something, such as "have mercy on me, a sinner," "hear my prayer, O God," "be in my life," "give me faith," or any other petition.*
- *As the students are writing their breath prayers, they will be practicing them silently to see if the words go along with the rhythm of their breathing. There may need to be adjustments, such as adding or subtracting words or syllables.*
- *When they are satisfied with their prayers, they can write them on the 3 x 5 cards to take home.*
- *Ask them for examples of when they might use their breath prayers (when going to sleep, waiting for the school bus, in times of stress). Make a list of their answers.*

❖ *Optional Activity: Review passages from the list of biblical verses on prayer and choose a few to share and discuss with the group.*

## **Conclusion**

*Review memory verse Matthew 7:7 with the class.*

Jesus wants us to pray as often as we can. If we have short prayers in our hearts, we can say them many times during the day. We can make it a habit to turn to God during all the moments of our lives. Let's finish by praying a breath prayer. (*Choose one which a student wrote*). We'll repeat the prayer aloud 4 times (1 time = *inhale* + *exhale*). When we're done, we'll pray it in silence and then I'll say "Amen" at the end of the prayer so we know when we're done.

## A story of God's love

Luke 18:1 -8 (based on "The Message")

<sup>1</sup> Jesus told them a \_\_\_\_\_ (*noun*) showing that it was necessary for them to pray \_\_\_\_\_ (*adverb*) and never quit. <sup>2</sup> He said, "There was once a \_\_\_\_\_ (*person of influence*) in \_\_\_\_\_ (*name of a city*) who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for \_\_\_\_\_ (*plural noun*). <sup>3</sup> A widow in that city kept after him: "My \_\_\_\_\_ (*plural noun*) aren't being respected. Protect me!"

<sup>4</sup> He never gave her the \_\_\_\_\_ (*noun*) of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, "I care nothing what God thinks, even less what this \_\_\_\_\_ (*a person*) thinks. <sup>5</sup> But because this widow won't quit \_\_\_\_\_ (*verb ending in -ing*) me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice--otherwise I'm going to end up beaten \_\_\_\_\_ (*color*) and \_\_\_\_\_ (*color*)."

<sup>6</sup> Then the Master said, "Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? <sup>7</sup> So what makes you think \_\_\_\_\_ (*divine name*) won't step in and work \_\_\_\_\_ (*noun*) for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? <sup>8</sup> I assure you, he will. He will not drag his \_\_\_\_\_ (*noun*). But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?"

## Biblical Verses on Prayer / Versículos sobre Oración

### PRAYER / ORACIÓN:

1. ANSWERED - CONTESTADA» Cain (Genesis 4:13-15)
2. ANSWERED » Abraham, for a son (Genesis 15)
3. ANSWERED » For Sodom (Genesis 18:23-33)
4. ANSWERED » For Ishmael (Genesis 17:20)
5. ANSWERED » For Abimelech (Genesis 20:17)
6. ANSWERED » Hagar, for deliverance (Genesis 16:7-13)
7. ANSWERED » Abraham's servant, for guidance (Genesis 24:12-52)
8. ANSWERED » Rebecca, concerning her pains in pregnancy (Genesis 25:22,23)
9. ANSWERED » Jacob, for deliverance from Esau (Genesis 32:9-32;33:1-17)
10. ANSWERED » Moses, for help at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:15,16)
11. ANSWERED » Moses, at the waters of Marah (Exodus 15:25)
12. ANSWERED » Moses, at Mount Horeb (Exodus 17:4-6)
13. ANSWERED » Moses, in the battle with the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-14)
14. ANSWERED » Moses, concerning the complaint of the Israelites for meat (Numbers 11:11-35)
15. ANSWERED » Moses, on behalf of Miriam's leprosy (Numbers 12:13-15)
16. ANSWERED » Moses, Aaron, and Samuel (Psalms-Salmos 99:6)
17. ANSWERED » From bondage (Exodus 2:23-25;3:7-10; Acts-Hechos 7:34)
18. ANSWERED » From Pharaoh's army (Exodus 14:10-30)
19. ANSWERED » From the king of Mesopotamia (Judges 3:9,15)
20. ANSWERED » Sisera (Judges 4:3,23,24; 1 Samuel 12:9-11)
21. ANSWERED » Ammon (Judges 10:6-18;11:1-33)
22. ANSWERED » For God's favor under the reproofs of Azariah (2 Chronicles 15:1-15)
23. ANSWERED » From Babylonian bondage (Nehemiah 9:27)
24. ANSWERED » Gideon, asking for the token of dew (Judges 6:36-40)
25. ANSWERED » Manoah, asking about Samson (Judges 13:8,9)
26. ANSWERED » Samson, asking for strength (Judges 16:28-30)
27. ANSWERED » Hannah, asking to give birth to a child (1 Samuel 1:10-17,19,20)
28. ANSWERED » David, asking whether Keilah would be delivered into his hands (1 Samuel 23:10-12)
29. ANSWERED » David, asking about Ziklag (1 Samuel 30:8)
30. ANSWERED » David, asking whether he should go into Judah after Saul's death (2 Samuel 2:1)
31. ANSWERED » David, asking whether he should go to war against the Philistines (2 Samuel 5:19-25)
32. ANSWERED » David, in adversity (Psalms-Salmos 118:5;138:3)
33. ANSWERED » Solomon, asking for wisdom (1 Kings-Reyes 3:1-13;9:2,3)
34. ANSWERED » Elijah, raising the widow's son (1 Kings-Reyes 17:22)
35. ANSWERED » Elijah, calling for fire to come down upon his sacrifice (1 Kings-Reyes 18:36-38)
36. ANSWERED » Elijah, asking for rain (1 Kings-Reyes 17:1;18:1,42-45; James-Santiago 5:17)
37. ANSWERED » Elisha, leading the Syrian army (2 Kings-Reyes 6:17-20)



I trust in God's unfailing love. Psalm 52:8 NIV  
Yo confío en el gran amor de Dios. Salmo 52:8 NVI

