



## Family Church 29 March 2020

Hey Everyone!

Welcome to Family Church! We've been asking Big Questions to get to know God better.

Last time as asked, "How does God want me to live?" The answer was: *to love God with everything we've got and to love others as we love ourselves*. But no one does this all the time, and not perfectly, even if we want to - just ask a grown-up! Well, why not?

As we **READ, SING, PRAY, PLAY** our way through Questions and Answers from our New City Catechism this week, the Question and Answer that we are looking at today is:

**Q: Why Don't We Live God's Way?**

**A:** Because we all want to live as our own boss.

**[Note to parents: this week has one question but two points,**

**a. Sin is living our own way**

**b. through Jesus, God graciously welcomes us back.**

**How he can do that is coming up in our Easter Family packs.]**

## Before you start

**Pray:**

Dear God, thank you that you are good, so you do what is right all the time. Please help us to listen and learn from you today. Use your words to change us to be like you. AMEN.

**Think:**

- If you got to be the boss of the world for a day, what is one rule you would make? Give reasons.
- What if someone broke your rule? What would you do then?

**Idea:**

- Find a party hat. Take turns wearing it as you make your rules. Write them on a piece of paper and roll it up like a scroll, tie with string or ribbon.

# Read

Luke 15:11–24 (International Children’s Bible)

## IDEAS FOR TELLING THE STORY

**A. Action figures:** Use action figures or soft toys to tell the story, OR read the story aloud, then have the child retell it with their toys (**Preschool friendly**)

**B. Storyboard:** Print the story images (<http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rg-prodigal-son/>). Read the Bible text, then have children write captions for each picture.

**C. Human Puppets:** Make one parent the father, and one parent the younger son. Have a child use each parent as their ‘puppet’ – move their limbs, speak for them – to act out the parts of the story. *This is lots of fun but takes a while!*

11 Then Jesus said, “A man had two sons. 12 The younger son said to his father, ‘Give me my share of the property.’ So the father divided the property between his two sons. 13 Then the younger son gathered up all that was his and left. He traveled far away to another country. There he wasted his money in foolish living. 14 He spent everything that he had.

Soon after that, the land became very dry, and there was no rain. There was not enough food to eat anywhere in the country. The son

was hungry and needed money. 15 So he got a job with one of the citizens there. The man sent the son into the fields to feed pigs. 16 The son was so hungry that he was willing to eat the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything. 17 The son realized that he had been very foolish. He thought, ‘All of my father’s servants have plenty of food. But I am here, almost dying with hunger. 18 I will leave and return to my father. I’ll say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and against you. 19 I am not good enough to be called your son. But let me be like one of your servants.’ 20 So the son left and went to his father.

“While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. He had compassion on his son. So the father ran to him, and hugged and kissed him. 21 The son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son.’ [a] 22 But the father said to his servants, ‘Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get our fat calf and kill it. Then we can have a feast and celebrate! 24 My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!’ So they began to celebrate.

## Stop and ask:

1. What was the most important thing to the youngest son?
  - a. Loving his father
  - b. Helping his brother
  - c. Pleasing himself
2. What happens when people live to please themselves? Is it a good way to live?
3. What was the one thing the younger son did that was right?

4. Imagine you are the dad. What do you think the son deserves?
- a. To get a present
  - b. To be kicked out of the house or treated like a servant
  - c. To be celebrated with a big party

What did this dad do instead?

5. This story is about God and us. What do we need to do when we realise we are living to please ourselves rather than loving God with everything we've got?

### BONUS QUESTIONS (especially for older kids)

Read Luke 15:25–32

<sup>25</sup> “The older son was in the field. As he came closer to the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called to one of the servants and asked, ‘What does all this mean?’ <sup>27</sup> The servant said, ‘Your brother has come back. Your father killed the fat calf to eat because your brother came home safely!’

<sup>28</sup> The older son was angry and would not go in to the feast. So his father went out and begged him to come in. <sup>29</sup> The son said to his father, ‘I have served you like a slave for many years! I have always obeyed your commands. But you never even killed a young goat for me to have a feast with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But your other son has wasted all your money on [doing the wrong thing]. Then he comes home, and you kill the fat calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me. All that I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> We had to celebrate and be happy because your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.’”

- a. Why is the older son angry?
- b. Why is the father celebrating?
- c. Which son still wants to be his own boss? Give your reason.
- d. Read Romans 3:20, 23-24. How can we be seen as right and good by God? (v24)

### SUMMARY

The Bible tells us that we are like the sons in this story – we turn away from God because we want to be the boss of our own life. This is what the Bible calls **sin**. Since the first humans turned away from God, every single person does the same. Sin stops us from loving God with everything we've got and loving our neighbour as ourselves. We deserve to be punished for this.

But God is very kind. He has made a way for us to be right with him. Instead of treating us like we deserve, if we turn back to God and ask his son Jesus to be our boss, God will forgive us and welcome us into his family. He will begin to change us to be like him.

## Sing

For younger kids:

Jesus is the Mighty Mighty King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHfRKuQb2zw>

For older kids:

Knowing Jesus as my Boss – Ben Pakula:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCfu3FVlhyQ>

Only a Holy God – CityAlight:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HSdeeCm8\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HSdeeCm8_g)

## Pray

Dear God,

We know that we are like the sons in this story. We know that we want to live to please ourselves instead of loving you and loving our neighbour. We know this means we are not living your way.

Thank you that you are like the father in this story. Thank you that you are kind to us and don't treat us like we deserve. Thank you that by asking your son Jesus to be our boss, you will forgive us and bring us into your family. Please help us to see how kind you have been to us. Change us so we can be kind in the same way to other people.

AMEN.

## Play

**Choose the activity you like best!**

Activity 1: Paper Doll Characters

[Equipment: paper, textas/pencils, sticky tape]:

**(Paper Doll Making Instruction Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYXxoVbPzql>).

Make a set of paper dolls\*

Colour them in and decorate them as members of the family in the story. Draw or paint a background for them.

*Characters: Father, Older Son, Younger Son (happy), Younger Son (sad). Add a pig if you like. Make another set for the party at the end.*

Activity 2: Imaginative Retelling

Imagine what this story would have looked like if Jesus had told it using

1. Robots
2. JoJo Siwa
3. The Avengers

Draw/build/write/film your story (when you're done, ask your parents if you can share it with another family over WhatsApp, or post it on the St Mark's Church Facebook page.

Activity 3: Target Practice

Find a deck of cards. Choose an object to be a target (pillow, mat, empty cup – choose depending on level of difficulty). Give each family member a stack of cards. Take turns flicking the cards toward the target. Count how many go in, and how many "fall short." This is hard – just like living how God wants us to is. Praise God for Jesus!