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## Parable of the Lost Son

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Free media and discipleship resources for pastors, leaders, and growing disciples.

# Parable of the Lost Son

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## **Luke 15:11-32**

<sup>15:11</sup> Then Jesus said, “A man had two sons. <sup>15:12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. <sup>15:13</sup> After a few days, the younger son gathered together all he had and left on a journey to a distant country, and there he squandered his wealth with a wild lifestyle. <sup>15:14</sup> Then after he had spent everything, a severe famine took place in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15:15</sup> So he went and worked for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>15:16</sup> He was longing to eat the carob pods the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. <sup>15:17</sup> But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have food enough to spare, but here I am dying from hunger! <sup>15:18</sup> I will get up and go to my father and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>15:19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired workers.”’ <sup>15:20</sup> So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way from home his father saw him, and his heart went out to him; he ran and hugged his son and kissed him. <sup>15:21</sup> Then his son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>15:22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Hurry! Bring the best robe, and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! <sup>15:23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it! Let us eat and celebrate, <sup>15:24</sup> because this son of mine was dead, and is alive again—he was lost and is found!’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>15:25</sup> “Now his older son was in the field. As he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>15:26</sup> So he called one of the slaves and asked what was happening. <sup>15:27</sup> The slave replied, ‘Your brother has returned, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he got his son back safe and sound.’ <sup>15:28</sup> But the older son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and appealed to him, <sup>15:29</sup> but he answered his father, ‘Look! These many years I have worked like a slave for you, and I never disobeyed your commands. Yet you never gave me even a goat so that I could celebrate with my friends! <sup>15:30</sup> But when this son of yours came

back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' <sup>15:31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and everything that belongs to me is yours. <sup>15:32</sup> It was appropriate to celebrate and be glad, for your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost and is found.'"