

January 11, 2026.

Sunday School

Bible Study 

Michael McCants

Scripture Study

Luke 15:11–24

Devotional Reading:

Mark 1:14–20

Background Scripture:

Isaiah 1:10–21;

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Jesus' parable is situated within a trilogy of parables (lost sheep, lost coin, lost son).

Jesus is addressing the religious leaders' criticism for welcoming sinners (Luke 15:1–2).

The narrative reflects first-century Jewish family structures, honor–shame culture, inheritance laws, and communal expectations.

CULTURAL VIOLATIONS

- 1. Requesting inheritance early equated to wishing one's father dead (Deut. 21:17).**
- 2. Squandering inheritance violated family legacy and covenant continuity (Lev. 25:23).**
- 3. Association with Gentiles and feeding pigs symbolized ritual impurity (Lev. 11:7).**
- 4. The father running to the son defied patriarchal dignity and public honor norms.**

Lesson Aims

- 1. Examine the actions of the father and both sons for understanding and witness.**
- 2. Understand how each of us must welcome others returning to God and why.**
- 3. Commit to sharing God's generosity with others as often as possible.**

QUESTIONS?



- 1. What may have compelled the father to give the younger son his share of the inheritance?**
- 2. How might the father have felt after this series of events?**

LUKE 15:11–12 NIV

The Parable of the Lost Son

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So, he divided his property between them.

LUKE 15:13-14 NIV

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

LUKE 15:15–16 NIV

15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

LUKE 15:17 NIV

**17 “When he came to his senses, he said,
‘How many of my father’s hired servants have
food to spare, and here I am starving to death!**

Lesson Aims Review.

- 1. The son dishonored the father and rejected covenantal family structure.**
- 2. The father obviously hurt, gave the son his request.**
- 3. The older son is not recorded as having comment in the beginning, yet he never went to look for his younger brother.**



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- 1. Repentance begins with honest self-awareness (Ps. 51:17), ends with Love.**
- 2. “God’s grace” restores identity, not merely behavior (2 Cor. 5:17).**
- 3. Community restoration should reflect God’s kingdom values (Gal. 6:1).**

LUKE 15:18–19 NIV

18 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

19 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

LUKE 15:20-21 NIV

20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

LUKE 15:22-23 NIV

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.

LUKE 15:24 NIV

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So, they began to celebrate.

QUESTIONS?

- 1. What does the son's journey teach about repentance and reconciliation?**
- 2. What does the father's response reveal about God's love?**
- 3. What does the elder brother's response reflect in life today?**



Acts 2:38

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



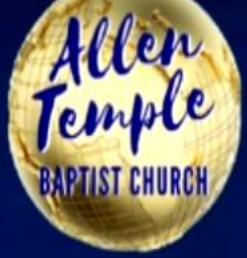
Acts 2:39

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.

KEY TEXT TO REMEMBER

Luke 15:24

“This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So, they began to celebrate.” —



How Allen Temple Receives Members

- **Candidate for Baptism:** Upon the profession of faith in Christ as Lord, Savior, and Forgiver of your sins.
- **Christian Experience:** You are inactive as a church member and wish to activate your church membership and renew your relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Transfer of Membership:** From one church to another by letter



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LIFE APPLICATION

- 1. Write one way to demonstrate God's generosity to others. Invite them to commit to act on what they wrote during the week..**
- 2. Pray together with someone, seeking God's assistance in implementing their planned actions throughout the week, month and year.**
- 3. Receive new converts and all returning to the Lord with open arms of Love, as GOD receives us.**

Next Sunday January 18, 2026

Prayer and Humility

Devotional Reading: Psalm 141

**Background Scripture: Nehemiah 1:4–11; Daniel 6:10;
Matthew 6:5–15; John 17:1–26**

LESSON SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:1–14 - Luke 18:9–14

Facilitator: Bro. Ralph Gordon

January 11, 2026

Repentance and Faith Sunday School Lesson Notes

Devotional Reading: Mark 1:14–20

Background Scripture: Isaiah 1:10–21; Ezekiel 18:20–23, 27–32

I. Luke 15:11–24 – The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11–24 is situated within a trilogy of parables (lost sheep, lost coin, lost son) addressing the religious leaders' criticism of Jesus for welcoming sinners (Luke 15:1–2). The narrative reflects first century Jewish family structures, honor–shame culture, inheritance laws, and communal expectations.

A. Cultural and Historical Background

- 1 Requesting inheritance early equated to wishing one's father dead (Deut. 21:17).
- 2 Selling inherited land violated family legacy and covenant continuity (Lev. 25:23).
- 3 Association with Gentiles and feeding pigs symbolized ritual impurity (Lev. 11:7).
- 4 The father running to the son defied patriarchal dignity and public honor norms.

B. Theological Interpretation

The son's repentance (Luke 15:17–19) illustrates metanoia—a transformative change of mind and direction. The father's response reflects divine grace preceding human restoration (Rom. 5:8). The robe, ring, and sandals signify restored sonship and covenant identity (Gen. 41:42).

C. God's Grace at the Turning Point

The turning point occurs when the son 'came to himself' (Luke 15:17). God's grace is demonstrated through the father's initiative, compassion, and full restoration prior to any restitution. Grace interrupts shame and restores relationship (Eph. 2:8–9).

D. Three Key Application Points

- 1 Repentance begins with honest self-awareness (Ps. 51:17).
- 2 God's grace restores identity, not merely behavior (2 Cor. 5:17).
- 3 Community restoration reflects God's kingdom values (Gal. 6:1).

E. Questions and Answers

- 1 **Q:** What made the son's request culturally offensive?
A: It dishonored the father and rejected covenantal family structure.
- 2 **Q:** Why did the father run to the son?
A: To publicly restore honor and prevent community rejection.
Q: What does the robe symbolize?
- 3 **A:** Reinstated authority and belonging.

II. Acts 2:38–39 – Apostolic Proclamation and Promise

Though Peter delivers the sermon in Acts 2, Apostle Paul's later ministry aligns with this foundational message. Acts 2 occurs during Pentecost (Shavuot), marking covenant renewal and Spiritual empowerment.

A. Historical Context

Acts 2 follows Jesus' ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Peter's call to repentance reflects continuity with Jesus' message (Mark 1:15). Paul later embodies this theology through his conversion (Acts 9) and teaching on grace and repentance (Rom. 6:3–4)

B. Theological Notes

- 1 Repentance and baptism signify covenant entry (Acts 22:16).
- 2 The Spirit is a promised gift to all generations (Joel 2:28–29).
- 3 Salvation is communal and missional (Acts 1:8).

C. Practical Takeaways

- 1 Faith requires intentional response—repentance and obedience.
- 2 The Holy Spirit empowers lifelong transformation.
- 3 God's promise extends beyond cultural and generational boundaries.

D. Additional Scripture for Study

- 1 Isaiah 55:6–7
- 2 Ezekiel 36:26–27
- 3 Romans 8:1–11
- 4 Galatians 4:4–7
- 5 Hebrews 8:10–12