

Special Lesson - Great Lent

Lesson 3. You Are Precious to God: The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Scripture References: Luke 15:11-32

Activity: Chairs and something to play music with.

Video: [The Prodigal Son: Luke 9-19](#) (duration 4:47)

Song: [Everyone's a Person](#) (duration 1:57)

MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Forgiveness and Repentance.

Homework Activity:

**Note: Consider encouraging the use of the 2025 Lenten calendar*

Words of the week:

անարակ - an-ar-ag - prodigal

խոզ - khoz - pig/swine

մատանի - ma-da-nee - ring

Memory Verse:

“...he was lost and is found, was dead and now is alive.”

Luke 15:32

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Open with prayer:

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

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, 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.

Lesson Body:

Today is the third Sunday of Great Lent and it is called Sunday of the Prodigal Son. During today's lesson we will see how forgiving our God is and how important it is to forgive. Jesus often taught about very important things in life through stories. One of these stories was the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

This parable is about a father who had two sons. He took very good care of them and they helped him with his work. One day, the younger son told his father, "I am old enough now to have my own life. I want to leave this home. Give me my part of inheritance and money, so I may leave and enjoy my own life." Of course, the father was sad that his son wanted to leave him and start a life on his own, yet he did what the son asked of him and gave his younger son's fair share.

Q: *Do you know what inheritance is?*

Inheritance is something left to one, usually a child, by parents or relatives who die. When the son asked for his inheritance, he was suggesting that he did not care about his father or, more precisely, that his father was dead to him.

So, the son took his share of inheritance and went away. He lived a lavish life wasting his money on parties and clothing and many other worldly things. Soon he lost everything. He was hungry and homeless. Desperate to feed himself during a famine, he found a job where he would feed pigs and was so hungry, he thought of eating the pigs' food. He then realized how well he had it under the roof of his father's house and how wrong he was in leaving him.

Q: *Could you imagine being in a situation where you are very hungry and have no food or money to buy food. How would you feel? What would you do?*



Image from www.christianpost.com

READ FROM THE BIBLE: LUKE 15:11-32

So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began.

Q: Do you think it was an easy decision to go back? How do you feel going back to your parents after doing something wrong?

Q: Whom do you think the father and the son represent?

In this parable, the father represents God and the son represents us; here we see how merciful and forgiving the father was. We should remember that no matter what bad things we do, God will always welcome us back and love us.

Game Activity: Forgiving Musical Chairs

1. Place chairs in a tight circle facing outwards. There should be one less chair than the number of children in the class (Ex. if there are 10 children, only place 9 chairs in the circle.)
2. As you play a Christian song, have the children walk around the circle in the same direction.
3. Once the music stops, children must quickly sit on an empty seat.
4. The person who is out must state a way to forgive someone or a way to ask for forgiveness.

Examples:

- a. Pray to God to help you forgive.
- b. Saying sorry to someone.
- c. If it is hard to say sorry, we can pray to God to help us become humble and apologize.
- d. Changing our bad habits to good habits.
- e. Confessing to a priest.
- f. Repenting.

5. Once the round is done, remove another chair from the circle and keep playing until there is one person left and each child gets a chance to say something.

Words of the Week:

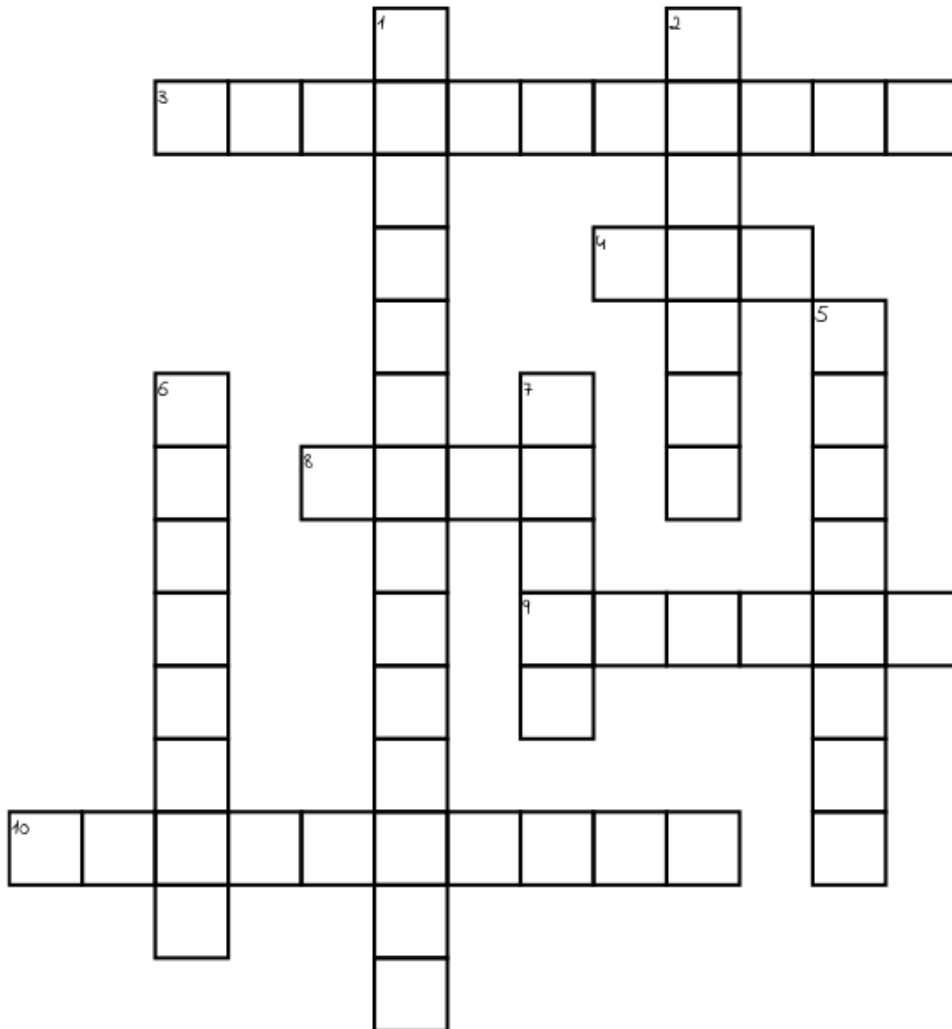
անառակ - anarag - prodigal
խոզ - khoz - pig/swine
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Video: [The Prodigal Son: Luke 9-19](#) (duration 4:47)

Song: [Everyone's a Person](#) (duration 1:57)

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Prodigal Son Crossword



Across

3. what did the younger son ask his father for?
4. God is ..? when you turn away from Him
8. The father said my son was dead and has come to? again.
9. The son said he had? against Heaven and his Father.
10. whats another word for reconciliation?

Down

1. God gave us a special gift, the Sacrament of ...?
2. what is the name of a story told by Jesus with a hidden meaning?
5. what is another word for "prodigal"?
6. The prodigal son asked to eat pigs food when he was?
7. The father celebrated his son's return with a ...?

Review

Memory Verse Review:

"...he was lost and is found, was dead and now is alive." (Luke 15:32)

Words of the Week Review:

անառակ - anarag - prodigal

խոզ - khoz - pig/swine

մատանի - madanee - ring

Lesson Review:

Questions:

The children will demonstrate an understanding of the parable of the prodigal son, God's forgiveness and mercy in giving us second chances.

1. What did the younger son want from his father? (His inheritance)
2. What kind of work did the younger brother do after wasting his inheritance? (Feeding pigs)
3. How did the father respond to the younger brother coming home? (He ran out to greet him, gave him a ring, put a robe on him and killed the fatted calf for a feast)
4. How did the older brother respond to the younger brother coming home? (He was jealous and upset)

Lesson Review:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Take three minutes of each day, sit on your own and reflect what you have done wrong (remember, none of us are perfect! We might do wrong and not even notice it at the time). Write them down and you can talk about that with your priest. Forgive others and pray to God to help you forgive when it is hard to do so. Do not ever feel like you cannot come back to God. He will always wait for you to return with His arms wide open.

** Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

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 vog-hormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. 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.