38. ANSWERED » Jabez, asking for prosperity (1 Chronicles 4:10)
39. ANSWERED » Abijah, for victory over Jeroboam (2 Chronicles 13:14-18)
40. ANSWERED » Asa, for victory over Zerah (2 Chronicles 14:11-15)
41. ANSWERED » The people of Judah (2 Chronicles 15:15)
42. ANSWERED » Jehoshaphat, for victory over the Canaanites (2 Chronicles 18:31;20:6-27)
43. ANSWERED » Jehoahaz, for victory over Hazael (2 Kings-Reyes 13:4)
44. ANSWERED » Priests and Levites, when blessing the people (2 Chronicles 30:27)
45. ANSWERED » Hezekiah and Isaiah, for deliverance from Sennacherib (2 Kings-Reyes 19:14-20; 2 Chronicles 32:20-23)
46. ANSWERED » To save Hezekiah's life (2 Kings-Reyes 20:1-7,11; 2 Chronicles 32:24)
47. ANSWERED » Manasseh, for deliverance from the king of Babylon (2 Chronicles 33:13,19)
48. ANSWERED » The Reubenites, for deliverance from the Hagarites (1 Chronicles 5:20)
49. ANSWERED » The Jews, returning from the captivity (Ezra 8:21,23)
50. ANSWERED » Ezekiel, to have the baking of his bread of affliction changed (Ezekiel 4:12-15)
51. ANSWERED » Daniel, for the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzars dream (Daniel 2:19-23)
52. ANSWERED » Daniel, interceding for the people (Daniel 9:20-23)
53. ANSWERED » Daniel, in a vision (Daniel 10:12)
54. ANSWERED » Zacharias, for a son (Luke 1:13)
55. ANSWERED » The leper, for healing (Matthew-Mateo 8:2,3; Mark 1:40-43; Luke 5:12,13)
56. ANSWERED » Centurion, for his servant (Matthew-Mateo 8:5-13; Luke 7:3-10; John-Juan 4:50,51)
57. ANSWERED » Peter, asking that Tabitha (Dorcas) be restored to life (Acts-Hechos 9:40)
58. ANSWERED » The disciples, for Peter (Acts-Hechos 12:5-17)
59. ANSWERED » Paul, to be restored to health (2 Corinthians 1:9-11)
  
60. IMPORTUNITY IN - INSISTENCIA EN ORACIÓN » Jacob (Genesis 32:24-30)
61. IMPORTUNITY IN » Moses (Exodus 33:12-16;34:9)
62. IMPORTUNITY IN » Elijah (1 Kings-Reyes 18:22-44)
63. IMPORTUNITY IN » The two blind men of Jericho (Matthew-Mateo 20:30,31; Mark 10:48; Luke 18:39)
64. IMPORTUNITY IN » The non-Jewish, Syro-Phoenician woman (Matthew-Mateo 15:22-28; Mark 7:25-30)
65. IMPORTUNITY IN » The Roman centurion (Matthew-Mateo 8:5; Luke 7:3,4)
  
66. SUB-TOPICS – TÓPICOS VARIOS» Prayer test proposed by Elijah (1 Kings-Reyes 18:24-39)
67. SUB-TOPICS » Daily, in the morning (Psalms-Salmos 5:3;88:13;143:8; Isaiah 33:2)
68. SUB-TOPICS » Twice daily (Psalms-Salmos 88:1)
69. SUB-TOPICS » Thrice daily (Psalms-Salmos 55:17; Daniel 6:10)
70. SUB-TOPICS » All night (Luke 6:12)
71. SUB-TOPICS » Without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

72. SUB-TOPICS » Enjoined (Hebrews 4:16)
73. SUB-TOPICS » Exemplified by Abraham in his inquiry concerning Sodom (Genesis 18:23-32)
74. SUB-TOPICS » By Moses, supplicating for assistance in delivering Israel (Exodus 33:12,18)
75. SUB-TOPICS » Secret (Genesis 24:63; Matthew-Mateo 6:6)
76. SUB-TOPICS » Silent (Psalms-Salmos 5:1)
77. SUB-TOPICS » Weeping in (Ezra 10:1)
78. SUB-TOPICS » In a loud voice, satirized by Elijah (1 Kings-Reyes 18:27)
79. SUB-TOPICS » Of Pharisees (Matthew-Mateo 23:14)
80. SUB-TOPICS » Of scribes (Mark 12:40; Luke 20:47)
81. SUB-TOPICS » Profuse, to be avoided (Ecclesiastes 5:2; Matthew-Mateo 6:7)
82. SUB-TOPICS » Vain repetitions of, to be avoided (Matthew-Mateo 6:7)
83. SUB-TOPICS » By Abraham's servant (Genesis 24:14)
84. SUB-TOPICS » Gideon asks for a sign of dew on a fleece (Judges 6:36-40)
85. SUB-TOPICS » Of Moses, at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:15)
86. SUB-TOPICS » When Moses prayed to see Canaan, the promised land (Deuteronomy 3:23-27)
87. SUB-TOPICS » Of Joshua (Joshua 7:10)
88. SUB-TOPICS » Evils averted by (Jeremiah 26:19)
89. SUB-TOPICS » Unbelief in (Job 21:15)
90. SUB-TOPICS » However, see ( John-Juan 17:1-26)
91. SUB-TOPICS » Of Balaam (Deuteronomy 23:5; Joshua 24:10)
92. SUB-TOPICS » Of Job (Job 30:20; with42:12)
93. SUB-TOPICS » Of the Israelites, when attacked by the Amorites (Deuteronomy 1:45)
94. SUB-TOPICS » The prayer of Jesus, "Let this cup pass away," (Matthew-Mateo 26:39,42,44; with26:45-75)
95. SUB-TOPICS » And (Matthew-Mateo 27)
96. SUB-TOPICS » Answer to, delayed (Psalms-Salmos 22:1,2;40:1;80:4;88:14; Jeremiah 42:7; Habakkuk 1:2;)
97. SUB-TOPICS » Solomon asked for wisdom; the answer included wisdom, riches, honour, and long life (1 Kings-Reyes 3:7-14; 2 Chronicles 1:10-12)
98. SUB-TOPICS » The disciples prayed for Peter; the answer included Peter's deliverance (Acts-Hechos 12:15; with12:5)
99. SUB-TOPICS » Moses asked to be permitted to cross the Jordan River; the answer was permission to view the land of promise (Deuteronomy 3:23-27)
100. SUB-TOPICS » The Israelites lusted for the fleshpots of Egypt; the answer gave them, flesh, but also leanness of soul (Psalms-Salmos 106:14,15)
101. SUB-TOPICS » Martha and Mary asked Jesus to come and heal their brother Lazarus; Jesus delayed, but raised Lazarus from the dead ( John-Juan 11)
102. SUB-TOPICS » Paul asked that the "thorn in the flesh" be removed; the answer was a promise of grace to endure it (2 Corinthians 12:8,9)
103. SUB-TOPICS » See NATIONS, PRAYER FOR
104. SUB-TOPICS » Of David (Psalms-Salmos 51:1-17)
105. SUB-TOPICS » Of the tax collector (Luke 18:13)
106. SUB-TOPICS » See SIN, CONFESSION OF

