

SPECIAL LESSON

Bible Study: A Reflection on the Prodigal Son

Bible Study Preparation and Materials Needed:

Reflecting on: Being Lost and Returning to God

Scripture Reference: Luke 15:11-32

Passages and Verses Used in this Bible Study

Luke 15:4: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”

Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Luke 15:24: “For your brother was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

Memory Verse:

“For your brother was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

- Luke 15:32

Bible Study Lesson

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, ee paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

A Reflection on the Prodigal Son

Have you ever felt lost? Maybe not in a physical way, but in your heart—uncertain about where you’re going, unsure of your purpose, or disconnected from the people who love you? Feeling lost is something we all experience in life, and it can be a scary, lonely place.

Jesus told a story about being lost—one of the most famous parables in the Bible: the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). This parable is read during the third Sunday of Great Lent, known as the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, a time when we reflect on repentance and God’s mercy.

Read: Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32.

Jesus told of a young man who demanded his inheritance early and left home to live recklessly. He wasted everything on a life of sin and selfishness. When famine struck, he starved, alone and hopeless, taking care of pigs—an unclean and humiliating job for a Jewish man. In his desperation, he longed to eat the food meant for the pigs, thinking that they have a better life than he does.

It was in this moment of emptiness that he realized something important: he had left behind a loving father and a home where he was cherished and always cared for. He wanted to return, but shame and guilt enveloped him, for he understood the pain he caused to his loving father and family. He decided to return not as a son, but as a servant, thinking he no longer deserved his father’s love.

Reflection Questions

1. *When have you felt lost—spiritually, emotionally, or mentally?*
2. *What are some ways you might have turned away from God without realizing it?*
3. *How does this story challenge your understanding of God’s love and forgiveness?*
4. *What is one step you can take this Lent to return to God with all your heart?*

This story reminds us that when we turn away from God—because of sin, selfishness, or even just losing sight of what truly matters—we end up spiritually lost. The world promises happiness in wealth, pleasure, or status, but those things leave us empty in the end. This mirrors our own spiritual struggles when we prioritize temporary pleasures over a relationship with God. Sin often disguises itself as something fulfilling, but it ultimately drains us, leaving us empty, ashamed, and disconnected from the love we truly need. The Prodigal Son realized that his freedom and choices had actually led him into misery. The Prodigal Son’s lowest moment—hungry and alone in a foreign land—was not just about physical suffering, but also the deep realization that he had lost himself. It was in

that emptiness that he finally understood what he had taken for granted: the security, love, and provisions of his father's house. This turning point reminds us that no matter how far we have strayed, God is always waiting for us to recognize our need for Him and come home.

Great Lent is a time when we recognize the ways we too have strayed from God. Maybe we've neglected prayer, become impatient with family members, or filled our hearts and minds with distractions instead of love and focus. We might feel unworthy of returning to God, but the story doesn't end with the son staying lost.

God Always Welcomes Us Back!

When the Prodigal Son returned home, something incredible happened. His father didn't reject him or punish him. Instead, he ran to him, embraced him, and celebrated his return with a feast! This is a picture of God's love for us. No matter how lost we feel, how many mistakes we've made, or how far we've strayed, God is always ready to welcome us back. This story is not the only one that illustrates God's generous love and endless forgiveness. We see that also in The Parable of the Lost Sheep: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?" (Luke 15:4) in this parable we see God's relentless love in searching for those who are lost.

In Proverbs 3:5-6 we read the importance of surrendering to God's will. Even in the most difficult situations He will give us peace. When we feel lost, God promises to guide us if we trust Him. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Summary:

During Great Lent, we are called to return to God through prayer, fasting, and repentance. Just like the Prodigal Son, we must recognize that we need God, we must turn back to Him and trust in His mercy. Confession and communion help us experience this return in a real, tangible way.

Being lost is a part of life, but we don't have to stay lost. God always invites us back, just like the father in the parable. During this Great Lent, take time to reflect on where you are spiritually. Are you living in a way that brings you closer to God, or have you wandered further from Him? No matter the answer, He is waiting for you with open arms being ready to say, "For this child of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:32)

Video: ["Choices" with Fr. Tateos Abdalian - Insight into the Sunday of the Prodigal Son](#)

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamgyhees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.