

Phonics Script

Jesus Teaches that God Forgives like a Father Forgives his Children

(short a, e, i, o)

The story of the disobedient son from Luke 15: 11-31

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The story of the disobedient son from Luke 15: 11-31

This is a Bible story that a student and a tutor can read together. This story is taken from Luke 15: 11-31.

The student will read the parts of the **CHILD** and the **OLDER SIBLING**. The tutor will take all the other parts. Feel free to read with some dramatic flair.



NARRATOR: This is a story Jesus told to show people how eagerly God forgives people who want to come back to Him.

Once upon a time, there was a good man with two children. They lived on a big farm. The younger child was not happy working for the father.

CHILD: This is not the best job. I do not want my dad to be my boss. I do not want to help my dad.

NARRATOR: The child was lazy and wanted to live a lazy life.

CHILD: I want to rest. I want a soft bed. I want to get lots of naps. I want to get off this job.

NARRATOR: The child wanted to waste money on expensive things.

CHILD: I want the best. I want a lot of big gifts for me. I want to spend a lot.

NARRATOR: The child decided to ask for all the money that the father was keeping for the inheritance. The child wanted that money right now. Then the child planned leave the family and live an easy, lazy, wasteful, selfish life.

CHILD: I will tell my dad to give me all he has for me. Then I will go. My dad can not stop me.

NARRATOR: So the child went to the father.

CHILD: Quick, give me all you have for me, Dad. I do not want to be with you. I will go. You can not stop or block me.

NARRATOR: Sadly, the father gave the child all the inheritance that was being saved for later. The child left for a faraway country. The child started wasting the money and living a very bad life. The child spent the money very quickly.

CHILD: I do not mind that I am bad. I want to sin. I will spend a lot fast. I am glad I can have what I want.

NARRATOR: But things didn't stay that way. A serious famine started. There was no rain for a long lime and the crops wouldn't grow. There was not enough food for anybody.

CHILD: I sob and sob. I have lost all I had.

NARRATOR: The child was desperate. The child got a job at a farm where the child fed pigs.

CHILD: I sit with pigs. The hogs eat slop. I eat what the hogs spill. I eat what the hogs miss. The hogs eat, then I am next.

NARRATOR: The child finally remembered the father. The child

remembered that there was plenty of food at the father's home. Even the servants ate well there. The servants ate a lot better than the child was eating now.

CHILD: The men that help my dad eat a lot. I eat the slop pigs do not want.

NARRATOR: The child decided to go back to the father. The child knew that he/she did not deserve to be taken back as son/daughter, so he/she would ask to be made a servant. The child knew that a bad child didn't even deserve that.

CHILD: I will go back to my dad. I will tell him I did sin. I will sob and ask for a job. I will ask him for a job as a man that helps.

NARRATOR: As the child walked the long way back home, the child wondered whether the father could forgive all that sin that he/she had done.

CHILD: My dad can not forgive me.

NARRATOR: It was a long walk home. While the child was still a long way off the father spotted him/her. (The father must have been scanning the road day after day hoping his child would come back.) As soon as the father saw the child in the distance, the father started running down the road towards the child. The father was overjoyed to see that the child was heading back home. The child looked up and saw someone running towards him/her. The child couldn't believe what he/she was seeing.

CHILD: Is that my dad !?

NARRATOR: Before the child could figure out why the father was running towards him/her, the father reached the child and threw his arms around the child. The child started the speech he/she had planned.

CHILD: Dad, I did sin...

NARRATOR: But the father won't even let the child finish the apology. The father cut the child's speech off and told the child that as soon as they got back to the house, he was going order the servants to prepare a huge party to celebrate the child's return. He would order the servants to kill the calf that was being fattened and saved for a very special occasion. The child that had run away was back. For the father, it was like the child had been dead and was now alive again. The child was surprised by the father's reaction.

CHILD: My dad is not mad at me. He ran to me and wants to give me a picnic! He is glad, not mad! I did a lot of sins. He can forgive my sins!

NARRATOR: So they cooked the fattened calf and began to celebrate with food and music and dancing.

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Now, the child had an older sibling who was still working in the fields. The older sibling heard the music. The older sibling asked the servants what was going on.

OLDER SIBLING: Is that a band? Is that a picnic?

NARRATOR: The servants explained that the younger child had returned home and they were all celebrating. This made the older sibling angry.

OLDER SIBLING: I did not sin! I was not lost! I did my job. I did not get a band and a picnic!

NARRATOR: The older sibling would not go down to the party. The father came up the field to beg him. The father explained that he was so happy his younger child had come back that he had to give him a big party to celebrate.

OLDER SIBLING: I am mad. I got no band. I got no picnic. I did my job. I did not go off. I was not bad.

NARRATOR: The older sibling could not understand how the father could forgive sin that eagerly.

OLDER SIBLING: You can not forgive sin that bad!

NARRATOR: The father tried to explain.

FATHER: You have been a faithful son and a hard worker. You are always with me. Everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate the return of my youngest child. I am so, so happy he/she returned! It was like he/she was dead and now is alive. It was like he/she was lost and now is found!

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