107. SUB-TOPICS » Submission in, exemplified by Jesus (Matthew-Mateo 26:39; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42)
108. SUB-TOPICS » David (2 Samuel 12:22,23)
109. SUB-TOPICS » Job (Job 1:20,21)
110. SUB-TOPICS » Private, enjoined (Matthew-Mateo 6:6)
111. SUB-TOPICS » Lot (Genesis 19:20)
112. SUB-TOPICS » Eliezer (Genesis 24:12)
113. SUB-TOPICS » Jacob (Genesis 32:9-12)
114. SUB-TOPICS » Gideon (Judges 6:22,36,39)
115. SUB-TOPICS » Hannah (1 Samuel 1:10)
116. SUB-TOPICS » David (2 Samuel 7:18-29)
117. SUB-TOPICS » Hezekiah (2 Kings-Reyes 20:2)
118. SUB-TOPICS » Isaiah (2 Kings-Reyes 20:11)
119. SUB-TOPICS » Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:18,19)
120. SUB-TOPICS » Ezra (Ezra 9:5,6)
121. SUB-TOPICS » Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2:4)
122. SUB-TOPICS » Jeremiah (Jeremiah 32:16-25)
123. SUB-TOPICS » Daniel (Daniel 9:3,19)

Source:

Nave's Topical Bible

Found in [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

# Stories of God's Love

## The Prodigal Son

Day Three

Youth

<b>TEMA:</b>	"God Loves Me and Forgives My Sins"
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Luke 15:11-32
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 (NRSV)

### Objective

The student will know the story of the prodigal son, and will see the connection between the love of the father in the parable and the great love God has for us.

### Preparation

- Pray that God will give you understanding and wisdom to understand God's word and pray for the youth who'll be in class.
- Always have the Bible in your hand, so the students will know and understand that what they are going to learn is coming from God's word.
- Don't forget to practice the entire lesson, to measure the time and then pray asking for God's help and God's blessing for the teaching team and the students.
- Read the section "Biblical and Cultural Background" found below.
- Memory verse printed out on paper to post on the wall.
- Copies of the Obey - Disobey handouts.
- Optional: Paper scissors, matches, metal bowl.
- Optional Handouts: Fred Craddock story and Forgiveness verses

### Material

#### ***Biblical and Cultural Background:***

*Think about this as you read Luke 15:11-32. The audience Jesus had that day were publicans and sinners from the city who came out to listen to him. They knew their own sins very well and they were willing listeners. Among them were also scribes and Pharisees. But they kept themselves apart, condemning the publicans and sinners; they were especially critical of the way in which Jesus was receiving sinners and was eating with them.*

*Jesus taught them about the love of God through a story about two sons and a loving father. One of them, because he didn't understand his father's love, asked his father one day for his portion of the inheritance that would belong to him, and he left home. He went to a far away country, and after he lost it all and after he hit rock bottom, feeding pigs and being so hungry as to desire their feed, he realized that he had sinned against his father and against God, and so he set out to return to his father to ask for forgiveness. Jesus longed for these Israelites to recognize their own sin and the love of God the father, and so be able to return home from the dark country of sin.*

*God loves us and is willing to forgive our sins if we ask God to.*

*Ask the youth to consider some situations they face, like consequences related to disobeying their parents; ask them about repenting; ask them about hurtful things others do to them which seem difficult to forgive*

### **Introduction**

*Ask the youth to remember a time when they did something contrary to what their parents or grown ups have asked them to do, and then things didn't go well, like for example, instead of studying for an exam they went out for a walk or went to play a soccer or basketball, and then they failed the test, or a time when they went to a place they were not used to going because their parents were against it or even they themselves were unsure, but they wanted to experiment and to look good with their friends and it ended up that they were uncomfortable; try to have the youth share their experiences or you may tell an experience you've gone through.*

- How do you know if you've disobeyed your parents?
- Have you tried to stop doing whatever thing you were doing that was against your parents' orders, and instead done what they asked you to do?
- What happens if they find out that you were disobedient?
- Do you ask forgiveness? Do they still love you after all?

### **Studying the Bible passage**

This story we will see today is traditionally called the Prodigal Son. The word "prodigal" means someone who is not very careful with what they have and they end up wasting and losing what they have. So, for example, let's say that on Friday your mom and dad give you an allowance for the week or let's say you have a job that pays you every Friday. Then imagine that you weren't careful with how you spent your money. You bought some music CD's, the dog chewed up the shoes you just bought, and you went out with your friends and ate so much pizza that it gave you a stomach ache. You even lost some of the money! By Monday, you realize that you are out of money and the week is just starting. That is being wasteful, that is what a prodigal person does.

*Have your Bible open to Luke 15:11-32. Ask the youth to read the passage.*

- ❖ *Optional Activity: After giving the overview and explanation above, have students volunteer to act out the action as one volunteer student reads narrative parts in the biblical text.*

*After hearing the story, ask the youth to retell the story in general terms, trying to get all the class involved in the retelling.*

When the younger son asked for the portion of the inheritance, he was disrespecting his father; sometimes we act like that young son and we behave in a way that is rebellious and immature with our elders or with people who love us. Sometimes we want to have freedom and do as we please; that is exactly what that young man did. He thought that he was able to handle what the world would dish out, and he never thought he'd run out of money. After wasting and mispending all the money he had, a great famine came over that country where he had gone. Soon he too was hungry and he had nothing to eat, and so he set out to get a job. The job he found was one of the most degrading jobs of the time, since according to the law of Moses, pigs were considered unclean animals, and even for Jews to stand by pigs as the pigs ate was a great humiliation. Well, this young

man ended up even desiring the food the pigs were eating. He had hit rock bottom, just as we may have done when we suffer because of our disobedience and we hit bottom.

However, the young man realized how good it had been to be with his father who loved him and cared for him. He also realized that in his father's house he could have a better job, since he realized how his actions had been wrong and he repented. He realized that his behavior not only meant having sinned against his father but against God. He decided to return and ask for forgiveness, but he did not anticipate a warm welcome, and he was so sorry for what he had done that he said that he did not even deserve to have his father think of him as a son, but rather he would ask for forgiveness and seek a job as a day laborer.

But the young man's father worried about him and waited for his son to repent and return. In the same way, God waits, God is persistent and faithful, and God seeks us out and gives us opportunities to respond, to repent. But one thing is clear, and that is that God will not make us go to God. God is patient and will wait until we realize that we have sinned.

