

to build but can't finish the job!' they will say. **31** If a king goes out with ten thousand men to fight another king who comes against him with twenty thousand men, he will sit down first and decide if he is strong enough to face that other king. **32** If he isn't, he will send messengers to meet the other king to ask for terms of peace while he is still a long way off. **33** In the same way," concluded Jesus, "none of you can be my disciple unless you give up everything you have.

### Worthless Salt

**34** "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. **35** It is no good for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown away. Listen, then, if you have ears!"

### The Lost Sheep

**15** <sup>1</sup> One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, <sup>2</sup> the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" <sup>3</sup> So Jesus told them this parable:

<sup>4</sup> "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. <sup>5</sup> When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders <sup>6</sup> and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbors together and say to them, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' <sup>7</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.

### The Lost Coin

**8** "Or suppose a woman who has ten silver coins loses one of them—what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps her house, and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it. **9** When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, and says to them, 'I am so happy I found the coin I lost. Let us celebrate!' **10** In the same way, I tell you, the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents."

### The Lost Son

**11** Jesus went on to say, "There was once a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the property now.' So the man divided his property between his two sons. **13** After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. **14** He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. **15** So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. **16** He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. **17** At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! **18** I will get up and go to my father and say, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you. **19** I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers.'" **20** So he got up and started back to his father.

"He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his





## The Forgiving Father



Luke 15:11, 20-24 (For the full story, read Luke 15:11-32.)

11 Jesus went on to say, . . . 20 “[The sinful son] was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with **pity**, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. 21 ‘Father,’ the son said, ‘I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.’ 22 But the father called to his servants. ‘Hurry!’ he said. ‘Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. 23 Then go and get the **prize** calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! 24 For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.’”

**pity** a feeling of sadness for another person

**prize** most valuable, best





## Understand It!

This story Jesus told could be called "A Foolish Son and His Big-Hearted Father." This son asked his dad for a lot of money and then left home. He wasted every penny. When he was starving because he had no money left, he wanted to go home.

The father could have been angry. Instead, he loved his son so much that he ran to meet him. The father hugged his son even before the son said he was sorry. The father was so happy to have his son back that he gave him a gift. He held a big party to welcome him home. Jesus wants us to know that our Father in Heaven is like this loving father. No matter how much we sin, God will always love us and forgive us. He always welcomes us back when we turn to him.

STORY  
Luke 15

## Live It!

Think about a time when you behaved in a way that upset your mom or dad. What did you do to let them know you were sorry? How did they react? God is like a loving parent. He always welcomes us back when we turn to him after we've disobeyed his commandments. Thank God for loving you like the father in the story.

## Tell It!



Using the pictures above, retell this story in your own words.

