

## SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

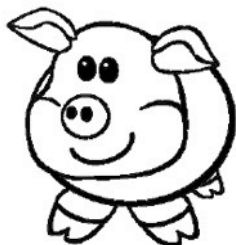
The *Parable of the Prodigal Son* teaches the lesson of God’s Fatherly love and forgiveness for those who repent. The parable describes the passion of a caring father for his run-away son. Day after day, the father had been scanning the horizon for any sign of his lost son. Although in the first century a father would typically wait until a son showed some sign of respect before addressing him, here the father threw all social conventions aside. He could not wait to see his son. He started walking toward him. With open arms, he embraced his son, pulling him tightly to himself. God is like this loving father. He wants to welcome sinners back home with open arms.

### PRODIGAL SON DECODER

## The Parable of the Lost Son

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| I | J | H | O | W | Z | B | D | L | N  | A  | U  | M  | T  | E  | P  | X  | S  | K  | F  | V  | Q  | R  | C  | Y  | G  |

- 18-4-10-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-4-12-10-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-1-26-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-14-11-23-21-1-10-26 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5-15-11-9-14-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 20-11-14-3-15-23 \_\_\_\_\_
- 19-1-18-18-15-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9-4-18-14 \_\_\_\_\_

|        |          |        |       |
|--------|----------|--------|-------|
| FATHER | WEALTH   | PIGS   | FOUND |
| SONS   | STARVING | KISSED | LOST  |

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## BEING FOUND BY GOD

Sunday of the Prodigal Son | Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-32

Have you ever lost or misplaced something? How did that make you feel? Probably frustrated and upset, especially when you are late for something. Often people lose their keys, cell phones, and other items. Did you find those things you lost? How did you react when you found them?

In today’s Gospel reading we hear of three different parables that Christ preaches about losing things. The first is a shepherd who loses one of his 100 sheep. Then there is a parable about a woman who loses one of her ten coins. Finally, He speaks of a father who loses one of his two sons.

As we see, the losses become larger. The shepherd lost 1% of his flock, the woman lost 10% of her money, and the father lost 50% of his sons. It must have been a horrible feeling for these people to lose these precious items, especially the father losing his son.

But what is also amazing to see how they reacted when they found these items. The shepherd laid the sheep on his shoulders, rejoicing (Luke 15:5). The woman called her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ (15:9) And the father ran out to meet his son, clothed him, put a ring on his hand, and threw a party for his return (15:22-23).

In each instance, Christ is comparing how God rejoices when one of us turns away from our mistakes and sins and turns to Him in humility, asking for forgiveness. When we are in sin and doing bad things, we are lost to God and He searches for us. He finds us when we have left our sinful ways and come back to His loving arms.

Sometimes we are afraid He will not welcome us back and He may be mad at us, but like the father in the reading, He is waiting for our return to Him and will run out to greet us.

Have you been lost to God?  
When will you allow Him to find you?

ARMENIAN WORDS TO KNOW FROM HOLY BADARAK

Ով => Ov => Who

Ո՞վ է սա թագաւոր փառաց. Տէր զօրութեանց:

**Ov** eh sa takavor parats., Der zorootyants.

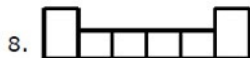
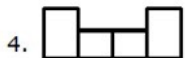
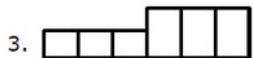
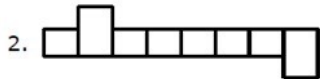
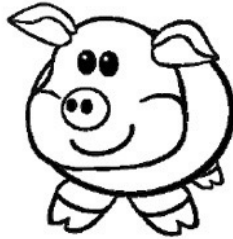
**Who** is the king of glory? The Lord of hosts.

(An example is on page 25 in the Liturgy Book)

The Parable of the Lost Son

'Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.