So, the young man's father, realizing his son was returning, ran towards him and hugged and kissed him. He was so happy that his younger son had returned, he loved his son so much that he didn't care about what his son had done; the only thing that mattered is that he had returned. He knew his son had repented, so the father threw a big party, because he was happy that his son, who was as good as dead, had come back to life; the one who had been lost had been found.

However, the older son was not happy as his father with his brother's return, and even less so when he saw that his father was offering a great party to welcome him back. It seemed to him as if the father was rewarding the younger son for his bad behavior. The father lovingly went out to where the older son was and explained to him why he was happy. The father was not celebrating that his younger son had misbehaved, but he was happy because the younger son had repented and had come back to the right path.

### **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

- ◆ What did the prodigal son waste?
- ◆ Do you think that the older son thought that the father was wasting his love and money on his younger brother? Why?
- ◆ This story teaches us that sometimes we as young people behave rebelliously and immaturely, wishing to be free and do as we please, and we don't like to be scolded or to have someone tell us we can't do something, and we try to live our lives our own way and we behave quite selfishly. We ignore those who stand in our way and sometimes we have so many problems and we don't accept anyone's help. We don't realize that we are hurting those who love us. However God never stops loving us in spite of what we do. God always faithfully waits for our return, or that we accept him as our guide, as our Savior. God is merciful and when we ask for forgiveness he hears us and forgives us, just like the father in the parable.
- ◆ We also must learn to be like the loving father and not stop loving someone who makes mistakes. We need to ask God for those people so that they may see the error of their ways, and then when they return, we should be glad with them and not reject them.

#### ❖ *Optional Activity:*

*Look up, read and discuss examples of obedience, disobedience and repentance in the Bible:*

*Disobedience:*

*Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:1-24*

*Jonah. Jonah 1:1 - 2:10*

*Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5:1-11*

*Obedience:*

*Abram and Sarai. Genesis 12:1-8  
Isaiah. Isaiah 6:1-23*

*Disobedience and repentance*

*David and Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:25*

### **Applying the Bible passage to our life**

*Share with the youth a personal story when you went through the three situations described in the story (young son - repentance, father - unconditional love, faithfulness, older son - jealousy) and how the Holy Spirit worked in your life. Or you may ask one of the youth to share a personal experience. If no one wants to participate, tell the students about the three behaviors shown by the characters in the parable, and ask them what they would do if they found themselves in each one of those different situations.*

*Using the Obey - Disobey - Repent Handout, encourage the students to think of times when they've had to make decisions either to obey or disobey. What are some examples of when they took either action? Ask them to write them down. Then, when they disobeyed, what were the kinds of things that went wrong? Ask them to write them down. Eventually they may have found themselves all tied up in knots by the consequences of their disobedience. Ask them to write down how God helped them see that they needed to change, and how God helped them repent and get over to the place where they could be obedient once again. Depending on how comfortable the students feel about sharing, invite them to share some of their answers with the group. Encourage the group to be gracious and supportive when a student shares what they wrote.*

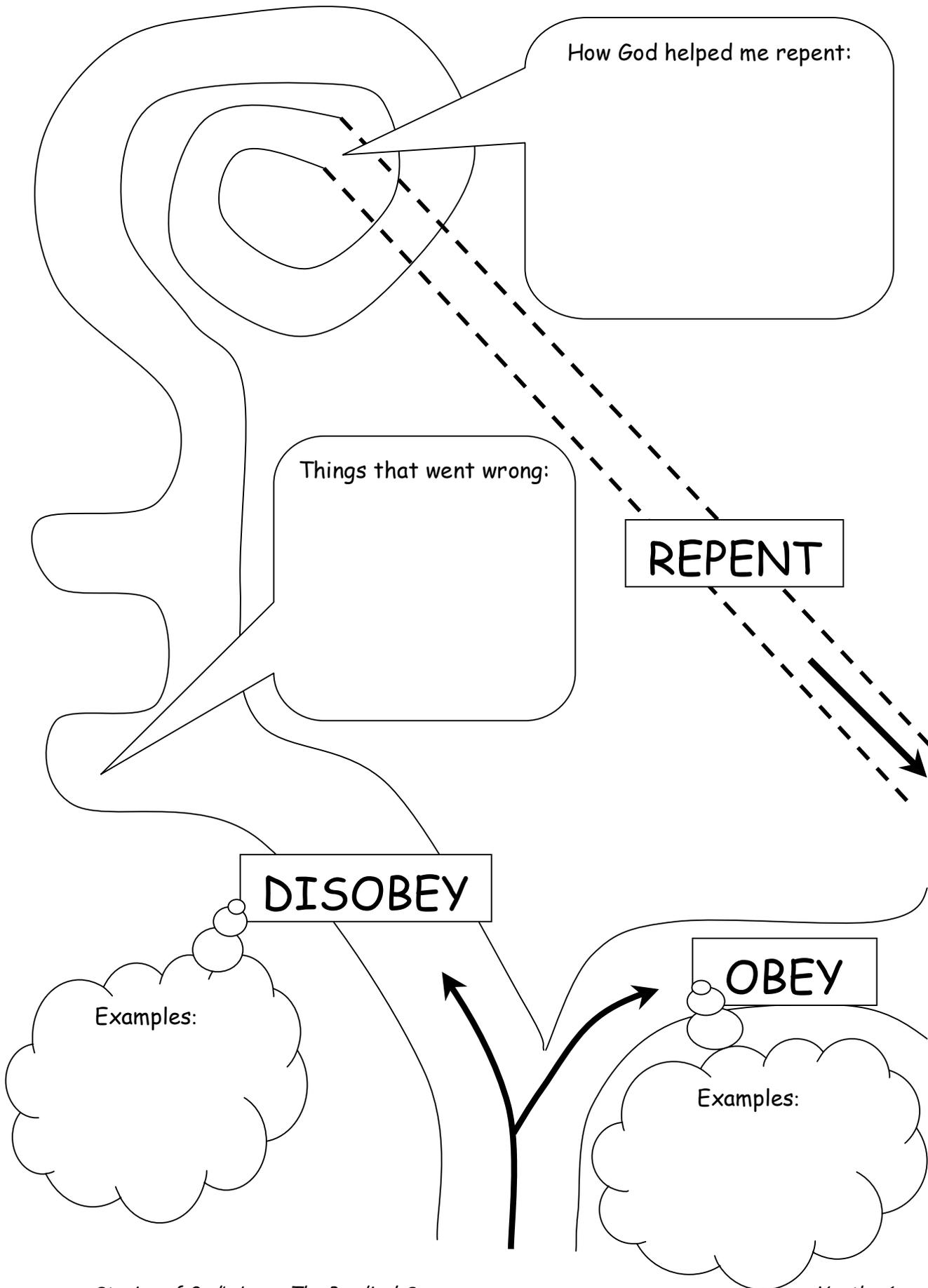
- ❖ *Optional Activity: Read and discuss the story "If you lived next door to the prodigal son's father's house, would you have gone over to the party?" by Fred Craddock.*
- ❖ *Optional Activity: Review other passages from the list of biblical verses on forgiveness and choose a few to share and discuss with the group.*

### **Conclusion**

God is merciful, loving, holy and perfect and God does not like sin or disobedience.

