LESSON 14

THE BELOVED SON AMONG THE PIGS



Aim: **To show the children that Jesus taught spiritual truths by telling stories.**

Scripture Reading: **Luke 15:11-19**

Memory Verse: **John 1:11**
He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Does your family or community ever sit down together to tell stories? It is often the older people who pass on the traditional stories to the next generation so that they will know the customs of the family or tribe. Jesus often taught his disciples and other followers by telling stories, which we call parables. They are like word pictures, for they make us see spiritual truths that Jesus wants us to understand.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Jesus told a story about a father who had two sons. **Describe how the younger son got his father to give him his share of his inheritance (Lk 15:11-12).**
2. **Relate in your own words what happens in the next two verses (15:13-14). Use a little imagination in describing how things turned out for the younger son.**
3. The young man had to find some kind of work in order to get some food. The only job he could find was to look after somebody's pigs. It showed how desperate he was, because Jews regard pigs as unclean animals and will have nothing to do with them. However, he was so hungry that even the pigs' food looked good to him! **Show Picture 14.** See how this man from a rich home looks very sad and sorry for himself. When he had no more money he also discovered that he had no true friends. No-one would help him (15:15-16).
4. Then the young man did some very hard thinking about his life. He realised that he had done wrong and that his present position was his own fault. He decided to go home and ask his father to employ him as a servant. He was sure that his behaviour was so bad that he could never be received back as a son of his father (15:17-19). **You could act the part of the son here instead of just telling the story.**

What kind of reception would that sinful and arrogant young man receive when he arrived home? We shall see in the next lesson!

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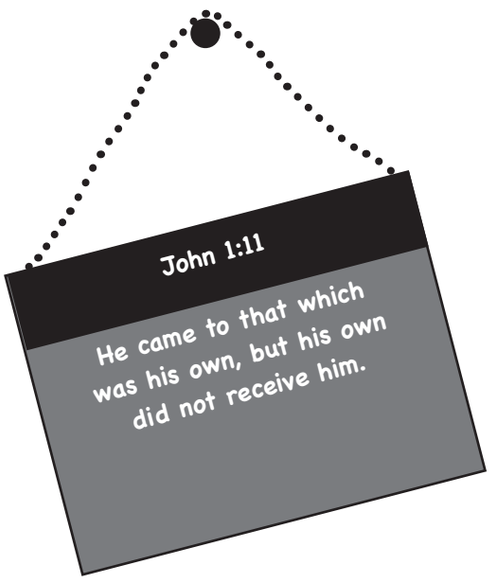


Our Response to the Story

Do you remember the stories of Naaman and Haman? **Remind the children briefly if necessary.** Naaman was not cured of his leprosy until he let go of his own importance and followed Elisha's simple instructions. Haman, on the other hand, remained proud. He never repented and so died on the gallows he had built himself for someone else.

In this story Jesus wants to show us that we are all like the son, even though we may think we are not so bad. We all need to repent and confess that we are sinners. There is not one among us who does not need to do some hard thinking about his or her life.

Instil the Memory Verse



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