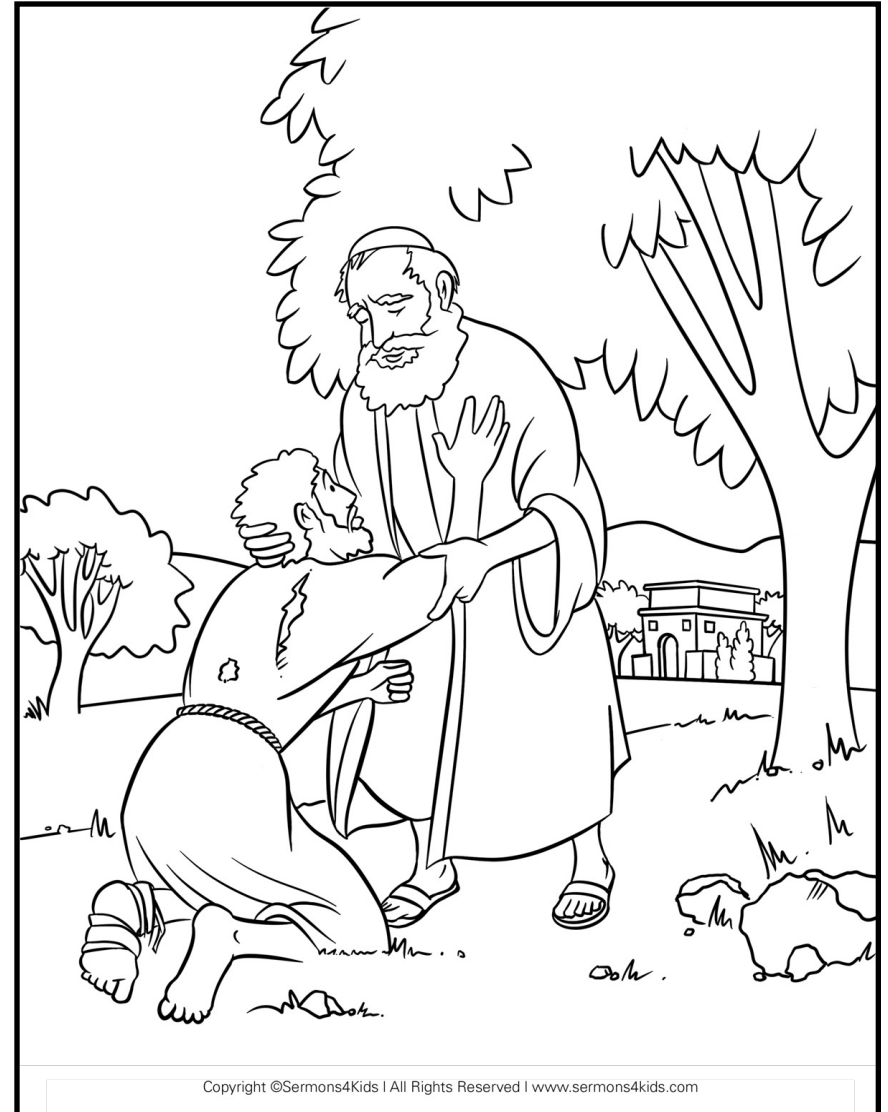


|        |          |        |       |
|--------|----------|--------|-------|
| father | wealth   | pigs   | lost  |
| sons   | starving | kissed | found |

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SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

There is no one to whom you give an awful gift and he lovingly accepts it. There is only one person whom you can give an awful gift and he won't only accept it, but also be happy with it. That person is Jesus Himself and that present which will make Him happy is our sins. Remember how our Heavenly Father joyfully ran to greet His newly returned sinful prodigal son (Lk. 15:20-23).



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For your brother was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found.

Luke 15:32

Զի եղբայր քո այս մեռեալ էր եւ եկեաց, կորուսեալ՝ եւ գտաւ:

Ղուկաս ԺԵ.32