God loves us and doesn't want us to suffer, and that is why throughout the Bible God shares his Word with us and shows us how to behave. When we disobey we suffer and sin against God and that distances us from God. That's why we must obey God's Word. However, God's love is so great that even when we fail, God does not stop loving us. God expects us to have heartfelt repentance and that we ask forgiveness. When we do, there is a celebration in heaven, just like that which the father had when his son returned to the right path. And if God forgives us in spite of our bad behavior (*review memory verse 1 John 1:9 here*) we also must learn to forgive those who hurt us, we must be like the father who never stopped loving his son and not be like the older brother who instead of rejoicing with his brother and father instead behaved selfishly and jealously. We must not judge people who sin, instead we should ask God for their lives, and when the lost sheep return we must celebrate and help them get back on their feet. We must love one another as God has loved us.

You may conclude the class with a prayerful exercise (*you might need to go outside and be very careful if you do burn the papers*). Ask the class members to take pieces of paper and write a sin they want God to forgive, or a sin someone committed against them. Then have them come up and place the papers in a metal bowl or trash can and burn the papers (*alternatively, you can use a shredder or cut the papers with scissors into tiny, illegible strips*). The burning (or shredding) is an expression of lifting up our sins before God and of God's forgiveness. Close with a brief prayer.



*If you lived next door to  
the prodigal son's father's house,  
would you have gone over to the party?*

I've told some of my friends what a shocking thing it was to discover that I had not really heard the story of the prodigal son when I preached those sermons about his coming from the far country, about them bringing the ring and the robe and killing the fatted calf. Then they bring the musicians and there's a party, and there's music and dancing, and all of that. I preached that sermon as though this was the wonderful, natural, easy, right thing to do.

I had never thought about that party until a family up the street divorced and left three or four youngsters, girls, one of them attractive, prematurely mature, and about fourteen years old. She was truant at school, into marijuana, always in trouble, always up before the judge, chasing around and hanging on the tail end of every motorcycle that went roaring through the neighborhood. She finally was so truant and so involved in misdemeanors that the judge said, "You're going to the reform school in southern Oklahoma." She was sent away to a detention home for girls. About the fourth or fifth month that she was there, she gave birth to the child she was carrying. She was fifteen at the time.

Word came to the neighborhood some months afterward that she was coming home. "Will she have that baby with her?" "Is she really coming home, back to our neighborhood?" The day we heard she was to come, all of us in the neighborhood had to mow our grass. We were out in our yards, mowing our grass and keeping the house. She didn't show, nobody came, and we kept watching the house and mowing the grass. I was down to about a blade a time, you know, watching the house, when a car pulled in the driveway – and out steps... "It's Cathy. She has the baby. She brought home the baby." People in the house ran out and grabbed her and took turns holding that baby, and they were all laughing and joking, then they went in. Another car pulled in, then another car pulled in, and another car pulled in. They started parking in the street. You couldn't have gotten a Christian car down the street, just cars on either side, and they're all gathering there, you know. Suddenly I got disturbed and anxious and went in my house. It suddenly struck me, what if one of them saw me down in the yard and said "Hey Fred, she's home and she has the baby. We're giving a party, and we'd like for you and Nettie to come."

"Well, I've got a lot of papers to grade and all." Would I have gone? If you lived next door to the prodigal son's father's house, would you have gone over to the party? It's easier to preach on that than to go to the party.

*Craddock Stories*

by Fred B. Craddock

Mike Graves and Richard F. Ward, Editors

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I trust in God's unfailing love. Psalm 52:8 NIV  
Yo confío en el gran amor de Dios. Salmo 52:8 NVI

**FORGIVENESS / PERDÓN:**

1. OF ENEMIES – A ENEMIGOS (Exodus 23:4,5; Proverbs 19:11;24:17,29;25:21,22; Ecclesiastes 7:21;)
2. INSTANCES OF – EJEMPLOS » Esau forgives Jacob (Genesis 33:4,11)
3. INSTANCES OF » Joseph forgives his brothers (Genesis 45:5-15;50:19-21)
4. INSTANCES OF » Moses forgives the Israelites (Numbers 12:1-13)
5. INSTANCES OF » David forgives Saul (1 Samuel 24:10-12;26:9,23; 2 Samuel 1:14-17)
6. INSTANCES OF » David forgives Shimei (2 Samuel 16:9-13;19:23; with 1 Kings-Reyes 2:8,9)
7. INSTANCES OF » Solomon forgives Adonijah (1 Kings-Reyes 1:53)
8. INSTANCES OF » The prophet of Judah forgives Jeroboam (1 Kings-Reyes 13:3-6)
9. INSTANCES OF » Jesus forgives his enemies (Luke-Lucas 23:34)

Information Source / Fuente de Información:

Nave's Topical Bible

Found in / Encontrada en [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

# Stories of God's Love

## The Lost Coin

Day Four

Youth

<b>THEME:</b>	"We are God's Treasure and God seeks us out"
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Luke 15:8-10
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost" Luke 19:10 (NRSV)

### Objective

Through learning the story of the lost coin, the student will learn that even when we are separated from God because of our sins, God will seek us out. Once we are found, that is, when we repent and God forgives us, God will celebrate and rejoice!

### Preparation

- Prepare for this lesson by reading Luke 15:8-10. Pray for understanding of what God would have you teach through His word.
- Read through the lesson and time it. Make sure your plans fill the time allotted without being rushed.
- Make sure all of your physical needs are planned for well ahead of time.

### Material

- Tray with ten small items on it and a cloth to cover them (things like a button, coin, stone, etc.), 3 " x 5" cards, pencils, white paper, colored construction paper, crayons or markers, scissors, glue
- Magazines, newspapers to cut out pictures for a collage
- A tape of and / or lyrics for Amazing Grace.
- Cards for "Walk the Talk" game (optional)
- Memory verse printed out on paper to post on the wall.

### Introduction

- *Welcome the class and offer this prayer:* "O living God, we praise you and thank you for this day. We ask that you lead us in our discussion as we learn your Word. Guide us as we learn about how valuable we are to you. May we understand that you never stop loving us even though we may stop loving you. Help us to know that when we are lost, you will search high and low until you find us and once we are found you will rejoice. In Jesus' name. Amen. "
- *Make sure everyone has their name tag on and mark them present in the attendance chart*
- *Review the theme and memory verse from the previous day.*
- *Present today's theme and help the students practice today's memory verse Luke 19:10. Teach them that "The Son of Man" refers to Jesus.*
- *Tell the students:* Today we are going to learn that because God loves us so much, even when we sin and we don't do what God wants us to do, God helps us change and repent and do the right things. And when we do, God is so happy, there are parties in heaven to celebrate!

### Studying the Bible passage

*Tell students:* We are going to read today's Bible passage by using "Lectio Divina," which is a method of praying and meditation with the scriptures. We will begin by sitting in silence for a few moments, trying to focus ourselves in God.

- *Once the students are quiet and aware of God's presence, the teacher will slowly read Luke 15:8-10. As the passage is being read, the students need to be alert for any particular word or phrase that draws their attention in a special way. Have them share their word/phrase without elaborating.*
- *Have someone else read the same passage. Now the students will meditate on this word or phrase, allowing it to engage them fully. The teacher will then ask, "Silently, see if the word upon which you are meditating connects with some aspect of your own experience. As you hold this word or phrase in your heart, let yourself become aware of any answering words, images or memories that arise in you." Have them share their word/image/memory without elaborating.*
- *Have someone else read the same passage. The teacher will then ask, "Silently reflect on whether your heart or mind is calling out in thanks, or praise, or joy to this word?"*
- *Now ask the group if there is anyone that would like to elaborate on the word/phrase they chose or their response of thanksgiving or praise. Encourage the students to share why that word spoke to them. It will be interesting to see if anybody selects the same word/phrase. Ask the students to take this word/phrase with them and reflect on it throughout the rest of the week.*

*You may want to read the scripture again and discuss these questions:*

- Have you ever lost something dear to you? If so, what was it and how did it make you feel?
- Did you find it? If so, how did you feel?
- Have you ever found yourself turning away from God?
- How have you been led back to God?
- Do you have any friends or family members that have lost their faith in God?
- What have you done to help them turn to God?
- When you turn away from God, do you see that as sinning?
- When you sin, do you find yourself being lost from God?
- How do you repent of your sins?
- Do you find it difficult to ask for forgiveness from God?

*Have one of the students read the following poem by Mary Stevenson:*

"Footprints in the Sand"

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.

In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was only one set.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints, so I said to the Lord, "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

*Discussion Questions:*

- What does this poem say to you?
- Do you see similarities from this poem and the passage from Luke?
- Have you ever felt like God has left you alone?
- What helped you see that God had never left you?

**Reflecting on the Bible passage**

God loves us very much and God values us. But many times we turn away from our Creator and sin. The good news is that God will seek us out when we turn away or when we get lost. Once we are found and repent of our sins, God will celebrate and rejoice!

*Tell the class, "The world does not treat all people as being of equal value." Ask if they agree or disagree with that statement and ask them to give examples to support their opinions.*

*Then say, "To God all people are of equal value." Ask if they agree or disagree. Why?*

Does the way we live show that we believe the way the world does, or the way God does? How? Is there something more we can do?

**Applying the Bible passage to our lives**

*You will need markers and paper or sculpturing clay for this project. Have the group listen to the hymn "Amazing Grace" or have the group sing at least the first verse (this is optional).*

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost but now am found  
Was blind but now I see.

*Then have the youth draw a picture or create a collage of what being lost from God looks or feels like to them. Then have them show what it looks or feels like when God seeks you out and finds you. Share with the group. Or you can use sculpturing clay and make 3 dimensional creations on what it looks or feels like to be lost from God and found by God. Share with the group your creations and explain them.*

❖ *Optional Activity: Walking the Talk*

*Have the group stand up and line up along the walls of the classroom. Ask the group the following questions (the questions may be printed on cards which an individual pulls out or the teacher may read them directly from the lesson). Every individual who can answer gets to take a step forward, walking along the perimeter of the room in a clockwise direction. If the question is <<All Play>> then every person in the group gets a chance to answer; otherwise, the teacher asks the question and selects the student who raises their hand first. Play until you've gone once around the room, or until you've asked all the questions or until they begin to lose interest.*

- <<All Play>> Share a memorized passage from this week (take 1 step forward for every passage recited)
  - <<All Play>> Name the parables we have studied this week (1 step forward for each one named)
  - Name a situation when you didn't know what to do to please God. (After the person shares it, he/she takes one step. Then the group discusses together how they would solve that situation. When they agree on the solution, the entire group takes 3 steps forward)
  - <<All Play>> Name a time when you knew God was with you (3 steps forward)
  - <<All Play>> Name a time that something you did made you feel far from God (1 step backward). If you can then name how you repented or changed your actions and then felt closer to God, take 5 steps forward.
  - How do you get back to feeling close to God after: a fight, being disobedient, cheating, coveting, lying, (other) (1 step for each answer; anyone in the group can answer, no limit on number of responses)
  - How do you get better at : forgiveness, obedience, honesty, (other) (1 step for each answer; anyone in the group can answer, no limit on number of responses)
- ❖ *Optional Activity: Review the passages from the list of biblical verses on repentance and choose a few to share and discuss with the group.*

### **Conclusion**

*Challenge the class to practice this: whenever they see another person, even a stranger on the street, have them say in their minds, "You are important to God and God seeks you out." Whenever you look at yourself in the mirror, say in your mind "I am important to God, and God seeks me out."*

*Review today's memory verse Luke 19:10 and close with a brief prayer.*

# Walk the Talk

<p style="text-align: center;">«All Play»</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Share a memorized passage from this week (take 1 step forward for every passage recited)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">«All Play»</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name the parables we have studied this week (1 step forward for each one named)</p>
<p>Name a situation when you didn't know what to do to please God. (After the person shares it, he/she takes one step. Then the group discusses together how they would solve that situation. When they agree on the solution, the entire group takes 3 steps forward)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">«All Play»</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name a time when you knew God was with you (3 steps forward)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">«All Play»</p> <p>Name a time that something you did made you feel far from God (1 step backward). If you can then name how you repented or changed your actions and then felt closer to God, take 5 steps forward.</p>	<p>How do you get back to feeling close to God after: a fight, being disobedient, cheating, coveting, lying, <u>(other)</u> (1 step for each answer; anyone in the group can answer, no limit on number of responses)</p>
<p>How do you get better at : forgiveness, obedience, honesty, <u>(other)</u> (1 step for each answer; anyone in the group can answer, no limit on number of responses)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Write your own...</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Write your own...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Write your own...</p>



I trust in God's unfailing love. Psalm 52:8 NIV  
Yo confío en el gran amor de Dios. Salmo 52:8 NVI

REPENTANCE / ARREPENTIMIENTO:

1. INSTANCES OF – EJEMPLOS » Joseph's brothers, of their maltreatment of Joseph (Genesis 42:21;50:17,18)
2. INSTANCES OF » Pharaoh, of his hardness of heart (Exodus 9:27;10:16,17)
3. INSTANCES OF » Balaam, of his spiritual blindness (Numbers 22:34; with 22:24-35)
4. INSTANCES OF » Of worshiping the golden calf (Exodus 33:3,4)
5. INSTANCES OF » Of their complaining because of lack of bread and water, when the plague of fiery serpents came upon them (Numbers 21:4-7)
6. INSTANCES OF » When rebuked by an angel for not expelling the Canaanites (Judges 2:1-5)
7. INSTANCES OF » Of their idolatry, when afflicted by the Philistines (Judges 10:6-16; 1 Samuel 7:3-6)
8. INSTANCES OF » In asking for a king (1 Samuel 12:16-20)
9. INSTANCES OF » In the time of Asa, by the preaching of Azariah (2 Chronicles 15:1-15)
10. INSTANCES OF » By the preaching of Oded (2 Chronicles 28:9-15)
11. INSTANCES OF » Under the influence of Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 30:11)
12. INSTANCES OF » Achan, because of his theft (Joshua 7:20)
13. INSTANCES OF » Saul, at the rebuke of Samuel for not destroying the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:24; with 15:6-31)
14. INSTANCES OF » David, at the rebuke of Nathan, the prophet, for his sins of adultery and murder (2 Samuel 12:11,13; with 12:7-14)
15. INSTANCES OF » Rehoboam, when his kingdom was invaded, and Jerusalem was besieged (2 Chronicles 12:1-12)
16. INSTANCES OF » Hezekiah, at the time of his sickness (2 Chronicles 32:26)
17. INSTANCES OF » When reproved by the prophet Micah (Jeremiah 26:18,19)
18. INSTANCES OF » Ahab, when reproved by Elijah for Ahab's idolatry (1 Kings-Reyes 21:27; with 21:17-29)
19. INSTANCES OF » Jehoahaz (2 Kings-Reyes 13:4)
20. INSTANCES OF » Josiah, when he heard the law of God which had been discovered in the temple by Hilkiah (2 Kings-Reyes 22:11-20)
21. INSTANCES OF » Manasseh, when he was carried away captive to Babylon by the king of Assyria (2 Chronicles 33:12,13)
22. INSTANCES OF » At the dedication of the second temple (Ezra 6:21)
23. INSTANCES OF » Because of their idolatrous marriages (Ezra 10)
  - a. Attributed to God – Atribuido a Dios (Genesis 6:6,7; Exodus 32:14; Deuteronomy 32:36; Judges 2:18; 1 Samuel 15:11)
  - b. Exhortation to (Proverbs 1:23-33; Jeremiah 7:3,5;26:3; Hosea 14:1-3; Amos 5:4-6;)
  - c. Condition of God's favor (Leviticus 26:40-42; 2 Chronicles 7:14)
24. INSTANCES OF » Because of their oppressive usury (Nehemiah 5:1-13)
25. INSTANCES OF » After hearing the law expounded by Ezra (Nehemiah 8:1-12;9:1-3)
26. INSTANCES OF » By the preaching of Haggai (Haggai 1)

27. INSTANCES OF » Jonah, after his punishment (Jonah 2:2-9)
28. INSTANCES OF » The Ninevites, by the preaching of Jonah (Jonah 3:5-9)
29. INSTANCES OF » The Jews, by the preaching of John-Juan the Baptist (Matthew-Mateo 3:6)
30. INSTANCES OF » The woman who anointed Jesus with oil (Luke 7:37-48)
31. INSTANCES OF » The disobedient son (Matthew-Mateo 21:29)
32. INSTANCES OF » The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:17-21)
33. INSTANCES OF » Peter, because of his denial of Jesus (Matthew-Mateo 26:75; Mark 14:72; Luke 22:62)
34. INSTANCES OF » Judas (Matthew-Mateo 27:3-5; Acts-Hechos 1:16,18)
35. INSTANCES OF » The Ephesians, by the preaching of Paul (Acts-Hechos 19:18)

Information Source / Fuente de Información:

Nave's Topical Bible

Found in / Encontrada en [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

# Stories of God's Love

## The Sower

Day Five

Youth

<b>THEME:</b>	"The Love of God Grows in My Heart"
<b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b>	Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23
<b>MEMORY VERSE:</b>	"The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the [Good] News and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams." Matthew 13:23 (The Message)

### Objective

The student will know the story and will understand that God wants us to grow in the faith and that we bear fruit.

### Preparation

- Prepare and study the class carefully, reading the Bible passage several times.
- Prepare and have ready all the material you will use, so that you might be able to make the best out of the time allocated for the lesson.
- Always have your Bible in your hand so that the students will know and understand that all they are going to learn is coming from the Word of God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance to meet the lesson's objective so that the lesson might be a great blessing for the children and may touch the hearts of those in need.

### Material

- Pictures or illustrations where people are evangelizing.
- Pictures or illustrations of a sower in a field, to give context to the Bible story.
- Cups filled with dirt where different kinds of seeds are growing: beans, linseed, birdseed etc.
- Cards with the following Bible texts: John 4:37 and 1 Corinthians 3:6
- Magazines, poster board, glue, markers, etc.
- Memory verse printed out on paper to post on the wall.

### Introduction

*Welcome the group, making them feel comfortable and happy to be with Jesus and other friends to learn more about God.*

- *Offer up a prayer thanking God for the day, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that the lesson may go according to God's will*
- *Ask the youth if they have ever faced a challenge. Allow them to give you some examples and tell you how they felt.*

- *Show them the seed cups and explain to them the challenge that a sower faces when he/she plants that seed.*
- *There are many people around us who share the Word of God and with love and patience they want to see those people accepting Christ in their heart and they don't get tired of sowing the seed of God's word, even if they are rejected*
- *Introduce and practice the memory verse Matthew 13:23. You may want to have them look up the passage in their Bibles. Print the memory verse and post it on the wall. You may want to cover it (partially or completely) when working on memorizing it.*
- *Today God's Word will show us the parable of the sower who one day went out to sow his seeds*

### **Studying the Bible passage**

*Have all the students find the passage in their Bibles. Have them take turns reading a verse of the passage until they've read the entire story*

#### *❖ Optional Activity:*

*Have the students act out the passage as you read the story from the Bible. Get several kids to be the different kinds of characters: sower, a seed in each of the types of soil, the sun, the birds, the thorns, etc. You may want to give them some clues about how to act out their part (the birds flapping their wings, the growing plant spreading its branches, etc.). As one person in the group reads the story, have the characters come alive and act the story as they hear the biblical passage.*

- *As the sower was sowing the seeds, some of them fell by the road and were eaten up by the birds.*
- *But some of the seeds fell among stones where there wasn't enough soil; when the sun came out, it burned them up, and since they had no root, they dried out.*
- *The ones that fell among the thorns were able to grow, but then the thorns crowded them out and the seeds died out.*
- *But the seeds that fell on the good soil grew up and produced fruit.*

*When we share the word of God with other people something happens, that is, we don't know which types of hearts are receiving the seed of God's Word.*

*Only the Lord truly knows our heart. But we are sure that today you are like the good soil which will bear a lot of fruit.*

### **Reflecting on the Bible passage**

*The Lord sends us out as his ambassadors, as it says in Matthew 28:19 (invite them to find the verse in their Bibles) "Go and make disciples of all nations..."*

*This commandment represents the seed which you must sow in your neighbor's heart and that only God will know how it will come to bear fruit.*

*The Bible gives us confirmation of that in John 4:37 and 1 Corinthians 3:6-8 (use the cards you had prepared before hand)*

*Ask them the following questions to help them understand the meaning of the Bible story*

- *What kind of soil does your heart represent?*

- What does it mean to bear fruit?
- Is it a heart that has allowed good fruits to come from it?
- Are you willing to be like the sower in the parable and go out and sow God's seeds?
- What would your character show?
- Would you share with friends and neighbors the message that you have felt in your heart?

### Applying the Bible passage to our lives

What we learned today is part of how we live out our Christian life.

There are times we think it's not worth it to tell people about Christ as our only Lord and Savior for fear that they'll reject us or, to the contrary, that they mock us.

Or maybe we think that's the job of evangelists, missionaries and pastors.

However, it is a commandment from God and we must faithfully obey it.

*Ask the students:*

- Who teaches you about God's love?
- What kinds of things help your faith in God grow?
- Think about how the people who teach you about God's love do it. What are some things they do or say that help you learn about God? Let's practice sharing our faith in God with others (*have them brainstorm statements they've recalled their teachers using to learn about God. You may want to add things like "Jesus loves you," "God listens to us when we pray," "God speaks to us through the stories in the Bible," etc. Then have them practice saying those phrases to each other.* Have the students take turns role playing being the person who is sharing their faith and the person listening.
- What happens when that seed of faith we've planted, that seed of the growing awareness of God's love, begins to grow? How do we help it grow healthy?
- *You may want to take this opportunity to share your testimony with the students, about how you have come to believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior and how people in your life have nurtured that belief. Review with the class how this whole week we have studied stories of God's love for us, and the greatest proof of God's love for us is that Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth to redeem God's people, to grant us forgiveness for our sins. God did this through Jesus' teaching, life, death on the cross and his resurrection. Tell the students how important it is to have that relationship with God, to have that seed of faith grow in our hearts. Maybe someone has planted that seed in the past, or maybe it's been planted this week. But what is important is that God wants that love, that faith, to grow in us. Tell the students that you are going to lead them in prayer, and in that prayer, those who feel God is touching their heart, may pray for God to plant and help grow that seed in their hearts. Invite the students to close their eyes in prayer and then pray asking God to lead these students to a closer relationship with Jesus (you may use this prayer or one you create):*
  - "Lord God, we thank you for these your sons and daughters who have come to church to learn about your love and grow in their faith. Lord God, you know their hearts, and they feel you working in their lives, they sense that you touch their hearts. Loving God. They want to be closer to you. They know that Jesus died for our sins and that you raised Jesus from the dead to give us new life. Loving God, while the

rest the class has its eyes closed, if anyone here wants to tell you God for the first time that he/she wants to give you thanks for your grace, to accept the gift you have given us in Jesus, that they want to proclaim that Jesus is their Lord, then I invite those people, while all have their eyes closed, to raise their hand for just a moment so I may be able to pray for them as this seed grows in their heart. Hear them Lord, as they pray this prayer silently in their hearts:

- << Lord, I know that you love me and that you want the best for me. I believe in my heart that it is because you love me that Jesus came to earth to teach us, to show us the way to you, to die for our sins, and to be raised so we could have new life. I pray that you forgive my sins and that you let this be the day that I open my heart so this seed of your love, of faith may grow, so that Jesus will be in control of my life, helping me serve you and be obedient to you. In the name of Jesus our Lord we pray. Amen. >> "
- *Be sure to follow up with those who raised their hands during the prayer (either during the next activity or following class). Encourage them, pray with them, and point them out to the pastor or leadership team so they may help them grow in their faith in the days after VBS. You may want to give them a token of encouragement to help them remember this day (a bookmark, a little gift, a certificate, a Bible, etc.)*

*Invite the class to work in teams to use the magazines, art supplies, etc. to create collages showing how the seeds of faith grow. What different kinds of fruit can our faithful hearts yield?*

❖ *Optional Activity*

*Have the students find and read one or several of the following passages. Discuss as a class what things the persons sharing their faith have in common, what the persons hearing the word of God have in common. Discuss what are some things which would help us be able to share our faith with others:*

Acts 2:14-24, 37-42

Peter's Pentecost speech

Acts 8:26-40

Phillip teaches the Ethiopian eunuch

Acts 10:34-48

Story of Peter and Cornelius

**Conclusion**

*Review and practice the memory verse Matthew 13:23.*

Sharing the gospel with other people is something that pleases and glorifies our Heavenly Father.

God's will is that people will rejoice in him and glorify him forever through their life.

So, people show their love and faith by fulfilling God's commandments as a sign of spiritual growth and maturity.

*Thank the students for their participation throughout the week. Invite them to keep coming to the church. Offer a closing prayer, asking God in prayer to teach you where you must bear fruit (some neighbor, friend or co-worker) and ask that God's will be done.*